



# COMPASS POINTS NEWSLETTER

**KENOSHA COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Volume 1, Issue 1

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## Planning & Development Newsletter

In order to keep residents, business owners, and other community stakeholders informed of upcoming and ongoing planning programs and projects, the Kenosha County Department of Planning & Development has decided to provide a quarterly newsletter.

Future editions will include information about conservation issues, updates to the farmland preservation plan, and ongoing planning efforts to develop a countywide network of bicycle facilities.

The newsletter will also highlight ways in which the department can assist you, through programs such as the county's online interactive mapping and the annual sale of native trees and shrubs.

If there are topics regarding planning and development that particularly interest you, please contact Kristen Lie, UW-Extension Community Planning Educator by phone at 262-857-1946 or by email at [kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:kristen.lie@ces.uwex.edu) to submit your ideas for future newsletters.



**Kenosha County  
Department of Planning & Development**  
19600 75th Street, P.O. Box 520  
Bristol, WI 53104-0520  
Phone: (262) 857-1895  
Fax: (262) 857-1920  
Office Hours  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM &  
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

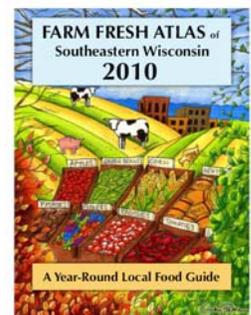
## Sustainable Food Systems

Some of the recommendations of the Kenosha County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan include: to protect the county's best quality farmland for productive agriculture, and to ensure that farming remains and viable business in Kenosha.

According to the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), about 72% of Kenosha County is covered by national prime farmland soil, and a further 16% is covered with farmlands of statewide significance. In the fall and winter, the County will begin working under the State's Working Lands Initiative to revise the county's farmland preservation program.

One way that residents can support local farmers and the county's economy is by making an effort to buy local products. The Farm Fresh Atlas of Southeastern Wisconsin (available online at <http://www.farmfreshatlas.org/southeast/>) is a free, year-round local food guide for the Milwaukee Metropolitan area, including Kenosha County. It features farms and businesses that are family or cooperatively owned; operate in a way that protects and sustains the region's land and water resources; provide safe and fair working conditions; and produce, use, or sell Wisconsin farm products. It also provides information about farmers' markets throughout the region.

Another resource to discover products made locally is Savor Wisconsin (<http://www.SavorWisconsin.com>), a website designed to connect consumers with a variety of businesses in Wisconsin, including those selling agricultural machinery and supplies, animal and poultry feeds, milling industry products, aquaculture, honey and maple syrup, beer and cheese.



## Countywide Planning for Bicycle Facilities

Recognizing the importance of bicycling facilities to Kenosha County's infrastructure, economy, and quality of life, County Executive Jim Kreuser convened a Blue Ribbon Committee on Countywide Bicycle Facilities Planning and Development in April 2010.

In the course of five months, representatives from all Kenosha County's local communities, along with key cycling stakeholders, worked together with the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin and county staff on a document outlining the vision for the future of biking in Kenosha County, focusing on the creation of a coordinated network of bicycle facilities which will link communities with each other, as well as with Racine and Walworth counties and Illinois.

After reviewing an inventory of existing bike facilities and conditions, the committee has developed this vision for bicycling in Kenosha County and prioritized projects to improve bicycling conditions.

*"In the future, bicycling in Kenosha County will be an accessible, safe, healthy, practical and viable form of transportation and recreation. The bicycle network will provide convenient connections between communities, places of employment, parks, schools, recreation areas, retail establishments and other popular destinations."*

Some of the priorities identified by the committee include:

- Produce a comprehensive Kenosha County bicycle plan
- Sponsor organized community bike rides
- Produce literature about safe cycling and driving and distribute to county residents
- Sign a network of bicycle routes that links the primary population centers of the county as well as major recreation sites, parks, schools, and employment areas
- Provide at least two east-west corridors that provide safe and convenient links across the county
- Provide a continuous lakefront bicycle corridor from Illinois to the Racine County border

The vision document is just the first step in the County's effort to develop a viable network for all bicyclists, whether expert cyclists or beginners, commuters or recreational riders. A sub-committee is already beginning to organize a small, family-friendly community ride to take place in the fall.

This summer, the Department of Planning & Development submitted funding proposals to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Department of Transportation (WisDOT) in order to help fund a variety of proposed bike related projects within Kenosha County.

Such projects include the development of a comprehensive bicycle plan for Kenosha County; the construction of a new trail in Petrifying Springs Park; bike facilities along County Trunk Highway (CTH) H in the Village of Pleasant Prairie and CTH K in the City of Kenosha; and the improvement and expansion of existing trails. The awarding of these funds will occur during the fall of 2010, with projects beginning as early as the winter and spring of 2011.



The complete vision document is available on the Kenosha County Planning & Development Bicycle Facilities Planning website:

[http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/land\\_dev/bicycle/](http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/land_dev/bicycle/)