

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 305

A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF RACINE: 2035

**Chapter XI**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ELEMENT**

**INTRODUCTION**

Sound planning requires that neighboring incorporated and unincorporated communities cooperatively plan for future land use, civil division boundaries, and the provision of urban services. Cooperative approaches will contribute significantly to the attainment of the goals, objectives, and policies of a comprehensive plan. In the preparation of the Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, which served as the basis for the development of this comprehensive plan for the City of Racine, Racine County and all of its cities, villages and towns have taken a cooperative approach to planning and decision-making regarding the future of areas of mutual concern. It is recommended that such efforts continue during the implementation of this plan.

The intergovernmental cooperation element is one of the nine elements of a comprehensive plan required by Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. Section 66.1001 (2) (g) of the *Statutes* requires this element to compile goals, objectives, policies, programs, and maps for joint planning and decision making between the City and other jurisdictions, including school districts and County/local governments, for siting and building of public facilities, and for sharing public services. The *Statutes* also requires this element to:

- Analyze the relationship between the City and various government agencies, including the County and its communities, school districts, the region, the State, and to other government units.
- Incorporate any plans or agreements to which the City is a party to under Sections 66.0301, 66.0307, or 66.0309 of the *Statutes*.
- Identify existing or potential conflicts between the City, other local governments, the County, or the regional planning commission, and to describe the process to resolve such conflicts.

In addition, the following comprehensive planning goals related to the intergovernmental cooperation element are set forth in Section 16.965 of the *Statutes* and must be addressed as part of the planning process:<sup>1</sup>

- Encouragement of coordination and cooperation among nearby units of government.
- Providing adequate infrastructure and public services and an adequate supply of developable land to meet existing and future market demand for residential, commercial, and industrial uses.
- Providing an integrated, efficient, and economical transportation system that affords mobility, convenience, and safety and that meets the needs of all citizens, including transit-dependent citizens and persons with disabilities.
- Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces, and groundwater resources.
- Planning and development of land uses that create or preserve varied unique neighborhoods.

Cooperation between neighboring and overlapping units of government is one of the goals of the Wisconsin comprehensive planning law and is an important aspect of this comprehensive plan for the City of Racine. As noted earlier, the City plan was based on a cooperative, multi-jurisdictional process that involved Racine County and all cities, villages, and towns in the County as partners. The planning process was also fully coordinated with SEWRPC, the regional planning commission serving the City of Racine, and UW-Extension.

Some of the benefits of Intergovernmental Cooperation are provided below:

- **Cost Savings**

Cooperation can save money by increasing efficiency and avoiding unnecessary duplication. Cooperation can enable some communities to provide their residents with services that would otherwise be too costly. Examples include shared library services, police and fire protection, recycling of household hazardous waste, and shared government buildings.

- **Address Regional Issues**

By communicating and coordinating their actions, and working with regional and State agencies, communities are able to address and resolve issues that are regional in nature. Examples include the construction and maintenance of highways; provision of transit service; and planning and construction of facilities for stormwater management and water supply.

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter IV lists all 14 of the comprehensive planning goals included in Section 16.965 of the *Statutes*.

- **Early Identification of Issues**

Cooperation enables jurisdictions to identify and resolve potential conflicts at an early stage, before affected interests have established rigid positions, before the political stakes have been raised, and before issues have become conflicts or crises.

- **Reduced Litigation**

Communities that cooperate may be able to resolve issues before they reach the point of litigation. Reducing the possibility of costly litigation can save communities money, as well as the disappointment and frustration of unwanted outcomes.

- **Consistency**

Cooperation can lead to consistent goals, objectives, policies, programs, and plans of neighboring communities and other jurisdictions.

- **Predictability**

Jurisdictions that cooperate provide greater predictability to residents, developers, businesses, and others. Lack of predictability can result in lost time, money, and opportunity.

- **Understanding**

As jurisdictions communicate and collaborate on issues of mutual interest, they become more aware of one another's needs, priorities, unique character, and sense of identity. They can better anticipate problems and work to avoid them, while respecting each other's identity.

- **Trust**

Cooperation can lead to positive experiences and results that build trust and good working relationships between jurisdictions, while maintaining identity.

- **History of Success**

When jurisdictions cooperate successfully in one area, the success creates positive feelings and an expectation that other intergovernmental issues can be resolved as well.

