ECWRPC Welcomes New Commissioners for 2015-16 Term

As a result of the April 2015 elections, as well as with the addition of Fond du Lac County to the Commission in January, a few changes occurred to East Central’s Board of Commissioners. Fond du Lac County is represented by County Executive Allen Buechel, County Board Chair Martin Farrell, County Supervisor Brenda Schneider, City of Fond du Lac Manager Joe Moore, and a yet to be determined Governor’s Appointment who will be either Craig Tebon (City of Ripon) or Nick Leonard (Village of North Fond du Lac). Additionally, three new commissioners were welcomed to the board in July for the 2015-16 term. Mr. Michael Chapman joins the Board as the new Menominee County Board Chair. Additionally, Ms. Muriel Bzdawka returns to the Commission, but as a Menominee County Board Appointment versus her position as County Board Chair in the previous term. Finally, new Oshkosh Mayor Steve Cummings replaces Mark Rohloff, Oshkosh City Manager to represent Winnebago County.

At the Commission’s April 2015 Annual Meeting, the Board’s leadership was also reaffirmed. Continuing to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for another year are Donna Kalata, Waushara County Board Chair and Michael Thomas, Outagamie County Board Supervisor. We look forward to working with all of the new commissioners and thank the outgoing commissioners for their time and dedication as they worked to achieve our mission.

Commission Bids Farewell to Mike Patza

The Commission regretfully acknowledges the recent departure of Mike Patza. Mike worked for the Commission for just over ten years and left the Commission in July 2015 for a new position with the Town of Grand Chute. Mike started at the Commission as a Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist and played an instrumental role in the development of the Regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. Mike’s skill set also expanded into bicycle and pedestrian planning. During Mike’s time with the Commission, he established a great rapport with local SRTS coalitions and partner organizations. His dedication to the Regional Safe Routes to School Program has made lasting impressions with local SRTS coalitions and everyone that worked with him. The Commission wishes Mike the best in his new career venture!
2016 Levy and Preliminary Budget Approved at July Quarterly Meeting

On July 31, 2015, the Commission met in New London, Wisconsin and took action to adopt the preliminary 2016 budget and establish the 2016 annual levy for member counties and communities. For 2016, the levy rate was increased slightly (from 0.0017289% to .0017629%) which, when applied to the 2014 equalized property valuation of member counties, results in a total levy amount of $771,689.93. This increases the 2015 levy by $24,982 – an overall 3.35% increase. This levy amount was set by the Commission in response to the increasing cost of operations at the Commission, with a major part being staff salaries. The increase, in part, will help to keep the Commission competitive so as to retain and recruit highly qualified staff to serve the region’s needs. It is worth noting that the last time the Commission’s levy was raised was in 2008, when the total levy was $804,238 (with 7.5 counties, not 8). Notifications to member units of government were sent out by August 1* as required by state statute. The Commission and its staff will be taking considerable time this fall to assess and prepare the 2016 Annual Work Program as well as the final budget, both of which will be considered at the end of January 2016. For questions regarding the 2016 preliminary budget, the levy establishment processes, or membership opportunities with the Commission, please do not hesitate to contact Executive Director Eric Fowle at (920) 751-4770 or by email: efowle@ecwrpc.org.

2016 Technical Assistance Requests Being Sought

Hundreds of emails were issued recently by the Commission in an effort to seek 2016 technical assistance projects for our member counties and communities. The Technical Assistance Program has been a long-standing service of East Central and provides the opportunity to receive professional planning assistance on small-scale plans or projects at no cost. Please note that the Commission does not provide engineering or legal services and that projects typically need to be completed with a maximum of three to five days of staff time. Project ideas normally fall within one of the following categories:

- General Planning (Comprehensive planning, plan implementation strategies, etc.)
- Economic Development (Project development/grant assistance, funding identification, industrial park planning/site layouts, etc.)
- Transportation (Local road and street issues, traffic forecasts, etc.)
- Community Facilities/Infrastructure (Sewer, water, stormwater, utilities, etc.)
- Park, Open Space and Recreation (Recreation plan, trail plan, park site planning, etc.)
- Environmental Management (Wetland, floodplain, farmland, conservation, etc.)
- Demographic Services (Census data, trend analysis/interpretation, housing studies/assessments)
- Geographic Information Systems (Data development, custom mapping, map updates, tourism/marketing materials)

