



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

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving”

- Albert Einstein

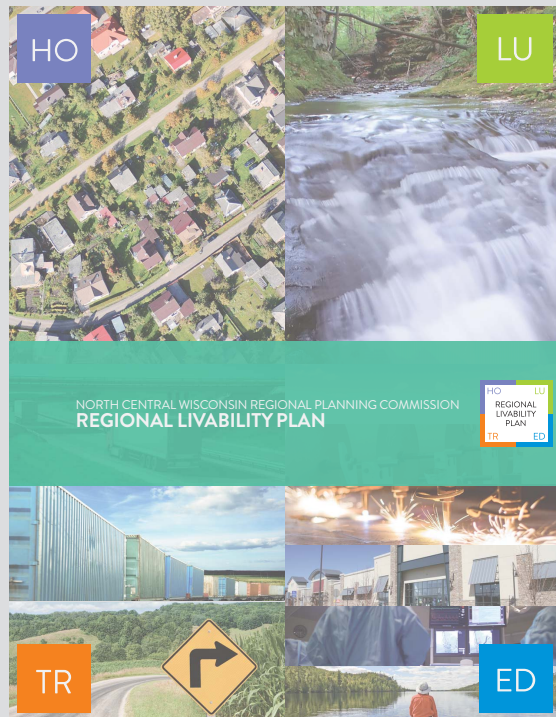
RLP Receives National Award

The NCWRPC’s Regional Livability Plan was selected as the 2016 recipient of the Vernon Denies Merit Award for an Outstanding Comprehensive Plan. This is the top national award of the Small Town and Rural Planning Division of the American Planning Association (APA). The award was presented at APA’s National Planning Conference.

The Awards Committee was impressed with the focus of sub-regions in the Regional Livability Plan (RLP), which ensured that small towns and rural areas were represented in the planning effort. Encouraging growth to areas with existing infrastructure while conserving important open spaces and maintaining the region’s rural character was of particular interest to the committee. The RLP presents strategies for all sub-regions in a clear and concise manner making it easy for each jurisdiction to use in their local planning efforts.

The Regional Livability Plan was developed as the update of the Regional Comprehensive Plan. It focuses around four foundational elements of economic development, housing, transportation and land use. Together the plan outlines regional and sub-regional trends as well as providing various goals, objectives and recommendations.

NCWRPC staff would like to thank the RLP Steering Committee, stakeholders and all the others involved in this process. The national award is the result of everyone’s hard work! For more information on the RLP or the award contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304 or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.



Local Government Study Underway

Local governments in Wisconsin are facing political, economic and demographic changes that will significantly impact how they operate and how they are funded. In an effort to explore these issues, the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin is undertaking a study of the likely scenarios that could play out for local governments over the next 20 years.

We know that recent demographic, economic and political trends are making it more difficult for local governments to operate in a way that is both fiscally sustainable and provides the expected level of services to residents. Over the next decade, many of these trends will deepen and Wisconsin will face additional demographic and economic pressure, including:

- The working age population (ages 18-64) will fall from 63% in 2010 to 55% in 2040
- The retiree population aged 65 & over will increase from 14% in 2010 to 24% in 2040
- The dramatic increase in the older population is driving increased Medicaid spending which is competing with shared revenues and other aids
- Less than half of the counties and municipalities in the state are expected to see any population growth over the next 20 years, with most expecting no growth or even population decline

How will local governments fare in the face of these and other changes? What can be done now to secure better outcomes for more Wisconsinites? The "Future of Local Government in Wisconsin" study will use strategic foresight to predict possible future scenarios for the state, and identify possible solutions, to ensure that Wisconsin works well for all of our citizens.

The Local Government Institute includes the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, the Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, and the Urban Alliance. For more information visit www.localgovinstitute.org.

NCWRPC Staff Recognition

Matt Gupta was recently awarded 3 map awards at the 2016 Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) Annual Conference. A 1st place in the Small Format category, 2nd place in the Black and White Map category and 2nd place in the Thematic map category. This is the 18th consecutive year that staff has won an award in the WLIA Annual Conference Map Poster Competition.

Paula Pribe recently passed the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) exam. AICP members pledge to adhere to ethical standards and engage in continued planning education.

WROC Receives State Awards

The NCWRPC's 2015 Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC) effort was recently awarded the 2016 Best of State Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin and the 2015 Friends of Land Records award from the Wisconsin Land Information Association.

The respective awards' committees stated that WROC is a grassroots effort unparalleled anywhere else in the United States. It embodies the cooperative nature of the land information community of Wisconsin, and we feel that this serves as the most effective foundation for maintaining and building orthoimagery and LiDAR coverage across the state. The WROC program is not only successful because of the many years of hard work invested by its public and private stakeholders but also because of its guiding principles. NCWRPC helped coordinate the 2015 program for another successful cycle with 41 counties participating. This is the third effort coordinated by the NCWRPC, including the first full statewide digital orthoimagery coverage in 2010, which still remains widely used in the public domain. The WROC program continues to provide state agencies with high resolution imagery on a regular cycle and is an example of inter-governmental cooperation at its very best.

