



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.

Photo: www.lifeintheforthwoods.com

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Quarterly Quote

“Plan your work for today and every day, then work your plan.”

- Norman Vincent Peale

Regional Bicycle Plan: How to Provide Input

Earlier this year, the NCWRPC launched a region-wide bicycle and pedestrian planning effort that represents the first phase of implementation of the Regional Livability Plan (RLP), which is designed to incorporate the principles of livability and sustainability into our Region. The RLP includes four elements of livable communities, one of which is transportation.



The Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan will promote the development of a region-wide system of interconnected bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the region. Plan connectivity is critical 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 safer and more attractive forms of transportation.

Public input is an important component in the development of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. There will be two primary ways for the public to provide input for the plan, a web survey and an interactive web mapping activity. The web survey asks questions about bicycling and walking in the region. The interactive mapping activity provides a way to give input on routes, conflict areas, destinations and paths.

Survey Link

www.ncwrpc.org/bikepedsurvey

Map Activity Link

www.ncwrpc.org/bikepedmap

Both of these input opportunities are open to anyone that is interested in walking or biking within the North Central region. Please distribute these links to people in your jurisdiction, including any cycling, walking clubs, or advocacy groups that may be able to provide input. Distributing this as widely as possible is important to get useful information back that local communities and the NCWRPC can use to improve their bicycling and walking networks.

Commission News

We are pleased to announce that **Megan Will** has joined our staff as a Planner. She will be working with community and economic development projects throughout the region. Previously Megan worked for the City of Amery, and before that she was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Azerbaijan. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Masters Degree in Public Affairs, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Feel free to contact Megan at mwill@ncwrpc.org or at 715-849-5510, Extension 306.



NCWRPC is pleased to welcome several **new commissioners** that have been appointed over the last few months:

Adams County
Peter Hickethier

Forest County
William Connors, Jr.

Langlade County
Angela Close

Lincoln County
Bill Zeitz

Loretta Baughan

Marathon County
Daniel Guild

Vilas County
Jay Verhulst

Earlier this year, **new officers** were elected:

Paul Millan, Chairperson

Richard Bakovka, Vice Chairperson

Region Receives Multiple TAP Awards

The NCWRPC is pleased to announce successful awards for all four of the FY2016 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants prepared by our Staff. The TAP program is intended to provide transportation choices that are safe, reliable and convenient alternatives to automobile use. Projects to be funded by these grants include a Regional Safe Routes to School Program (R-SRTS) and three local bicycle and pedestrian plans. The R-SRTS program will dramatically expand the NCWRPC's safe routes to school assistance across 11 school districts to 25 individual schools. Local bike-ped plans will be developed for the City of Rhinelander and the counties of Langlade and Juneau.

For more information on the NCWRPC's bicycle and pedestrian planning program, contact Darryl Landeau, AICP at 715-849-5510, Extension 308, or dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.

NCWRPC and DNR Secure Brownfields Grant

In a state wide coalition along with all nine regional planning commissions and the Wisconsin DNR, the NCWRPC has helped secure additional funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency. The \$600,000 coalition grant will be used to assess, investigate, inventory contaminated properties, and safely clean up contaminated sites.

There have been 54 site assessments completed statewide since 2000, including 8 in our region. Brownfield redevelopment is critical to the improvement of our communities. Not only are sites cleaned up and environmental concerns minimized, new areas for development are made available which in turn creates jobs and tax base.

For more information contact Dennis Lawrence at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org or 715-849-5510, Extension 304. More information can also be found on the DNR's website at www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/brownfields.

2017 Work Plan Being Developed

Annually the NCWRPC develops its Work Plan over late summer and fall. There are numerous on-going regional programs, including economic development and transportation. However, staff also provides substantial local assistance as requested, from comprehensive plans to outdoor recreation plans. We urge your community to contact us if you are thinking of a project or planning effort. Staff are always available to answer a phone call, respond to an email, or attend a meeting any time during the year.

Not only do we help do the work we will also help and 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 high quality professional service to our members.

Contact Dennis Lawrence at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org or 715-849-5510, Extension 304, to discuss a possible project.

Regional Bike Plan continued...

The RBPP is expected to be completed by the end of 2017. The plan can be used by local and county governments to ensure that alternative transportation networks connect between the various communities throughout the region, and to help create consistent networks across jurisdictions. The overall goal is to improve the safety, viability, convenience, and attractiveness of bicycling and walking for transportation. A Transportation Alternatives Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is funding a portion of this project.

Contact Brad Sippel at bsippel@ncwrpc.org or 715-849-5510, Extension 307, for more information.



Comprehensive Plans Update

Since the State’s Comprehensive Planning law was established in 1999, many communities have 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 regulations, and zoning ordinances.

