

Intergovernmental Cooperation

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The intergovernmental cooperation element of the **Comprehensive Plan** discusses opportunities for joint planning and decision making with other governments, including school districts and adjacent local governmental units, state government, and federal government agencies, for siting and building public facilities and sharing public services. It also addresses conflicts between Appleton’s plan and the comprehensive plans of adjacent communities and counties. The element recognizes existing agreements with neighboring government, including boundary agreements with neighboring towns and villages. These are documented in Chapter 2 of the **Comprehensive Plan**.

Actions of higher-level governments can also impact the City and its residents. State and federal governments may have a role in funding local government activities. Through grants and other programs, additional funds can be brought into Appleton. By the same token, the loss of funding (such as the anticipated loss of transit funding) can jeopardize public services or place a large burden on the City to make up for the loss. State and federal government agencies also administer regulations by which the City must abide, such as standards for its waste water treatment plant, rules concerning non-point storm water quality, and even requirements such as the preparation and adoption of a comprehensive plan.

Coordination among the many units of government in the region is an important goal. Actions of one governmental unit can affect others, and where possible, it should be a goal of the City to strive for consensus to the mutual benefit of all. Intergovernmental cooperation has the potential to provide better, more effective government services for all, often with cost savings for those governments involved, and the taxpayers that support them.

Potential Land Use Conflicts

Appleton’s Comprehensive Plan was designed to minimize conflicts with neighboring jurisdictions, while at the same time balancing the needs of a growing, vibrant community. The City already collaborates with area communities and counties on topics such as transportation, promotion of the Fox River, and economic development. The City’s boundary agreements help to reduce the potential for land use conflict in the City’s growth areas. Additionally, the City’s future land use plan has incorporated Outagamie County’s land use plan for the portion of Appleton’s extraterritorial jurisdiction that lies outside of the sewer service area. The following is a discussion of the potential conflicts that have been identified.

Town of Grand Chute

A small number of future land use conflicts are apparent. These may be due in part to the fact that Grand Chute adopted its plan in 2000, ten years prior to Appleton adopting its plan. The largest of these conflicts is at the southeast corner of Richmond Street and Broadway Drive, where the City of Appleton has planned a combination of multifamily residential, commercial, and business/industrial uses. The Town of Grand Chute shows this as vacant / undeveloped / agricultural conservancy. The other area is south of Edgewood Drive and west of Ballard Road, where the City shows multifamily residential and the town has planned commercial.

Town of Center

Outagamie County’s future land use plan has been incorporated into Appleton’s future land use plan for areas in the Town of Center that are outside of the City’s sewer service area. Minimal new development is proposed in this area. Little conflict is anticipated.

Town of Freedom

Appleton has negotiated a boundary agreement that limits the amount of the Town’s territory that may be annexed to the City. The land uses shown by the City of Appleton are consistent with those in Outagamie County’s plan.

Village of Little Chute

Because of their mutual boundary agreement, the planning areas for Appleton and Little Chute do not overlap. As a result there are no direct conflicts. Little Chute, however, has planned for light industrial uses along Wisconsin Avenue (Main Street) adjacent to Appleton. Appleton’s Wisconsin Avenue Corridor Plan (Chapter 14) recommends less intensive “commercial service” uses in the Appleton portion of the corridor, retaining existing single-family residential uses. More intensive industrial development could cause traffic, noise, light, and other impacts to this neighborhood.



Town of Harrison

The Town of Harrison has prepared its own comprehensive plan instead of being a part of the Calumet County plan. Future land uses in areas that may come into the City of Appleton are consistent with the uses shown by Appleton. There are no apparent conflicts.

Town of Menasha

Uses identified for the Town of Menasha in the Winnebago County plan are consistent with those shown on Appleton's future land use map. There are no areas of conflict.

Opportunities for Collaboration

Several of the chapters in this plan noted areas in which Appleton already works cooperatively with other governmental units, where opportunities for collaboration may exist, or where discussions should occur. These are summarized here.

Housing and Neighborhoods

Chapter 5 documents issues concerning housing and neighborhoods. Appleton currently collaborates with other communities, mainly through non-profit organizations, neighborhood groups, and regional collaborations, to address needs for affordable housing and emergency shelter. The police department confers with law enforcement in neighboring communities concerning problem tenants. Public comments received during the planning process suggested that Appleton work with adjacent communities (particularly the Town of Grand Chute) on issues of neighborhood stability along common borders.

