

Daniel P. Vrakas
County Executive



February 24, 2009

TO: Citizens of Waukesha County
Waukesha County Board
Municipal Officials

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the second generation Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County. The first Development Plan, adopted by the County Board on November 26, 1996, represented the first plan of this kind completed within Southeastern Wisconsin. The Plan was later used to guide the development of the Comprehensive Plan elements contained in Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" Law (s.66.1001) adopted by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1999.

This updated Comprehensive Development Plan was prepared through collaborative effort, formally involving 28 of the municipalities in the County, experts in topic areas and Waukesha County citizens. The Plan seeks to continue to provide: a wide range of employment opportunities through a broad diversified economic base; preserve and protect desirable existing residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural land uses; provide an attractive and healthful physical and social environment with ample opportunities for high-quality education, cultural activities and recreation; and protect and enhance the natural resource base of Waukesha County.

The collaborative planning effort sought to develop a shared vision for land use among all municipalities in the County. This plan proactively identified lands in the County that have soil conditions with high groundwater levels that offer special challenges for their use. The Plan continues to call for higher residential densities within neighborhood planning units served by public sewer and water systems and is within walking and biking distances to local services, parks and school facilities. The County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Region will continue to be challenged, like other major metropolitan areas, to provide for a variety of housing choices for County residents and people who work in the County. Similar to the preparation of this Comprehensive Development Plan, the County and municipalities will again need to collaborate to address the housing issues.

I would like to thank the many individuals that dedicated their time to participate in this comprehensive planning process. Special thanks to Jerry Braatz with the Waukesha County University of Wisconsin – Extension, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, and the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use for the Plan preparation. Finally, I want to thank the municipal leaders who share in the vision of a common comprehensive development plan. Successful implementation of this Plan will require continued discussions and willingness to collaborate on solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. Vrakas". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Daniel P. Vrakas
Waukesha County Executive