Project request forms are now online and can be found at: http://www.ecwrpc.org/2015/07/29/2016-technical-assistance-project-requests/. Project requests should be submitted to the Commission no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23rd, 2015. The Commission’s Steering Committee will review, evaluate and rank all requests in late 2015 for possible inclusion in the 2016 Work Program. Communities which are selected will be notified upon approval of the work program after January 2016 at which time staff will schedule the projects for work later in the year. Please note that as much as the Commission wishes that it could meet every request, it is virtually impossible to do so given the current level of staffing, obligations to existing contract projects and federal and state programs. However, please remember that Commission staff are always available for quick phone or e-mail questions, verbal or written guidance, letters of support for projects that conform with the goals of the Regional Comprehensive Plan, as well as public informational presentations. Please contact Eric Fowle, Executive Director at (920) 751-4770 or via email at efowle@ecwrpc.org with any questions.

Commission Welcomes Emily Verbeten to Our Staff!

The Commission is pleased to announce and welcome its newest employee, Emily Verbeten. Emily serves as the new Assistant Safe Routes to School Planner and is originally from Appleton. She is a graduate of UW-Stevens Point and has a Bachelor of Science Degree in health promotion and wellness.

Emily has been an AmeriCorps member for Winnebago County with re:TH!NK working on the Farm to School Program. We hope that you will find time to introduce yourself to Emily in the near future.
Waupaca Downtown Vision Plan Approved by City Council

In May 2015, the City of Waupaca Common Council adopted the City of Waupaca Downtown Vision Plan which was crafted with the assistance of East Central. The plan outlines major concepts for the future development and re-development of the downtown environs including the upcoming planned re-construction of Main Street. ECWRPC staff initiated this process in February 2014 with a number of exploratory exercises which helped frame the issues and opportunities. The Waupaca City Council appointed a 14-person Downtown Visioning Committee comprised of business owners, residents and city representatives to provide input during a series of staff-led meetings on a variety of subjects including activity centers, historical assets, needed physical improvements, mobility, and landscaping amongst other things. The input provided was used to establish a vision for the future of downtown Waupaca. The Downtown Vision Plan is a broad “concept plan” which ultimately will guide how Main Street and the downtown will look, function and feel in the future. As part of this process, the concept of “placemaking” was strongly integrated so that improvements can be made over time which strengthen and reinforce the social and economic fabric of downtown Waupaca. The city is using the plan as the basis for hiring consultants to examine current parking issues in more detail, as well as to develop a more specific “master plan” for the entire downtown. Copies of the plan can be found online at www.ecwrpc.org. For more information please contact Eric Fowle at efowle@ecwrpc.org or (920) 751-4770.

Waupaca County Adopts New Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance

Due to recent sand mine expansion proposals, a number of Waupaca County citizens expressed concerns relating to the effects of non-metallic mining on air quality, water quality and quality of life. In response, Waupaca County’s Planning and Zoning Department placed a one year moratorium on the development of new, and the expansion of existing, non-metallic mine sites back in 2013. A 10-member Ad Hoc Committee comprised of two planning and zoning staff, industry representatives and area residents was created with the responsibility to collect and analyze information and make a recommendation on the creation of a new non-metallic mining ordinance that properly addresses all concerns. Scott Konkle, ECWRPC Reclamation Specialist, also participated in the Ad Hoc Committee at the request of the County through East Central’s technical assistance program. Scott’s vast experience with mining reclamation and operations helped the Committee become knowledgeable about a variety of topics and issues associated with this activity.

Although the moratorium required a two month extension to complete the ordinance, it resulted in the creation of a comprehensive ordinance that all parties could agree on. The ordinance (Chapter 38) was adopted on May 19, 2015 by the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors and published with an effective date of May 28, 2015.

