



Sauk County Comprehensive Plan Draft Goals & Strategies

July 27, 2026

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HOUSING

Goal: Housing throughout Sauk County supports community vitality and workforce stability.

- **Strategy 1.1: Promote the development of a range of housing options that includes affordable and workforce housing, as well as for-sale and rental options, throughout Sauk County.**
 - Review County zoning ordinances and amend as needed to allow for a variety of housing types by right in key development areas.
 - Encourage the development of a mix of housing options such as duplexes, townhomes, small multifamily buildings, and senior housing.
 - Support the development of emergency housing units to accommodate unhoused individuals, disaster affected households, and those in transition between homes and stages of life.
 - Support housing development in existing areas where infrastructure capacity already exists, including opportunities for small-scale multifamily housing, missing-middle housing, and accessory dwelling units where appropriate.
 - Work with state and county partners to balance the interests of recreational visitor housing with needs of local residents.
- **Strategy 1.2: Preserve existing and build new affordable housing that serves low- to moderate-income residents and employees of Sauk County.**
 - Explore creating a revolving loan fund to rehabilitate and maintain existing housing and provide site preparation or other assistance for new affordable housing.
 - Partner with service providers and lenders to provide technical assistance and financial support for residents to retrofit housing to meet evolving needs due to age or special needs.
 - Create an inventory of mobile homes and mobile home parks and consider strategies to improve communication with landowners.
 - Encourage the inclusion of manufactured and modular housing as part of a broader strategy to expand attainable and diverse housing options.
- Provide optional support to local communities in the marketing of available development sites in the County, including conducting outreach to developers who specialize in building affordable multifamily housing and other types of workforce housing.
- Partner with local employers to better understand housing needs and support housing initiatives that help residents live near employment opportunities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal 1: Sauk County, in partnership with the Sauk County Development Corporation, supports a diverse and resilient economy that promotes long-term prosperity for residents.

- **Strategy 1.1: Coordinate with community and economic development partners to implement the recommendations and action steps included in the Sauk County Economic Transition Plan and the Invest Sauk: Economic Development Strategic Plan.**
 - Market the Sauk County region to potential employers looking to expand or relocate, focusing on the County's optimal available land, quality of life, transportation access, strong local workforce, and high-quality infrastructure.
 - Align economic development messaging across municipalities, chambers, and partner organizations to present a consistent and recognizable regional identity and align local opportunities with target industries and workforce needs.
 - Support continued growth in manufacturing, healthcare, and other year-round industries that contribute to economic stability and reduce reliance on seasonal activity.
- **Strategy 1.2: Support a diverse workforce of all ages and stages of employment.**
 - Coordinate with local organizations to strengthen workforce pipelines and training opportunities aligned with local industries and improve resident access to employers, school districts, and higher education partners.
 - Identify geographic and service gaps in childcare and adult daycare availability, including areas with limited access, long waitlists, or misalignment with workforce needs such as shift-based employment.
 - Coordinate with employers, school districts, and regional partners to explore shared solutions for gaps in child and adult daycare, such as employer-supported family care, co-location of services, or expansion of existing facilities where demand exceeds supply.
 - Support family care providers by connecting them to funding opportunities, technical assistance, and facility planning resources rather than directly funding or selecting individual providers.
 - Coordinate with local employers to adapt management strategies and workplace environments to the needs of an older workforce, including organizational efforts to recruit, retain, and facilitate secure retirement.

- Encourage youth involvement and partner with schools to create service-learning programs tied to real community projects and economics (trail improvements, conservation work, downtown activation, etc.).
- **Strategy 1.3: Establish an economic development program to coordinate seasonal congestion and access in high-use recreation areas.**
 - Coordinate with WisDOT, WDNR, and local communities to manage peak-season traffic at major destinations such as Devils Lake, Mirror Lake, and key access points to the Baraboo River and Wisconsin River.
 - Partner with State Parks, resorts, and communities to coordinate shuttle services connecting parking areas, downtowns, and recreation sites.
 - Encourage seasonal bike-share or e-bike programs in high-use corridors and trail networks.
 - Support outfitter partnerships and private mobility providers that reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips.
 - Evaluate opportunities for park-and-ride or regional access points tied to major recreation destinations.