- **Service to Citizens**

The biggest beneficiaries of intergovernmental cooperation are citizens for whom government was created in the first place. They may not understand, or even care about, the intricacies of a particular intergovernmental

issue, but all residents can appreciate cooperation that improves their quality of life. Benefits such as cost savings, provision of needed services, and a strong economy may also result from such cooperation.

### **Element Format**

This chapter is organized into the following five sections:

- Background Information on Intergovernmental Relationships in the City of Racine;
- Examples of Existing Cooperative Agreements in the City of Racine;
- Public Input – Intergovernmental Cooperation Issues;
- Intergovernmental Conflicts and Dispute Resolution;
- Intergovernmental Cooperation Element Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Programs.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE CITY OF RACINE**

The *Statutes* requires this element to provide information on the relationship between the City and various government agencies, including the County, school districts, adjacent communities, the region, the State, and to other government units.

### **Racine County**

This section briefly highlights a few of the County departments that provide services to local governments and other units and agencies of government.

#### ***Planning and Development Division***

Pursuant to Section 59.69 Wisconsin Statutes, Racine County Planning and Development Division staff perform land use planning functions for Racine County. This includes both short range activities such as analyzing rezoning requests and conditional use petitions, and long range planning activities including the coordination of the preparation of the Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan.

The staff also maintains the County land information system which provides online access to Racine County geographic and land information.

#### ***Public Works Department***

The Racine County Public Works Department provides essential services to plan, design, construct, maintain, repair, manage, and operate Racine County's buildings, facilities, public infrastructure, natural resources, and

park and highway systems in a manner that provides the best value and highest quality service available to satisfy the needs of our citizens.

The Department functions with three divisions: Buildings and Facilities, County Parks, and Highways. The three divisions work to provide efficient, effective services to the citizens of Racine County through the coordinated resources of Public Works staff. The Department's objectives are to safeguard and improve the County's investment in its public infrastructure, to protect public safety within County property, and to provide for the commercial and leisure activities which will maintain and improve the quality of life in Racine County.

### ***Land Conservation Division***

Under the direction of the Racine County Land Conservation Committee (LCC), the Racine County Land Conservation Division (LCD) implements and administers County and State of Wisconsin Soil and Water Conservation Programs. The LCD relies on partnerships with local farmers, landowners, government officials, teachers, community businesses, and concerned residents to provide a cleaner environment. The LCD provides technical assistance on controlling soil erosion and water pollution to help find solutions to land and water resource problems.

### ***Information Systems Department***

The Information Systems Department is responsible for all information delivery for Racine County Government. The Department supports electronic, voice, video conferencing, print and mail services in all County facilities. The Information Systems Department also supports the County Internet site <http://www.GORacine.org>.

### ***Sheriff's Department***

The Racine County Sheriff's Department provides 24 hour police service for the entire County, supplementing police service in communities that have their own police department, and provides additional service under contracts with a number of communities in the County. The Racine County Communications Center is operated under the direction and authority of the Sheriff's Department. In 2007, the Communication Center provided police dispatch service for not only the Sheriff's Department, but for the police departments of the Villages of Waterford and Wind Point, and the Towns of Burlington, Norway, and Waterford. The Communication Center also dispatched fire/rescue services for nine fire/rescue departments in the County.

### **Racine County Economic Development Corporation (RCEDC)**

The RCEDC is a private, non-profit organization created in 1983 to build and maintain a strong economic base in Racine County. The RCEDC provides assistance to communities and businesses in Racine County with respect to

economic development projects. Governed by a Board of Directors, the RCEDC assists in recruiting new business and industry to Racine County communities and assists existing industry with expansions.

### **School Districts**

The City of Racine is served by one PK-12 school district—the Racine Unified School District (RUSD). This district includes 33 public elementary, middle, and high school facilities, of which 26 are located in the City of Racine. There is also one institution of higher learning in the City, operated by the Gateway Technical College system.

The City of Racine can assist RUSD by providing information on projected population levels for use in facilities planning, and by consulting on proposed school locations. City regulations that may affect the location of schools include the City zoning ordinance and official map regulations.

The RUSD serves the entire area of Racine County east of IH94, requiring the RUSD to work with a number of local governments when proposing to construct new facilities or additions to existing facilities, or when proposing to abandon a school district facility. Schools and other district facilities are subject to local zoning regulations, and rely on local services such as sewer and water, police and fire protection, and streets and highways.

Recreational sites and facilities present an opportunity for shared use of facilities between County and local governments and RUSD. The RUSD may rely on the use of County or local parks for athletic events (such as the use of parks for cross-country courses); and play apparatus and playfields at schools may be available for local residents to use when school is not in session.

