
Introduction

The Village of Cottage Grove is a dynamic community located in the Madison metropolitan area. The Village has been a leader of population and housing growth in Dane County, as well as the State of Wisconsin in the 1990s and 2000s. This growth has been fueled by employment and housing booms observed throughout most of Dane County. The Village benefits from its outstanding location (only 15 minutes from downtown Madison and 60 minutes to Milwaukee) and an excellent transportation system with CTH N interchanges at I-94 to the north, USH 12/18, and I-39/90



to the south. Several key County highways also provide easy access to the region. During the 2000s, the Village emerged as an employment center, attracting a high-quality of development and good jobs. The Village's attention to preserving the character of the community, and its approach to growth management has contributed to its ability to reserve the best locations for the right types of development. The Village has also remained committed to the plan of strengthening its core through building a new "downtown" central business and civic hub. As the Village expands over the next 20–30 years and continues to establish itself as a housing and employment destination, it will be faced with many critical challenges and many exciting opportunities. This *Plan* is intended to help guide the Village in addressing challenges and pursuing new opportunities.

One of the first communities in Wisconsin to adopt a comprehensive plan under the State's "Smart Growth" legislation, the Village has also been very successful in implementing its plans. With this 10-year update to its initial *Comprehensive Plan*, the Village takes an opportunity to celebrate what it has achieved, check its course, establish new priorities, and gear up the next stage in realizing its vision.

A. Purpose of this Plan

This *Comprehensive Plan* is a blueprint for the short-range and long-range growth and development of the Village of Cottage Grove. It is designed to be used by Village officials as a policy to guide and direct community development decisions, to assist with community facility budgeting, and be used as a tool to focus and stimulate private housing, business, and industrial investment in the Village. As a long range comprehensive planning tool concerned with a wide variety of environmental, economic, and social factors, this *Comprehensive Plan* must examine and provide recommendations for areas currently within the Village of Cottage Grove's corporate limits and beyond.

State Statutes §66.1001(2) require that a comprehensive plan include the following nine elements: (1) issues and opportunities (providing the basis for goals, objectives, policies, and programs to guide future development over a 20-year planning period), (2) housing, (3) transportation, (4) utilities and community facilities, (5) agricultural, natural, and cultural resources, (6) economic development, (7) intergovernmental cooperation, (8) land use, and (9) implementation.

This *Comprehensive Plan* is organized into chapters based on the above listed required elements. Each chapter provides an overview of relevant "background information" intended to fulfill State requirements and inform plan development; and a set of goals, objectives, policies and recommendations. The Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Programs outline the policy desires and strategic directions of the Village.