In addition, the NCWRPC worked with state and federal partners to help cost share the acquisition of the data. In 2015, funding partners brought more than \$750,000 to the program. In our region alone, over \$115,000 was returned to our members – making the program even more cost-effective.

More information can be found on the WROC website at www.ncwrpc.org/WROC2015/ or by contacting Andy Faust, GISP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or afaust@ncwrpc.org.



Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan Underway

This spring, the NCWRPC will launch a region-wide bicycle and pedestrian planning effort that represents the first phase of implementation of the Regional Livability Plan, which is designed to incorporate the principles of livability and sustainability into our Region. The Regional Livability Plan (RLP) includes four elements of livable communities, one of which is transportation. The RLP recognizes that the North Central Region is particularly dependent on the automobile. Dependence on the automobile, in combination with rising fuel prices, decreasing funds for the maintenance of transportation infrastructure, and an aging population presents a challenge to mobility and impacts the livability of the region. In addition to this, young people are driving at much lower rates than previous generations, and the region needs to accommodate alternative transportation modes to attract new generations of workers to replace retiring workers.

Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is essential to a safe and efficient transportation network that accommodates people of all ages and abilities. This project entails an update and expansion of the existing 2004 Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan into a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Alternative Transportation Plan. The plan will promote the development of a region-wide system of interconnected bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood counties. The current regional facilities plan is in need of an update to reflect new infrastructure, changes in proposed trail concepts at the county and local level, and to expand the scope to include pedestrian transportation. The NCWRPC was awarded a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to fund the planning effort.



The proposed plan will promote state and federal multi-modal goals, including the complete streets recommendations in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, by developing and promoting a regional network of facilities to promote an alternative to single occupant automobiles. This regional plan will promote connectivity that will better serve to connect communities both to each other and to regional destinations. The plan will create recommendations for routes, context sensitive facility designs, policies, and practices that will make bicycling and walking a safer and more attractive form of transportation.

Public input will be important in the development of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Early in the planning process a region-wide survey on bicycling and walking will be released to the public. Additionally, NCWRPC will hold stakeholder advisory meetings around the region to guide the creation of the plan.

For more information on this project or your bicycle and pedestrian planning needs, contact Brad Sippel at 715-849-5510, Extension 307, or email to bsippel@ncwrpc.org.

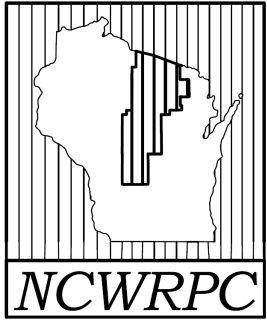
CEDS Update

In preparation for meetings this summer and fall, staff have been collecting and analyzing demographic and economic data. To the right is a Snapshot of Regional Industry Employment Change.

Snapshot of Regional Industry Employment, 2014-2015

Highest Percentage Growth	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	10%
Highest Numeric Growth	Health Care and Social Assistance	991
Highest Percent Decline	Educational Services	-10%
Highest Numeric Decline	Government	-459
Net Regional Job Growth	3,319 Jobs	1%

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International 2016.1



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Outdoor Recreation Plan Updates

Currently, staff are assisting Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, and Juneau counties update their 5-year comprehensive outdoor recreation plans. The primary purpose of the outdoor recreation plan is to maintain eligibility to apply for DNR funding. Forestry and parks departments may apply to these programs for grants up to 50% for the purchase of land for park use, or to make capital improvements (e.g. restrooms, and trails) as long as the project is listed in the plan.



Online community surveys are available through April 30, 2016 for each county. Residents and visitors of the county are encouraged to complete a survey.

[TAKE SURVEY ▶](#)

Forest County:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ForestRecSurvey>

Langlade County:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LangladeRecSurvey>

Lincoln County:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LincolnRecSurvey>

Juneau County:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JuneauRecSurvey>

If your community would like to prepare a plan or apply for a grant for a project already listed in a county plan, contact Fred Heider, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 310, or at fheider@ncwrpc.org.

NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County

Richard Bakovka

Rocky Gilner

Appointment Pending

Forest County

Bucky Dailey

Jimmy Landru, Jr.

Paul Millan

Juneau County

Jerry Niles

Edmund Wafle

Kenneth Winters

Langlade County

George Bornemann

Ronald Nye

Paul Schuman

Lincoln County

Robert Lussow

Frank Saal, Jr.

Doug Williams

Marathon County

Craig McEwen

Catherine Wineman

Appointment Pending

Oneida County

Harland Lee

Thomas Rudolph

Ted Cushing

Portage County

Inactive

Vilas County

Bob Egan

Kim Simac

Appointment Pending

Wood County

Gerald Nelson

Appointment Pending

Appointment Pending