

Section A: Issues & Opportunities

Village of Ridgeway 2018 Comprehensive Plan

SUMMARY:

As required by *Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(a)*, this section provides both the objectives and policies this plan will help achieve, and basic background information on the general population and demographic characteristics of the Village of Ridgeway. This data was derived from community surveys, demographic trends including those on population, age distribution, housing, education levels, income levels, employment characteristics, population projections, housing projections, and labor force projections.

GUIDING POLICIES:

- **Protect and improve the health, safety, and welfare of village residents.**
- **Preserve and enhance the quality of life for village residents.**
- **Protect and preserve the small community character of the Village of Ridgeway.**

BACKGROUND:

In the fall of 2001, Iowa County—including the Village of Ridgeway, along with twenty-two other jurisdictions applied for a Comprehensive Planning Grant through the Wisconsin Department of Administration. In the spring of 2002, the Comprehensive Planning Grant was awarded. Iowa County and the jurisdictions within it contracted with the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) to complete individual comprehensive plans for each of the twenty-three jurisdictions (Iowa County, Cities, Towns, and Villages) in accordance with Wisconsin Statute 66.1001. The resulting comprehensive plan from 2005 is the basis for this revision.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Village Survey

In February, 2018 village residents were asked to complete a survey, which the planning & development committee referenced while updating the comprehensive plan. This would allow the resulting plan to reflect the community's values, desires, and concerns.

Community Vision

During the autumn and winter of 2002-2003, SWWRPC and UWEX-Iowa County sponsored sessions so residents could share and shape the vision for their communities going forward. Our

comprehensive plan takes this information into account, but places more emphasis on the feedback residents provided on the village survey from February, 2018.

The most important are:

1. Revitalize the Main Street area
2. Update & repair broken village infrastructure, and update outdated systems
3. Provide safe, affordable housing
4. Develop business opportunities to increase employment, population, and tax base
5. Encourage professional offices to open in the village
6. Explore funding options for construction of a village municipal building
7. Balance economic development with preservation of small-town feel
8. Keep the Ridgeway elementary school open

Visioning

During the winter of 2003 Village of Ridgeway planning representatives were asked to identify issues, opportunities, strengths, and weaknesses specific to the village. Some remain an issue today, while new ones have developed since; they are as follows:

Issues:

- **Ridgeway Elementary School's potentially closing**
- **Senior activities**
- **Youth activities—businesses & services catering to youth and young families**
- **Lack of retail & grocery shops within the village**
- **Establishment of an industrial park**

Opportunities:

- **Public school closing: Could lead to an office hub, community building, library, or perhaps, a private school**
- **Transportation/access to transportation: The village could designate & encourage the establishment taxi or Uber services on Main Street**
- **Bike trail/Depot: Attractions could be staffed by seniors**

Strengths:

- **Air Quality**
- **Water**
- **Parks**
- **Fire and ambulance**
- **Scenic**
- **Small-town atmosphere**

Weaknesses:

- **Street maintenance—Make curbs and gutters mandatory in new development & install where currently missing within village limits**
- **Lack of lots available for building homes**
- **Sidewalks—some are in desperate need of repair, others need beautification**