



# NCWRPC News

The official newsletter of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
Serving Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood Counties since 1973.

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## QUARTERLY QUOTE

**“Unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes, no plans.”**

-Peter Drucker

## NCWRPC Preparing 2020 Work Program

Every fall the NCWRPC develops its work program for the following year. Many projects have already been identified, but there is always room for more. Feel free to contact us if your community is thinking about a planning related project. Projects may fall under any of our five program areas of economic development, geographic information systems (mapping), intergovernmental cooperation, land use, and transportation. Not only do we help do the work, we can also help identify possible funding sources to offset the cost of your project. Unfortunately, grants are more and more difficult to secure as state and federal budgets shrink for these programs. Our goal is to keep the cost as low as possible and still provide quality professional services to our members.

Staff is always available to answer a phone call, respond to an email, or attend a meeting any time during the year. Contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org) or by calling 715-849-5510, Extension 304.

## Business Disaster Microloans Available

As a result of the July storms in our Region, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has allocated funds to the NCWRPC to provide Disaster Recovery Microloans to businesses impacted by the storms. These microloans will range from \$2,000 to \$20,000 at a 0% fixed interest rate. Pay back is over a 24 month period, with payment deferred during the first six months. Funds may be used for the following activities: procurement of cleanup and restoration services, temporary space, loss of revenue and repair and reconstruction. Only those businesses that have suffered measurable physical or economic losses because of a disaster event are eligible. Funds will only be available for a short time, so apply soon.

A detailed program overview, including an application, is located on our website at <http://www.ncwrpc.org/disaster-microloan>. For more information, contact Darryl Landeau, AICP, at [dlandeau@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlandeau@ncwrpc.org) or by calling 715-849-5510, Extension 308.

## Local Bike Planning Efforts Wrapping Up

The NCWRPC is putting the finishing touches on a major bicycle-pedestrian planning effort spanning one city and two counties. Earlier this year, Juneau and Langlade counties adopted countywide bicycle and pedestrian plans developed with the assistance of the NCWRPC. The City of Rhinelander is scheduled to adopt its plan in the Fall. Each of these projects was made possible by successful Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants completed by the NCWRPC on-behalf of the communities.

These plans represent the culmination of 18 months of outreach by Commission Staff to key stakeholders and the general public. Dozens of people in each of the three communities participated in workshops, responded to an online survey, and provided route specific input through a wikimapping exercise.

Bicycling is becoming increasingly popular for families visiting North Central Wisconsin. From an economic standpoint, statistics indicate that bicycling is a “growth sport” that is projected to attract greater numbers of participants in coming years. Further, the potential benefits of bicycling or walking are significant and help to justify the development of comprehensive, safe and attractive bicycle and pedestrian networks in our communities. The public is increasingly recognizing the benefits of biking and walking beyond their recreational

values. Broadly categorized, these benefits include: Transportation, Health and Fitness, Recreation, Economic, Social, Quality of Life and Environmental.

All of these many benefits can be achieved by implementing these bicycle-pedestrian plans and increasing the number of miles of trails available within these communities to encourage physical activity. Developing a quality trail system can help diversify the local tourism economy and help buffer the impact of future poor snow seasons.

This effort is another step in the implementation of both the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and the Regional Livability Plan. Each of these local plans promotes community livability through the advancement of bikeability and walkability.



For more information on this project or how the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission can assist with your local bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts, contact Darryl Landeau, AICP, at [dlandeau@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlandeau@ncwrpc.org) or by calling 715-849-5510, Extension 308.

## Outdoor Recreation Planning Update

Outdoor recreation plans (ORPs) are critical for communities. Much like any plan, they create a vision and a guide for future efforts. In addition, plans detail desired land purchases and various future facilities, such as restrooms, trails, boat launch upgrades, etc. NCWRPC has assisted several counties, cities, villages and towns prepare plans.

Adams County, Oneida County and Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Plans were all recently completed, as well as local plans for the Cities of Adams, Mauston, and Merrill, as well as the Villages of Spencer and Stratford. Currently underway are plans for the Village of Rothschild and the City of Tomahawk.

Park and recreation facilities increase an area’s quality of life. Behind good schools and good jobs, parks and recreation facilities rank high in community surveys. Having an outdoor recreation plan also makes a community eligible for grants through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. These grants provide up to 50% of a project’s total cost.

If your community is interested in preparing an outdoor recreation plan, contact Fred Heider, AICP, at [fheider@ncwrpc.org](mailto:fheider@ncwrpc.org) or by calling 715-849-5510, Extension 310.



## Time to Update Your Comprehensive Plan?

Since the State's Comprehensive Plan law was established in 1999, many communities adopted comprehensive plans. Under current law, certain ordinances enacted or amended by a local governmental unit that affect land use must be consistent with that local governmental unit's comprehensive plan. The ordinances to which this requirement applies are official mapping, local subdivision regulation, and zoning ordinances.

The strength of Wisconsin's planning law is that every local unit of government decides the vision for their own community. The law also requires that a comprehensive plan be updated at least every ten years. Earlier this year, as a reminder, the NCWRPC sent letters to communities that are at the 10 year mark for

an update. The update process is an opportune time for a community to review what has happened over the last decade and more importantly to address anticipated future changes.