Goal 2: Economic opportunities harmonize with Sauk County's rural identity and geographic assets, supporting thriving communities.

- **Strategy 2.1: Support agriculture and agriculture-related businesses throughout Sauk County.**
 - Explore the availability of funding and other resources through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to support local agricultural businesses, and the development of agricultural workforce housing.
 - Partner with the University of Wisconsin – Madison Extension's Division of Agriculture and other local partners to support education and technical assistance for agriculture-related workforce development.
 - Explore the viability of alternative agriculture-related businesses (e.g., ag tourism, educational farming, organic farming, direct marketing) to support new streams of income for local farmers.
 - Utilize the Sauk County Farm Connect Guide to promote local agricultural producers, markets, and resources.
 - Partner with local communities, organizations and agricultural producers to expand access to food, support agricultural markets, programming assistance and opportunities for farms to sell directly to residents and visitors.

- **Strategy 2.2: Leverage the County’s natural recreational resources to encourage responsible eco-tourism.**
 - Continue to invest in recreational amenities that complement the County’s natural resources, including bodies of water, and multi-use, bicycle, and hiking trails.
 - Encourage the development of businesses that support and are compatible with the responsible use and management of natural resources.
 - Evaluate Sauk County’s eligibility for federal, state and local grants that may boost the local outdoor recreation-based economic opportunities.
 - Explore hosting environmental or outdoor recreation-based events to showcase and promote nature-based activities and conservation efforts.
 - Collaborate with tourism, recreation, and conservation partners to identify and promote scenic corridors and landscapes that contribute to the County’s identity and visitor experience.
 - Consider collaboration with area chambers, attractions and businesses to establish a regional tourism model that coordinates marketing, signage and wayfinding efforts across State, County, and local jurisdictions to connect highways, downtowns, parks, trails, and water access points.

AGRICULTURE

Goal 1: Utilize the Farmland Preservation and Land and Water Management Plans to ensure agricultural landscapes remain protected, productive, and central to Sauk County's economy and identity.

- **Strategy 1.1: Strengthen and adapt the County's farmland preservation framework to respond to changing development pressures, agricultural economics, and land ownership patterns.**
 - Continue participation in Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program while ensuring zoning, mapping, and certification requirements remain up to date and aligned with current agricultural activity.
 - Expand outreach to landowners about farmland preservation tax credit eligibility, production strategies, conservation compliance, technical assistance, and educational opportunities to support a diverse range of agricultural operations.
 - Continue tracking of program performance through clear monitoring of acres enrolled, certificates issued, conservation plan compliance, and farmland conversion trends.
 - Evaluate how farmland preservation programs influence rural housing patterns, infrastructure efficiency, and long-term fiscal outcomes.
 - Support the fledgling Sauk County Farm and explore other opportunities for agritourism and public education through hands-on activities.
 - Ensure County agricultural zoning and farmland preservation policies remain compatible with a range of farm operations, including smaller-scale, diversified and traditional farming practices.
- **Strategy 1.2: Support farmland ownership transition models by connecting retiring agricultural producers with beginning farmers seeking access to agricultural land and supporting non-operating landowners with keeping production active.**
 - Explore formalizing a Sauk County program that connects retiring farmers or agricultural landowners with beginning or expanding farmers seeking land to purchase or lease.
 - Build upon existing County, UW Extension, and partner-led programs that support farmland transition and succession planning. Provide succession planning workshops and technical resources that help landowners evaluate practical transition options such as direct sale, long-term lease, lease-to-own, or phased transfer.

- Provide guidance on agricultural conservation and preservation agreements that clarify how these arrangements can address rent terms, stewardship expectations, capital improvements, term length, renewal rights, and continued agricultural use.
- Work with land trusts, preservation programs, and agricultural partners to identify where conservation easements, agricultural-use restrictions, or similar tools can reinforce long-term farm viability as land changes hands.
- Support agricultural systems that reflect the diversity of the County's farming communities.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal 1: Sauk County's ecosystems and wildlife habitats are protected, connected, and supported as part of a resilient and high-functioning landscape.