### **Libraries**

In 2007, there was one public library in the City of Racine, operated by the City. This library may be used by all Racine County residents with valid library cards.

### **Adjoining Counties**

Racine County is bordered by Walworth County to the west, Kenosha County to the south, and Milwaukee and Waukesha County to the north.

Cooperative efforts between Racine County and other counties that are relevant to the City include:

- **Transit Marketing:** The Southeastern Wisconsin Transit Partnership includes Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee Counties. The purpose is to share resources so that each transit

system can maximize the impact of marketing and advertising funds which promote public transit in Southeastern Wisconsin. The pooling of resources from these counties allows for purchasing TV and radio advertising and promotional activities that would be cost prohibitive for each system alone.

- ***Southeastern Wisconsin Care Management Organization (SEWCMO):*** The SEWCMO involves five counties in Southeastern Wisconsin—Kenosha, Racine, Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha, and Walworth Counties, and two private agencies—Community Care, Inc., and Lutheran Social services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Through Community Care, Inc., the Family Care Program is offered in Racine and Kenosha Counties. Family Care serves people with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, and frail elders, and is designed to provide cost-effective, comprehensive, and flexible long-term care, while fostering consumers’ independence and quality of life and recognizing the need for interdependence and support.
- ***Tri-County Public Health Consortium:*** The health consortium includes health departments from Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth Counties. The consortium is responsible for developing comprehensive public health emergency preparedness plans and coordinating mutual assistance among Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth Counties. The consortium is associated with health care, fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical services, among others, to develop public health response plans that interact effectively and share resources to protect and serve County residents when preparing for and responding to emergency situations, such as bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, public health threats, and public health emergencies.
- ***Kenosha/Racine Lead-Free Communities Partnership:*** The program is a partnership between the City of Racine Health Department and the Kenosha County Division of Health and provides lead-based paint risk assessments and abatement while providing services for children residing in housing units in need of lead abatement.
- ***Sanitary Sewer and Water Service:*** Through an interagency agreement, the Town of Somers KR Sewer Utility District in Kenosha County is provided with sanitary sewer service by the City of Racine Wastewater Utility.
- ***Library Services:*** All of Racine County is part of the Lakeshores Library System, which also serves Walworth County. The Lakeshores System and the Mid-Wisconsin System (which serves Dodge, Jefferson, and Washington Counties and part of Walworth County) are part of the Shared Holdings and Resource Exchange (SHARE) consortium, which provides residents with easy access to materials throughout both systems. Residents throughout the area use a common library card.

## **Regional Organizations**

### ***SEWRPC***

The City of Racine is served by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). Racine County and SEWRPC signed a three-party Cooperative Agreement with each of the cities, villages, and towns in the County to participate in a coordinated, multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning effort. SEWRPC also prepares a regional land use plan, which includes population, employment, and household projections to assist in local and county planning efforts, and is the federally-designated transportation planning and programming agency for the seven-county region. SEWRPC is also the regional water quality management agency for communities in the Region, and is involved in many other aspects of land use planning and development. In addition to this comprehensive plan and the County jurisdictional highway system plan, major SEWRPC planning projects affecting the City include the regional water supply plan, regional water quality management plan, regional natural areas and critical species habitat management plan, and the regional telecommunications plan. SEWRPC works closely with the county and local governments in the Region, as appropriate, when developing its plans. SEWRPC also prepares county and community level plans on request, such as the City of Racine and Racine County park and open space plans.

### ***Milwaukee 7***

The Milwaukee 7 is a council of representatives from the seven Southeastern Wisconsin counties (same seven counties within the SEWRPC area). The council, made up of about 35 civic and business leaders, was formed with the idea that a regional approach is key to fostering economic growth. Additional information about the Milwaukee 7 is provided in Chapter IX.

### ***Nonprofit Conservation Organizations***

The Kenosha/Racine Land Trust has worked with Racine County and its communities to implement plans for acquiring or otherwise preserving lands with important natural resources and farmlands.

## **State of Wisconsin**

### ***Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)***

WisDOT administers a variety of State and Federal programs to complete projects that enhance the transportation network within Racine County in partnership with local governments, the County, and SEWRPC. Grant programs include the Surface Transportation Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, Local Transportation Enhancements, and a number of other programs that collectively provide funding for streets and highways, transit, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and funding for railroad improvements.