If you have any questions regarding this ordinance please contact Scott Konkle at (920) 751-4770 or skonkle@ecwrpc.org.
Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreation Plan Adoptions

As part of East Central’s Technical Assistance Program, staff has been giving support to numerous park and recreation departments in the region on the outdoor recreation plan update process. Goals and objectives have been identified, background information completed, inventory maps printed, needs assessments/level of service analyzed, public surveys initiated, and public informational meetings completed. By updating the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) every five years, the community remains in compliance to apply for funding and grant opportunities, namely the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Stewardship Fund, along with a host of other grant prospects. As resources are sparse, departments must look into creative resources or become self-sustaining in leveraging funds.

Below is a list of plans that have recently been prepared and adopted:

- **Village of Hortonville (2015-2019) (Outagamie County):** The final draft document was submitted to the Outdoor Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee as well as the Village Board and includes a host of new improvements and updates. The most notable are trails linking Veteran’s and Miller Parks as well as way-finding signage. The plan was adopted on June 18, 2015 and now makes the village eligible for grant submittals for the next five years.

- **Town of Greenville (2015-2019) (Outagamie County):** The final document was submitted to the Parks Commission as well as the Town Board for approval and the report includes many recommendations on trail connections as well as the development of master plans for all parks, particularly Lion’s Park. The plan was adopted on August 10, 2015 with an aggressive five-year action program to update the parks system with potential new park additions.

Parks are vitally important places that are highly valued, deeply loved and supported by our communities. They provide additional health benefits, increase economic value of homes near them, create an overall sense of place, and promote historical importance as well as environmental preservation. Having a plan and vision for your community to follow creates obtainable measures, management tools and a course of action for the future.

For more information on the above plans, current park and recreational projects, or how ECWRPC can help your community, please contact Trish Nau, Principal Recreation Planner at tnau@ecwrpc.org or (920) 751-4770.

2035 Oakfield and Eden SSA Plan Updates Forwarded to DNR

On June 10, 2015 the East Central Community Facilities Committee adopted, via resolution, two updated sewer service area plans. Subsequently, the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted the plan updates on July 31, 2015. These plans, both located within Fond du Lac County, were long due for an update to their sewer service area and environs. The Eden Sewer Service Area plan was last updated in 2000. This service area has no town sanitary district and the Village of Eden is the designated management agency for the collection and treatment of wastewater. In a similar circumstance, the Oakfield Sewer Service Area plan was last updated in 1999. While a rural community, the Village of Oakfield maintains a designated management agency status for the collection and treatment of wastewater. There is one town sanitary district, Town of Oakfield Sanitary District #1, which utilizes a community-type treatment system for a very small service area. The contrast between larger urban areas and smaller communities with sewer service area plans are stark when growth, development areas and economic opportunities are considered.

These newly adopted sewer service area plan updates did not focus on the need for additional sewer service area acreage, but rather the importance of updating the characteristics of each community and the environmental conditions impacting both. The Eden and Oakfield Sewer Service Area plan updates focused on technical information updates including population projections, housing projections, future land use scenarios, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, economic/employment projections, environmentally sensitive area identification, and new language on endangered resources determinations. These plan updates illustrate the importance of community identity and the desire to plan responsibly for the future. Visit www.ecwrpc.org for more information.
WIS 29 Corridor Workgroup Studies Long-Term Development

East Central staff are working with the Shawano County UW-Extension, Shawano County Planning Department, the City of Shawano, and surrounding towns and agencies as part of a collaborative effort to plan for future development along the Wisconsin 29 corridor in Shawano County.

Due to anticipated development pressure around the interchanges along WIS 29, the UW-Extension invited communities and East Central to come together and be proactive about steps that can be taken to plan accordingly. East Central will help in updating the CTH B / STH 29 Corridor General Land Use Plan and Neighborhood Design Guidelines document that was developed 10 years ago by East Central. This study will take into account adopted comprehensive plans from the communities within the study area as well as recent developments that will impact traffic patterns. East Central will be using a travel demand model as part of the analysis of planned land uses to reveal traffic impacts that may occur in the future. This process has already fostered intergovernmental cooperation between many communities and agencies and will strengthen the vision for development in this area.

For more information on this project contact Dave Moesch, Associate Transportation Planner, at (920) 751-4770 or dmoesch@ecwrpc.org.