- **Strategy 1.1: Strengthen coordination, monitoring, and long-term management of native species and wildlife habitats.**
 - Coordinate with state agencies, conservation organizations, and research institutions to align wildlife and habitat management efforts across the County.
 - Support the use of indicator species and existing research programs to track ecosystem health and identify emerging risks over time.
 - Integrate habitat and wildlife considerations into land use, transportation, and development decisions to reduce fragmentation, and maintain habitat connectivity across public and private lands through clustered development and the expansion of existing natural areas.
- **Strategy 1.2: Protect and improve water, air, and environmental quality.**
 - Explore additional programs and tools to reduce waste runoff, sedimentation, and nutrient loading into waterways, such as encouraging rain gardens, native plants, and permeable pavement in new developments.
 - Collaborate with landowners and conservation organizations to explore and participate in voluntary conservation easements or land protection opportunities, habitat restoration initiatives, or land stewardship programs for significant habitats.
 - Support partnerships that protect river corridors, wetlands, forests, and wildlife habitat that contribute to Sauk County's environmental health.
 - Promote dark sky practices by limiting non-essential lighting and encouraging lighting design that reduces glare and light pollution, particularly in rural and natural areas.

Goal 2: Utilize the Sauk Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to ensure the network of parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities are well-maintained, accessible, and facilitate a variety of amenities and offerings.

- **Strategy 2.1: Strengthen coordination among public and private landowners and partners to align efforts and identify service gaps.**

- Continue coordination with Federal, State, and Tribal agencies on joint landownership and management areas such as the Great Sauk State Trail.
 - Regularly coordinate with municipal partners in Sauk County to review maintenance agreements and upcoming developments.
 - Support local communities upon request in planning efforts that may affect prominent landscapes or rural character.
 - Utilize community survey feedback to guide decision-making on new recreational developments and initiate public feedback opportunities to boost community buy-in when needed.
 - Improve access to public waterways to facilitate safe use.
 - Integrate digital tools such as mobile maps, QR-based navigation, and real-time updates on parking, trail conditions, and site capacity to complement physical signage.
- **Strategy 2.2: Build a flexible, resilient and adaptive parks and recreation system.**
 - Establish evaluation criteria based on facility usage, condition, seasonal demand, and operational complexity to guide resource allocation over time.
 - Incorporate technology and digital tools, including reservation systems, usage tracking, and automated operations where appropriate, to improve efficiency and reduce staff burden.
 - Develop property-specific management plans that allow for tailored approaches based on facility type, usage patterns, and long-term maintenance needs.
 - Regularly engage with the National Recreation and Park Association to understand upcoming recreational trends and standards.
 - Complete priority improvement projects identified in the 2022 ADA Facility Audit of Parks and Recreation Facilities and ensure that new facilities are accessible for all residents.
 - Plan for flexible infrastructure and design standards that account for heavy recreational traffic, seasonal demand, freeze-thaw cycles, and variable weather conditions.

Goal 3: Environmental stewardship is a County-wide effort and is integrated into everyday decision-making.

- **Strategy 3.1: Align conservation priorities, funding, and implementation efforts across agencies and partners.**

- Pursue joint funding strategies, including bundled grant applications and multi-partner projects, to advance larger-scale conservation and restoration efforts.
 - Prioritize projects that deliver multiple benefits, including habitat protection, water quality improvements, flood mitigation, recreation access, and economic opportunity.
 - Continue to promote the Baraboo Range for its unique ecosystem, geology, topography and recreational opportunities.
 - Identify and preserve key viewsheds and scenic corridors, including ridgelines, bluff areas, river corridors, other prominent landscape features throughout Sauk County, to incorporate into natural resource inventories, conservation planning efforts and guiding development away from visually sensitive locations.
 - Collaborate with community partners to continue to expand recreational opportunities that connect multiple municipalities and attractions such as the GSST, Baraboo River and motorized trails.
- **Strategy 3.2: Invest in community education materials to help residents understand their role and impact in stewardship.**
 - Create illustrative guides on best practices in waste management, emergency preparedness, land management and resource conservation.
 - Incorporate stewardship messaging into parks, trails, and tourism materials using consistent branding and visuals.
 - Continue providing access to County lands and facilities for partnerships, volunteer programs, research, education and community science initiatives that engage residents in stewardship and maintenance activities.
 - Promote programs such as habitat restoration days, river clean-ups, and trail stewardship events.