WisDOT also administers the General Transportation Aids program, which returns a portion of the money collected through fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees to County and local governments to help offset County and local road construction and maintenance costs. WisDOT maintains the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR), which is an extensive map-based database, accessible to local and County officials and staff, of road conditions such as right-of-way and pavement width, shoulder width, number of driving and parking lanes, pavement condition, and other information.

***Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)***

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is dedicated to the preservation, protection, effective management, and maintenance of Wisconsin’s natural resources. It is responsible for implementing the laws of the State and, in some cases, the laws of the Federal government that protect and enhance the natural resources of the State, including wetlands, shorelands, floodplains, woodlands, and water quality. The DNR is charged with coordinating the many disciplines and programs necessary to provide a clean environment and a full range of outdoor recreational opportunities for Wisconsin citizens and visitors.

The DNR makes grants available to County and local units of government for park acquisition and development. Racine County and the City should continue to apply for grant funds through the DNR to improve recreational opportunities, to purchase land for parks and preservation of important natural resources, and to develop parks. County and local governments must have an adopted park and open space plan in order to apply for DNR grant funds. The DNR also administers grant programs related to lake protection, lake management and planning, and conservation easements.

The DNR also worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Racine County to update floodplain mapping within the County.

In addition, the DNR identifies and monitors environmentally contaminated sites and administers grant programs to clean up such sites, which are commonly referred to as “brownfields.” Contaminated sites and brownfield remediation grant programs are identified in Chapter IX.

**EXAMPLES OF EXISTING COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS IN THE CITY OF RACINE**

The *Statutes* require that this element incorporate any plans or agreements to which the County or its communities are a party under the following:

- Section 66.0301—Intergovernmental Cooperation: This section of the *Statutes* provides broad authority for intergovernmental cooperation among local units of government with respect to the provision and receipt of services and the joint exercise of their powers and duties. The City of Racine is not a party to any agreements established under Section 66.0301.
- Section 66.0307—Cooperative Boundary Plan Agreement: This section of the *Statutes* allows any combination of cities, villages, and towns to determine the boundary lines between themselves under a cooperative plan, subject to oversight by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. Section 66.0307 envisions the cooperative preparation of a comprehensive plan for the affected area by the concerned local units of government and prescribes in detail the contents of the cooperative plan. Importantly, the cooperative plan must identify any boundary change and any existing boundary that may not be changed during the planning period; identify any conditions that must be met before a boundary change may occur; include a schedule of the period during which a boundary change shall or may occur; and specify arrangements for the provision of urban services to the territory covered by the plan. The City of Racine is not a party to any agreements established under Section 66.0307.
- Section 66.0309—Creation, Organization, Powers, and Duties of Regional Planning Commissions: This section of the *Statutes* authorizes the Governor to establish regional planning commissions in response to petitions from County and local governments. A regional planning commission is charged by the *Statutes* to prepare and adopt a master plan for development of the region. Racine County is part of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), which serves the seven counties and 146 cities, towns, and villages in the southeastern corner of Wisconsin. The seven counties include Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha. SEWRPC was established by then-Governor Gaylord Nelson in 1960 and is governed by a 21-member Commission. Chapter VI includes a summary of recent plans conducted by SEWRPC that affect Racine County and its communities. SEWRPC also assisted the County and its communities in the preparation of this comprehensive plan.

Additional opportunity for intergovernmental cooperation is provided under Section 66.0305 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, entitled “Municipal Revenue Sharing.” Under this statute, two or more cities, villages, and towns may enter into revenue sharing agreements, providing for the sharing of revenues derived from taxes and special charges. The agreements may address matters other than revenue sharing, including municipal services and municipal boundaries. Municipal revenue sharing can provide for a more equitable distribution of the property tax revenue generated from new commercial and industrial development within metropolitan areas and help reduce tax-base competition among communities, competition that can work against the best interests of the metropolitan

area as a whole. A municipal revenue sharing agreement between the City of Racine and the Villages of Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant (both were towns at the time of the agreement), Sturtevant, and Wind Point was developed using Section 66.0305. Under this intermunicipal agreement, the City of Racine receives shared revenue payments from neighboring communities for use in renovating older residential areas, redeveloping brownfield sites, and supporting regional facilities like the City zoo, fine arts museum, and library. In return, the City of Racine agreed to support the incorporation of the two adjacent Towns of Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant; refrain from annexations without the consent of the Towns; refrain from using extra-territorial and plat review powers; and move ahead with sewerage system improvements that will accommodate growth in the Towns.