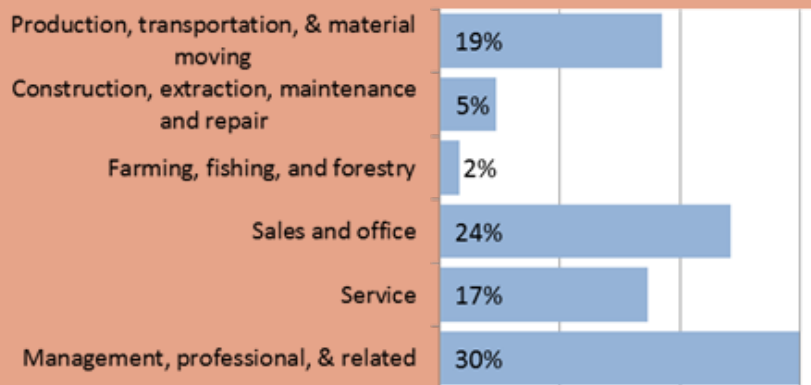
The law also requires that those plans be updated at least every ten years. So every plan completed in 2006 or earlier is due for an update. The strength of Wisconsin’s planning law is that every local unit of government decides the vision for their own community. The update process is an opportune time for a community to review what has happened over the last decade and, more importantly, to address anticipated future changes.

We can help. Give our office a call and we can discuss the best approach for your community. Contact Paula Priebe at 715-849-5510, Extension 311, or at ppriebe@ncwrpc.org.

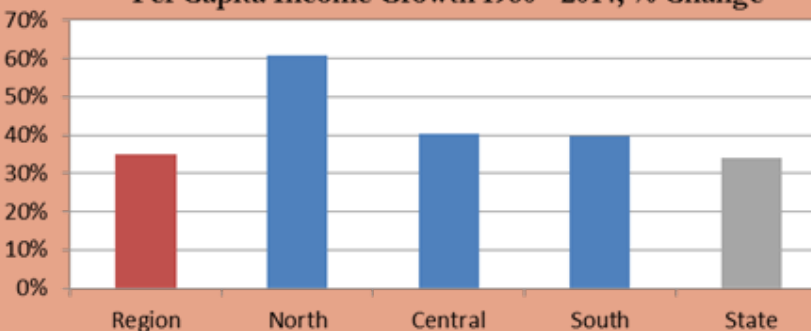
CEDS Update

In preparation for meetings this fall, staff have been collecting and analyzing demographic and economic data. Below is a snapshot of demographic and economic information about the region, including a regional occupation breakdown for 2014 and per capita income growth between 1980 and 2014.

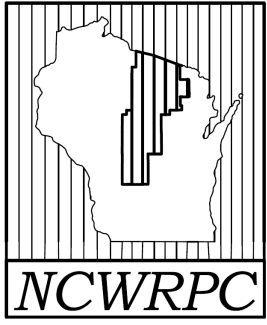
Regional Occupations of Employed Residents



Per Capita Income Growth 1980 - 2014, % Change*



*Adjusted for Inflation. Source: U.S. Census, 2010-2014 ACS



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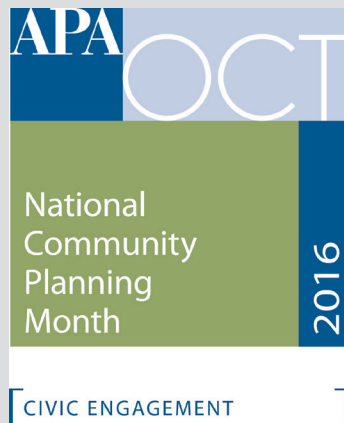
staff@ncwrpc.org

October is Community Planning Month

Each year the American Planning Association, its state chapters, and members sponsor National Community Planning Month to raise the visibility of the planning function and profession. For more information on Community Planning Month, visit www.planning.org.

Each year, a theme is identified to help a community plan highlight an aspect or outcome of planning. This year, the theme is civic engagement. The theme underscores the necessity of engaging the public, elected officials and key leaders in discussions that shape the future of our communities. Thoughtful, local planning cannot happen without meaningful civic engagement.

As part of the celebration, the NCWRPC extends thanks to all of its member communities, commissioners, and all planning & zoning staffs, as well as members of local plan commissions throughout the ten county region. It is the hard work of all of you that helps make north central Wisconsin a great place!



NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County

Richard Bakovka
Rocky Gilner
Peter Hickethier

Forest County

Bucky Dailey
William Connors, Jr.
Paul Millan

Juneau County

Jerry Niles
Edmund Wafle
Kenneth Winters

Langlade County

Angela Close
Ronald Nye
Paul Schuman

Lincoln County

Bill Zeitz
Frank Saal, Jr.
Loretta Baughan

Marathon County

Craig McEwen
Catherine Wineman
Daniel Guild

Oneida County

Harland Lee
Thomas Rudolph
Ted Cushing

Portage County

Inactive

Vilas County

Bob Egan
Kim Simac
Jay Verhulst

Wood County

Gerald Nelson
Appointment Pending
Appointment Pending