TRANSPORTATION

Goal 1: Sauk County's transportation network supports freight movement, agricultural activity, multimodal transportation, economic development, and long-term infrastructure resilience.

- **Strategy 1.1: Utilize the County Highway Improvement Plan to maintain and strengthen the County highway system that supports rural mobility and economic activity.**
 - Prioritize corridors that serve agricultural operations, freight movement, and commuter travel, that connect rural areas and regional highway systems.
 - Identify roadway segments experiencing accelerated deterioration from heavy equipment, and/or increased use, and incorporate pavement strengthening or surface upgrades into long-range planning.
 - Coordinate with WisDOT and regional partners to maintain efficient connections to state and interstate systems, including key corridors such as US 12, WIS 33, WIS 23, and I-90/94, improving continued regional accessibility.
 - Pursue available state and federal funding programs to offset increasing construction and maintenance costs.
 - Coordinate with emergency service providers to prioritize maintenance and improvements on roadways that serve as primary emergency access routes, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas.
 - Facilitate year-round passability of rural roads by addressing known problem areas such as low-lying flood-prone segments, steep grades, and locations with recurring drainage or winter maintenance challenges.
 - Share best practices with towns related to roadway design, maintenance approaches, and drainage solutions that improve long-term durability and access.
 - Identify opportunities for joint planning and coordination where County and town road systems intersect, particularly at transition points that affect continuity, maintenance responsibility, and travel efficiency.
- **Strategy 1.2: Continue coordination with the Traffic Safety Committee to improve roadway safety on rural corridors experiencing severe crashes.**
 - Conduct corridor safety reviews on priority segments to identify targeted improvements based on roadway conditions, crash data, geometry, and traffic patterns. Implement safety improvements such as shoulder widening, rumble strips, improved signage, and intersection visibility enhancements.
 - Coordinate with WisDOT on safety improvements along state highways that experience higher crash rates or increased traffic volumes, particularly in corridors influenced by tourism and regional travel.

- Support implementation of Complete Streets principles that ensure safe, comfortable travel for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, when considering local roadway projects.
 - Identify corridors with pedestrian and bicycle safety concerns in unincorporated areas and integrate bike and pedestrian planning along all roadway improvements.
 - Encourage improvements such as high-visibility crossings, traffic calming, and better lighting in unincorporated areas.
- **Strategy 1.3: Improve performance of key commuter and regional transportation systems.**
 - Evaluate intersection performance along major corridors and implement appropriate control upgrades, including roundabouts, signal improvements, or turn lane enhancements where warranted.
 - Expand traffic monitoring efforts to better understand seasonal, commuter, and tourism-related travel patterns across the County.
 - Support local governments in integrating emerging transportation and energy infrastructure into planning efforts to align investments with local priorities and regional systems.
 - Collaborate with WSOR and Wisconsin Department of Transportation - Rails and Harbors division to enhance freight movement along railway systems, and coordination of rails-to-trails and rails-with-trails efforts.
 - Consider future opportunities to connect Sauk County with passenger rail systems.
 - Encourage the upkeep and use of local and regional airports for economic development.
 - Support employer-based transportation programs by working with major employers, healthcare providers, and schools to coordinate shared rides, vanpools, or shift-based transportation options for workers who lack reliable access to a vehicle.
 - Coordinate with regional transit providers, including neighboring counties and agencies, to identify opportunities for cross-county connections, particularly for commuters traveling toward Dane County and other employment centers.
 - **Strategy 1.4: Support the enhancement and expansion of pedestrian and bicycle networks, especially those routes connecting rural communities and visitor hot spots.**
 - Support the addition of protected or separated bicycle facilities where feasible, particularly along corridors with higher traffic volumes or increased recreational use.

- Work with local governments to improve transitions between regional trails and local streets through better crossings, signage, and wayfinding to support safe and intuitive movement.
- Coordinate with rail operators to improve safety at crossings near trails and recreation destinations.
- Support and partner with school districts to connect regional trails with communities and providing Safe Routes to Schools.
- Identify roadways with frequent horse-drawn buggy, bicycle and ATV/UTV use based on observed patterns and community input to implement signage, shoulder improvements, and maintenance practices that improve safety along routes with nonmotorized and alternative modes of transportation.
- Coordinate with towns, clubs, non-profits and communities to address road safety, service access, and land use considerations through consistent, relationship-based dialogue.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Goal 1: Rural infrastructure supports connectivity, economic opportunity, community growth and sustainable development.