### **Other Examples of Cooperative Agreements**

There are and have been many cooperative agreements between the City and adjacent local units of government. Several examples are listed below.

- The Villages of Elmwood Park, North Bay, and Wind Point contract for fire service with the City of Racine.
- Racine County, all its communities, SEWRPC, and UW-Extension, formally agreed to work together to develop a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Racine County.
- The City of Racine and SEWRPC formally agreed to work together to prepare a separate local comprehensive plan for the City based on the information developed as part of the multi-jurisdictional plan for Racine County.
- The City of Racine provides sanitary sewer service to the Villages of Caledonia, Elmwood Park, Mt. Pleasant, North Bay, Sturtevant, and Wind Point.
- The City of Racine provides water supply to the Villages of Elmwood Park, Mt. Pleasant, North Bay, Sturtevant, and Wind Point and a portion of the Village of Caledonia.
- The City of Racine Belle Urban System (BUS) provides fixed-route public transit service throughout the Racine urbanized area. This includes area within the City of Racine, the Villages Caledonia, Mt. Pleasant and Sturtevant, and the Town of Yorkville.
- All libraries in the County can be used by City residents with valid library cards.

## **PUBLIC INPUT-INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ISSUES**

The comprehensive plan should address key intergovernmental cooperation issues based upon the intergovernmental cooperation related information and public input gathered during the comprehensive planning process. The countywide public opinion survey, and strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analyses—both completed in 2007—and additional City efforts to gather public input, including a citywide online survey, resulted in the identification of a number of intergovernmental cooperation related issues to be addressed in this element. These issues include:

- The plan should strive to increase community awareness, understanding, and participation with respect to the comprehensive plan and plan implementation.
- The plan should strive to continue and improve cooperation between government agencies and the private sector in order to realize long term benefits ranging from coordinated planning on issues that affect the City, adjacent communities, and the entire County, to local infrastructure cost savings, provision of needed services, a healthy environment, a strong school system, and sustainable economy.
- The plan should encourage public and private partnerships to assist in the implementation of plan recommendations related to, but not limited to, park and trail facilities, utilities and services, housing, and economic development.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFLICTS AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Section 66.1001 (2) (g) of the *Wisconsin Statutes* requires that the Intergovernmental Cooperation Element identify existing or potential conflicts between the City of Racine and other governmental units, including school districts, and describe processes to resolve such conflicts.

The City of Racine land use plan map (Map 5 in Chapter VI) reflects locally identified planned land uses. Since the City is bordered entirely by incorporated communities, the recommended land use plan map for the City does not include areas outside of its current corporate limits. Consequently, there are no conflicts between the City of Racine and adjacent communities due to overlapping land uses. The City will continue to work with neighboring communities to encourage an orderly, efficient, and compatible land use pattern in and around the City.

Historically, a number of annexations completed by the City of Racine have resulted in irregular boundaries, including long, narrow “arms” of the city extending into the adjacent community or creation of small areas of the adjacent community completely surrounded by the City, except for a thin strip of land left to avoid creation of a village (formerly town) islands. Irregularly-shaped annexations can create problems with street maintenance, due to portions of a street alternating between City and village jurisdictions; can create situations where one side of

the street is subject to city construction standards (which may, for example, require installation of curbs and gutters), while the other side is subject to village standards; create situations where different speed limits are posted for segments of the street under village versus City jurisdiction. Many of these situations could be resolved through the development of cooperative or boundary agreements between the City and adjacent village to ultimately establish a more uniform and logical boundary between communities.

Such agreements also have the potential for revenue sharing, extension of municipal services to adjacent communities, and for agreement on future land use patterns. Boundary plans and intergovernmental agreements provide cities and villages certainty with respect to their future boundaries and provide a firm framework within which cities and villages can plan for future public utilities and public facilities.

## **CITY OF RACINE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS**

The intergovernmental cooperation element goals and objectives, along with the implementing policies and programs were developed based upon consideration of the recommendations of City, County, and regional plans; meetings with local officials; and the results of the public participation process including input from public opinion surveys and other public input exercises.

The following City of Racine intergovernmental cooperation related goals were developed under the comprehensive planning program and previously presented in Chapter IV.

### **City of Racine Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals**

- Goal XI-1:** Encourage intercommunity planning efforts to make effective use of resources and to resolve conflicts.
- Goal XI-2:** Encourage a public participation process that provides equity and fairness to landowners and other stakeholders, balanced with responsible land use.