We are here to help. Give our office a call, and we can discuss the best approach for your community. Contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org) or by calling 715-849-5510, Extension 304.

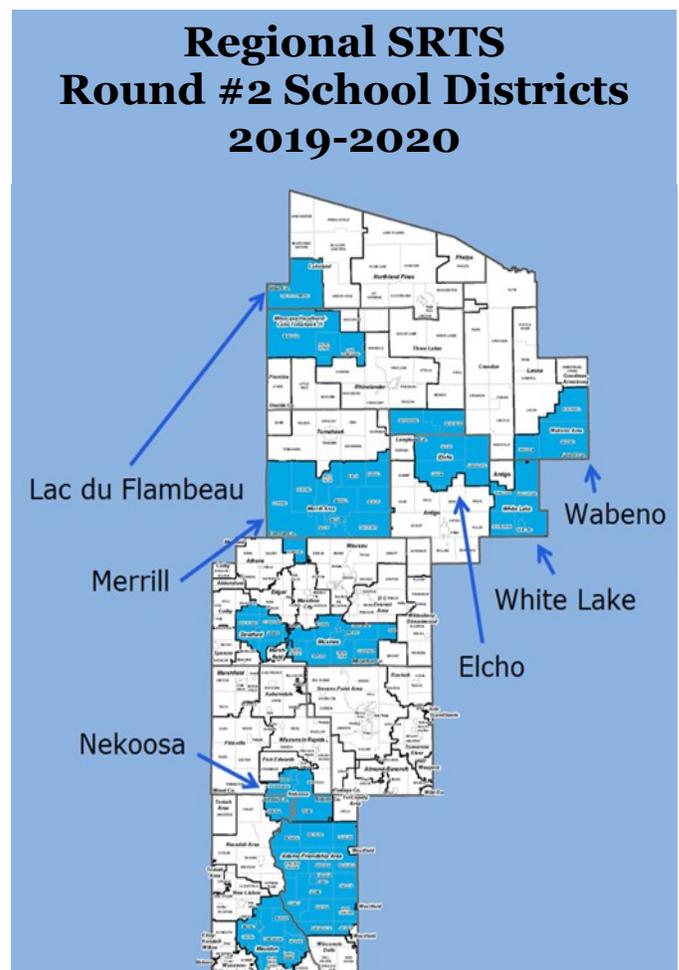


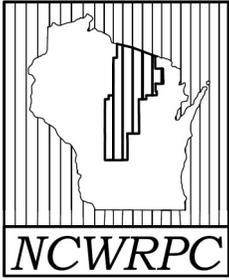
## Regional Safe Routes to School Planning Update

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an approach that promotes walking and bicycling to school through infrastructure improvements, enforcement tools, safety education, and incentives to encourage walking and bicycling to school.

NCWRPC began its Regional SRTS Program in the fall of 2018. This planning effort is made possible through a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant from WisDOT. Working with individual school districts and communities, the NCWRPC creates a SRTS Plan. NCWRPC is finishing up with plans for Adams-Friendship, Mauston, Minocqua-Hazelhurst-Lake Tomahawk, Mosinee and Stratford school districts. This fall, the process will start with Elcho, Lac du Flambeau, Merrill, Nekoosa, Wabeno, and White Lake.

For more information about NCWRPC's Regional Safe Routes to School Program, contact Fred Heider, AICP, at [fheider@ncwrpc.org](mailto:fheider@ncwrpc.org) or by calling 715-849-5510, Extension 310.





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## Last Chance: Pavement Rating Assistance

The year is winding down fast! If you haven't completed your local road surface condition ratings for this year, now is the time to contact us. The State of Wisconsin requires the submission of this local road surface rating data by December 15<sup>th</sup>, so get scheduled before the snow flies. Pavement rating and submission services are free-of-charge for Commission member communities.

If you think your community would like to utilize the services of the NCWRPC to help you with this pavement rating mandate, please contact Eric Sonnleitner at [esonnleitner@ncwrpc.org](mailto:esonnleitner@ncwrpc.org) or by calling 715-849-5510, Extension 306.

### Welcome New Commissioners!

Over the last few months, three new commissioners have joined the NCWRPC. Welcome to all!

**Forest County** - Cindy Gretzinger  
**Langlade County** - Reinhardt Balcerzak  
**Lincoln County** - Patrick Hommerding

## NCWRPC Commissioners

### Adams County

Richard Bakovka  
Rocky Gilner  
Peter Hickethier

### Forest County

Cindy Gretzinger  
Paul Millan  
Tom Tallier

### Juneau County

Jerry Niles  
Edmund Wafle  
Kenneth Winters

### Langlade County

Reinhardt Balcerzak  
Angela Close  
Ronald Nye

### Lincoln County

Loretta Baughan  
Patrick Hommerding  
Frank Saal, Jr.

### Marathon County

Daniel Guild  
Craig McEwen  
Catherine Wineman

### Oneida County

Ted Cushing  
Harland Lee  
Thomas Rudolph

### Portage County

Inactive

### Vilas County

Robert Hanson  
Charles Rayala, III  
Jay Verhulst

### Wood County

Gerald Nelson  
Appointment Pending  
Appointment Pending