- **Strategy 1.1: Improve infrastructure to reduce localized flooding risks and support long-term infrastructure in rural areas.**
 - Support infrastructure design, improvements and maintenance practices that respond to changing precipitation patterns and environmental conditions.
 - Coordinate with watershed partners and promote land management practices and long-term planning that complement infrastructure improvements and integrate drainage infrastructure with watershed and natural resource protection efforts.
 - Encourage the use of natural infiltration practices, vegetated swales, regenerative agriculture, and other best management practices that reduce runoff, increase on-site infiltration and improve water quality.
- **Strategy 1.2: Continue expanding reliable high-speed broadband service that accommodates changing rural housing and workforce patterns.**
 - Collaborate with internet service providers to extend broadband infrastructure to underserved and unserved rural areas.
 - Support state and federal funding programs that expand broadband access in rural communities and agricultural areas.
 - Encourage broadband infrastructure that supports remote work, home-based businesses, digital literacy programs, telehealth, county services and digital agriculture technologies.
- **Strategy 1.3: Support the long-term functionality of decentralized water and wastewater systems.**
 - Promote education and outreach on septic system maintenance, lifespan, and replacement planning for rural property owners.
 - Coordinate with public health, environmental agencies, and research partners to monitor system performance, aging systems, emerging groundwater contaminants, including PFAS, and support testing, data sharing, and public awareness efforts for residents reliant on private wells.
 - Continue to partner with UW Extension and UW Stevens Point for well water testing and pollutant monitoring.
 - Encourage rural development patterns that consider long-term viability of private wells and septic systems, particularly in areas with soil or groundwater constraints.
 - Explore opportunities to align land use planning, agricultural practices, development patterns, health data, and infrastructure considerations to better

understand where system limitations may affect future development to inform decisions related to zoning, nutrient management, and rural development.

- Support targeted outreach, technical assistance, and cost-share programs in areas where water quality issues are most prevalent, focusing on practices that reduce nutrient loading and protect drinking water sources.

Goal 2: Residents across Sauk County are engaged, connected, and can continue to reliably access essential services regardless of location, age, or circumstance.

- **Strategy 2.1: Improve access to health, human, and social services across rural and underserved areas through structured partnership and community specific outreach.**

- Expand coordination between County services, healthcare providers, and nonprofit organizations to address documented gaps in behavioral health access, dental care, childcare availability, senior services, culturally appropriate and language-accessible services, particularly in rural areas and smaller communities.
- Develop a centralized “no wrong door” system (physical and digital) that helps residents easily identify, navigate, and access services without needing to understand agency structures.
- Formalize government-to-government coordination with local municipalities and the Ho-Chunk Nation to address public health, social services, land stewardship, cultural landscapes, and planning coordination.
- Expand service partnerships with organizations supporting vulnerable populations, focusing on housing access, healthcare access, domestic recovery, crisis diversion and worker stability.
- Ensure that all County resources and facilities are ADA accessible or have a transition plan to achieve accessibility.
- Regularly evaluate service delivery from the resident perspective, identifying challenges in how services are accessed to adapt to changing citizen needs.
- Adapt engagement and service delivery approaches for communities that rely on in-person communication, non-digital systems, or informal networks, including Amish populations, non-English speakers and visitors.
- Expand language access and culturally relevant communication across all County services.