Transportation

The transportation element of the plan notes several areas in which Appleton needs to work with other area communities, Outagamie, Winnebago, and Calumet Counties, the State of Wisconsin, and federal agencies. These issues include planning for the regional highway system and local streets where jurisdiction may fall to a government other than the City of Appleton, regional bicycle and pedestrian route planning, preservation and enhancement of air services at Outagamie County Regional Airport, continued improvements to boating on the Fox River, and to secure a stable long-term source of funding for Valley Transit. Appleton should support the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative, which has a goal to bring passenger rail service to corridors including the Milwaukee-Appleton-Green Bay route.

Utilities and Community Facilities

Collaboration between Appleton and other communities already exists for water and sewer services, fire protection, and police services. In fact, Appleton is in discussion with the Town of Grand Chute concerning the potential to combine police departments.

The City frequently works with the Appleton School District on issues that impact them mutually. For example, the school district leases buildings from the City, the City and school district mutually use and develop park and recreation facilities, and the two join forces to address topics such as safe routes to schools.

Agriculture, Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources

Appleton has been involved with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and other communities on the Fox River to solve the problem of PCBs and other contaminants in river sediment. The City and other local governments are collaborating on designation of the river corridor as a heritage parkway system.

Economic Development

Appleton participates in several economic development organizations along with cities, villages, and counties from throughout Northeastern Wisconsin. The plan notes the need to work with adjacent communities on specific issues of concern, such as deteriorating conditions on College Avenue in Grand Chute and Appleton.

A significant number of Appleton's redevelopment sites contain some degree of environmental contamination. The City will need to work with the Wisconsin Departments of Commerce and Natural Resources, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to seek funding and to coordinate clean-up efforts.



Land Use

Sprawl is a threat to the long-term health of Appleton and the entire Fox Cities region. The land use element notes that Appleton cannot act alone to address the concerns of sprawl. The City and other communities, counties, and the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission should engage in a discussion about regional growth management.

Fox River Corridor Plan

Appleton is working with other communities along the Fox River, the Regional Planning Commission, and state agencies to promote redevelopment and marketing of the river corridor, including its designation as a heritage corridor. Additionally, the City will need to pursue discussions with the Canadian National Railway (Wisconsin Central) concerning use of the abandoned railroad trestles for bicycle and pedestrian crossings of the river.

South Oneida Street

The corridor plan for South Oneida Street points out that a portion of the corridor lies in the Town of Menasha. The corridor plan recommends developing common design approaches to achieve improved aesthetics.

Parks and Recreation

The Park and Recreation Master Plan notes several topics on which the Park and Recreation Department is working with other area communities, or with county governments. One such project is the partnership with the Town of Harrison to identify a site for a regional park in the southeastern part of Appleton's growth area, currently in the Town. Appleton also partners with other governments to provide park facilities (such as with Outagamie County, at Plamann Park) and to plan for connectivity of the bicycle path system.

Objectives and Policies

The following objectives and policies will help to guide Appleton in its interactions with other governments.

11.1 OBJECTIVE: Maintain a positive relationship with local area governments to foster collaboration on issues of mutual concern.

- 11.1.1 Ensure continued discussion between Appleton and neighboring municipalities and counties, including both elected officials and department staff.
- 11.1.2 Continue Appleton's involvement in regional organizations, such as those to promote economic development, to work to provide affordable housing, to restore and revitalize the Fox River, and to provide transit services in the Fox Valley.
- 11.1.3 Act upon the specific opportunities for collaboration identified in the *Comprehensive Plan*.

11.2 OBJECTIVE: Work with the State of Wisconsin and federal agencies on issues of concern to the City of Appleton.

- 11.2.1 Monitor policy issues and advocate for rules and legislation that will benefit Appleton and its residents.
- 11.2.2 Work with state agencies to ensure timely compliance with mandates, and to monitor and shape policy decisions that impact the City.
- 11.2.3 Seek available opportunities for grant funding and programs that can help to develop capital facilities or improve delivery of municipal services, acquire parks and open space land, or stimulate economic or cultural development.