### **City of Racine Intergovernmental Cooperation Objectives**

- Encourage intergovernmental cooperation.
- Encourage shared services and facilities between units and levels of government.

- Encourage an orderly, efficient, and compatible land use pattern in and around the City of Racine by cooperatively working with neighboring communities.
- Promote a better understanding among all levels of government regarding the roles and responsibilities of each.
- Encourage the City of Racine and its adjacent communities to coordinate with the RUSD as it prepares facility plans or evaluate sites for new school facilities.
- Encourage the City Racine and its adjacent communities to continue to coordinate with respect to the provision of key services including police and fire protection, and sewer and water service.
- Encourage the City of Racine, Racine County, and its communities to coordinate with respect to economic development in the County.
- Provide a structure for continuing dialog about comprehensive planning, land use regulation issues, and boundary issues between the City of Racine and adjacent communities.

### **City of Racine Intergovernmental Cooperation Policies and Programs**

- Implement all policies contained in other elements of the comprehensive plan, especially those policies that are more likely to be implemented through cooperative efforts and partnerships, such as the recommendations related to natural resource preservation or countywide trail development.
- The City of Racine should make any necessary revisions and updates to zoning, land division, and official map ordinances to implement the recommendations of the comprehensive plan.
- Encourage intergovernmental cooperation when selecting sites for public facilities such as police stations, fire stations, government administration buildings, and libraries, and quasi-public facilities such as hospitals, clinics, and skilled nursing, assisted living, and independent living centers for the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- Encourage the RUSD to consult with the City, concerned villages, and Racine County when initiating facilities planning or when planning locations of new schools or recreation facilities.

- Encourage a coordinated effort by the RUSD and all the communities it serves to improve the level of public education in the District.
- Support the coordination between Racine County, its communities, and other agencies, where appropriate, to provide cost-effective government services.
- The City of Racine should continue to work with the RCEDC with respect to business development and expansion.
- Encourage local governments to develop joint agreements to provide shared stormwater management facilities.
- Coordinate the implementation of the recommendations of regional water supply plan.
- Coordinate comprehensive management of surface water, groundwater, and water dependent natural resources.
- Coordinate the implementation of the transportation element of the comprehensive plan.
- The City of Racine should continue to work with SEWRPC and WisDOT on regional transportation planning and programming efforts and to develop methods to promote interconnectivity between all transportation modes and systems within the City, County and Region.
- The City of Racine should continue working with SEWRPC to update Racine County transportation plans, such as the jurisdictional highway plan and the public transit plan.
- Racine County should continue to provide technical services that benefit the public and other units and agencies of government, such as updating and maintaining GIS data, including parcel, land use, and floodplain data.
- Racine County should continue to maintain the County website to provide information to the public and other units and agencies of government.

- The City of Racine and adjacent communities should work with other government agencies and private entities, including non-profit agencies, where appropriate, to construct and /or operate community facilities in a cost-effective and efficient manner through joint service agreements.
- The City of Racine and Racine County should continue to work with the DNR and non-government organizations (NGOs) to acquire and develop parks, trails, and other recreation facilities, and to acquire and protect valuable natural resource areas as called for in City and County park and open space plans.
- Continue to work with SEWRPC on regional plans and issues affecting the City of Racine.
- The Racine County Executive's Office should continue holding periodic heads of government meetings as a forum for the distribution of information and for open discussion of County-wide issues.
- The existing revenue sharing agreement between the City of Racine and the Villages of Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant should continue to be implemented.
- The City of Racine and adjacent villages could also consider entering into other agreements as appropriate. This could include revenue sharing agreements or agreements to adjust community boundaries that result in boundaries between two communities that are more logical and that can be provided with services more efficiently.
- Consider the implementation of cooperative programs to dispose of household waste.
- Explore regional partnership options for recycling programs and facilities.

### **City of Racine Intergovernmental Cooperation Financial and Technical Assistance Programs**

Various types of financial and technical assistance programs are available from Federal, State, and County agencies that are applicable to the implementation of the comprehensive plan. Information on these programs has been presented in other elements of the plan. Many of these programs require or encourage cooperative efforts between governmental agencies or between government agencies and private organizations to take full advantage of their financial benefits. This is especially true for programs that focus on the protection of natural and cultural resources, such as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The plan recommends that consideration be given to developing public and public/private partnerships as appropriate to implement the financial programs and work programs listed in all the elements of the plan to facilitate the implementation of the comprehensive plan.