- **Strategy 2.2: Improve community-based approaches to safety that reflect Sauk County’s diverse populations.**

- Use seasonal data, tourism trends, and service call patterns to better understand when and where demand for law enforcement and emergency services increases to anticipate and prepare for fluctuations across different parts of the County.
 - Continue to utilize and maintain the County GIS database to support the NextGen911 emergency service response.
 - Work with employers, tourism operators, and agricultural partners to promote awareness of local laws, safety expectations, and available services for seasonal workers and visitors.
 - Continue to support and coordinate the County Adult Treatment Court and community services for early intervention and diversion treatment for vulnerable persons to reintegrate into the community.
 - Collaborate with health care providers, community partners, and non-profits to expand mental health resources, substance abuse treatment, and access to shelter.
- **Strategy 2.3: Utilize the Sauk County Older Adult Needs Assessment to support our aging population.**
 - Work across County departments, with health care providers, faith-based organizations, employers, and other non-profit organizations to create and formalize partnerships.
 - Look to the AARP Livable Communities initiative to help support coordinated efforts among all local community leaders to support “age friendly” communities.
 - Implement policies and programs that support current residents and attract others to Sauk County as a desirable place to live.
 - Continue to provide support for households living with Alzheimer’s disease and other related dementias through coordinated community programs, caregiver support and resources.
 - Expand and coordinate demand-response transit, volunteer driver programs, and non-emergency medical transportation to better connect residents to healthcare, employment, and essential services.
 - Work with local organizations and private providers to pilot transportation services, such as volunteer driver programs, on-demand shuttles, or ride-hailing, that can serve rural and low-density areas.

Goal 3: Historic and cultural resources are preserved and integrated into Sauk County's future growth.

- **Strategy 3.1: Work with local communities to support the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings, barns, archeological sites and agricultural landscapes across Sauk County.**
 - Encourage the adaptive reuse of historic buildings and agricultural structures for housing, commercial uses, community facilities, and other compatible uses.
 - Coordinate with local partners to promote preservation as part of broader economic development, heritage tourism, and community revitalization initiatives.
 - Encourage early identification of cultural and archaeological resources during land use planning, in collaboration with the Ho-Chunk Nation and Wisconsin Historical Society.
 - Coordinate with the Wisconsin Historical Society when development proposals occur near known archaeological resources.
 - Provide educational guidance to landowners and developers regarding Wisconsin's burial site protection laws.
 - Encourage voluntary stewardship of landscapes that contain archaeological resources where appropriate.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Goal 1: Public safety and emergency response systems are sustainable, coordinated, and supported by long-term staffing and resource strategies.

- **Strategy 1.1: Strengthen recruitment, retention, and long-term sustainability of EMS and fire services.**
 - Support recruitment and retention strategies for volunteer and part-time emergency service providers.
 - Explore shared service models to address common challenges, training partnerships, equipment needs and regional coordination to strengthen capacity.
 - Identify funding strategies to support equipment, training, and long-term operational needs.
 - Offer shadowing and mentorship opportunities within municipal departments, EMS, planning, and local government.
- **Strategy 2.2: Continue strong coordination between the Sheriff's Department, emergency service providers, municipalities, and community partners.**
 - Maintain regular coordination between the Sheriff's Department, local police departments, emergency services, and community organizations to improve communication, response and coverage.
 - Clarify roles, expectations and support shared communication systems, protocols, and mutual aid agreements particularly in areas with overlapping service coverage or limited local capacity.
 - Utilize the Sauk County Hazard Mitigation Plan to proactively prepare, mitigate, respond and recover to natural and manmade emergencies.

Goal 2: Utilize the Sauk County Strategic Plan to enhance functionality and trust in county government, staff and elected officials.

- **Strategy 2.1: Strengthen the County's digital infrastructure to improve service delivery, data sharing, and cybersecurity.**
 - Monitor emerging technology trends that can improve efficiency or resident service, including developments in AI tools, chatbots, digital assistants, and process automation.
 - Modernize the County website and systems for optimal dissemination of information.

- Utilize the Land Information Plan to modernize county records, centralize information, provide an open data platform and continue to assist partner municipalities with their GIS needs.
- **Strategy 2.2: Strengthen long-term financial planning to ensure sustainability through change and uncertainty.**
 - Develop and maintain a five-year rolling financial forecast that includes operating, capital, and external funding trends.
 - Align long-term financial projections with strategic priorities and infrastructure needs and strengthen department budget narratives by clearly linking proposed investments to countywide goals through prompts and optional support.
 - Coordinate capital planning and funding efforts across County departments, municipalities, and partner organizations to align projects and maximize impact.
 - Track program efforts and impacts to provide assessment of the return in investments to the community and staffing needs.
- **Strategy 2.3: Build trust with the public through open, timely, and understandable communication.**
 - Promote clear, plain-language communication in all resident-facing materials, including summary briefs or “What We Heard” reports that explain how public input was used.
 - Increase transparency and accessibility with a County-wide education series that demystifies complex government processes (e.g., tax levies, budget allocations, jail expansion); produce short videos, infographics, and written explainers).
 - Develop a set of guiding principles for inclusive and consistent community engagement through both digital and non-digital mediums.
 - Encourage greater community participation in County Board and committee meetings by expanding outreach efforts, sharing agenda topics and decisions more widely, and providing accessible ways for the public to engage before, during, and after meetings.
 - Increase transparency and accessibility in County budgeting, creating a “Budget At a Glance” visual to summarize projected yearly spendings.

Goal 3: Sauk County fosters proactive partnerships with its towns, villages, cities, and regional agencies to guide growth, protect natural resources, and deliver efficient, coordinated services.

- **Strategy 3.1: Align County coordination, data, and resource-sharing efforts with communities seeking to plan for efficient and sustainable growth.**

- Facilitate peer learning and collaboration among municipalities exploring similar growth challenges
 - Support redevelopment and reinvestment in existing community centers and rural communities through coordination, technical assistance, and resource-sharing.
 - Collaborate with jurisdictional and adjacent partners for development proposals with early coordination, reviews, information sharing and referrals.
 - Provide optional planning support, technical assistance, and economic development to Sauk municipalities for planning, zoning, and grant writing.
- **Strategy 3.2: Increase information sharing across municipal and county entities by identifying and sharing successful projects and strategies.**
 - Establish a structured and ongoing intergovernmental coordination framework such as quarterly or biannual meetings, focused on addressing high-priority topics, identifying operational barriers, and sharing updates related to development activity, planning efforts, and infrastructure investments across jurisdictions.
 - Share long-range plans, capital improvement plans, and zoning updates across municipalities to ensure alignment.
 - Encourage municipalities to share information on annexation proposals through existing coordination channels, intergovernmental meetings, or staff-to-staff communication, particularly when proposals may affect County systems or adjacent jurisdictions.
 - Coordinate land use planning with municipalities and towns to ensure future growth areas align with infrastructure capacity and transportation networks, while maintaining consistent County-wide land use policies.

LAND USE

Goal 1: A clear future land use framework guides growth, farmland protection, and rural development patterns across unincorporated Sauk County.

Strategy 1.1: Protect large contiguous agricultural landscapes and reduce farmland fragmentation.

- Prioritize farmland preservation in areas where large blocks of productive farmland remain intact.
 - Consider a transfer of development rights (TDR) program to encourage dense development within identified cities and villages in exchange for permanent preservation of farmland and open spaces.
 - Evaluate additional approaches such as purchase of development rights (PDR), agricultural enterprise areas, or incentive-based programs that compensate landowners for maintaining land in agricultural use.
 - Strengthen subdivision design standards in unincorporated areas to limit parcelization of agricultural land.
- **Strategy 1.2: Guide zoning, priority land use patterns and development standards in unincorporated Sauk County in alignment with the Future Land Use Map, and in coordination with town planning priorities.**
 - Amend zoning districts and land division standards in unincorporated Sauk County to implement the Future Land Use Map and guide rural development patterns.
 - Periodically review the County zoning districts and ordinance language to ensure they reinforce the land use patterns identified in the Future Land Use Map, address changing land use patterns, and where necessary update to improve clarity, administration, and alignment with the County's long-term land use goals.
 - Evaluate zoning tools that influence rural development patterns, including the Planned Rural Development (PRD) program, Exclusive Agricultural zoning, transfer of development rights, and other zoning and development standards.
- **Strategy 1.3: Use the future land use framework to guide growth across Sauk County.**
 - Monitor farmland conversion and rural land division trends near expanding communities such as Village of Prairie du Sac, Village of Sauk City, City of Reedsburg, Village of Lake Delton, West Baraboo and City of Baraboo, and areas along major transportation corridors where housing demand may increase.

- Support modest residential and economic growth near communities with smaller population centers where new development can help bolster population and local economies.
- Develop annual or periodic evaluation, tracking and mapping of County land use programs, farmland preservation participation, and rural land conversion to monitor land use change and identify emerging development trends.

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