Fond du Lac County Sign Inventory Underway

East Central is providing technical assistance to the Fond du Lac County Highway and Geographic Information System (GIS) Departments as part of an agreement to help with a countywide sign inventory project. The Federal Highway Administration requires that agencies establish and implement a sign assessment or management method to maintain minimum levels of sign retroreflectivity for regulatory, warning and guide signs. Due to East Central’s experience with developing sign inventories and management plans for various communities, Fond du Lac County requested assistance in this area. After weeks of research and coordination with Fond du Lac County to determine a plan of action, the project is advancing. The Fond du Lac County Highway Department agreed to purchase a portable retroreflectometer as the method of assessing retroreflectivity which compares retroreflectivity of signs measured to a minimum level appropriate for each sign type. This method of management will maximize sign life and provide a timeline for sign replacement throughout the county. East Central agreed to provide staff time and vehicle use for the project. Fond du Lac County also provides staff time to comprise a two-person team to measure sign retroreflectivity and develop a GIS database. As of early August, data has been collected for approximately 4,000 signs out of an estimated 9,000 signs throughout the county. This has continued to be a successful collaboration between Fond du Lac County and East Central. Both agencies look forward to showcasing the final product upon completion.

If you would like more information pertaining to the Fond du Lac County sign inventory project please contact Dave Moesch at dmoesch@ecwrpc.org or Nick Musson at nmusson@ecwrpc.org.

Town of Empire Drainage Study Completed for Lake DeNeveu

The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission completed a technical assistance request from the Town of Empire, Fond du Lac County in 2014. This project involved the DeNeveu Creek Subwatershed being part of the larger East Shore of the Lake Winnebago Watershed. This request was initially brought by concerned property owners around Lake DeNeveu who have experienced localized flooding due to higher than normal stormwater runoff issues in the past several years. Therefore, East Central was tasked with developing an action plan to guide the residents and other stakeholders going forward. In a collaborative effort, East Central involved local stakeholders such as the Lake DeNeveu Property Owners Association, the Town of Empire Plan Commission, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the Fond du Lac County Departments of Highway and Land Conservation in order to collect input and information from concerned citizens.

Data collection for this project included limiting soil conditions, wetland inventories, stream and open water resources, decades of historical land use, topographic/contour mapping, area farming practices, environmental conditions including the Niagara Escarpment, ongoing/future highway projects, and anecdotal information from local residents. East Central obtained light detection and ranging (LiDAR) data from Fond du Lac County that provided an opportunity to develop more accurate drainage patterns in the study area. This was useful in determining a localized drainage area impacting Lake DeNeveu. East Central addressed five significant areas in the report that included: 1) addressing the current situation; 2) developing information to provide a broader context to the problem; 3) fostering collaboration among stakeholders; 4) developing a consensus on strategies; and 5) providing ongoing support to the Town of Empire. Additional details and further recommendations can be found in the report: Town of Empire Lake DeNeveu Drainage Study & Action Plan, published July 2015, which is posted on East Central’s webpage.
Partnering to Attract and Retain Foreign Direct Investment

Promoting trade, increasing exports and attracting foreign investment in the United States is a major focus for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). In the current global economic environment, international relationships are critical to state, regional and local communities seeking to ensure the diversification and health of their economic base.

The Northeast Wisconsin Global Trade Strategy, an EDA grant project completed in 2012, is currently in the implementation phase and has offered insight for further regional competitiveness. Building upon the efforts of the previous EDA grant, Commission staff, in partnership with the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission (BLRPC), Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), New North, the Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation, and various technical colleges have been developing a project to be considered for future EDA funding. The ultimate goal of the project is to develop economic strategies to attract and retain additional foreign direct investment (FDI) in the region, using it as a model to pilot similar strategies across the state. The strategies can then be used to develop information and tools to be used by local, regional and state economic development professionals to attract FDI. If selected for EDA funding, increased FDI in the region will bring jobs, investments, a growing tax base, and further development of skills and technology in the region.

2015 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update Initiated

The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) was designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 1984 for the purpose of developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS document facilitates and promotes local and regional economic development within the ten-county region and is designed to assist in alleviating economic distress and unemployment. CEDS performance reports are required on an annual basis and a major CEDS update is required every five years. 2015 marks the second CEDS performance report since the 2013 major CEDS update.

The CEDS Committee is a critical part of this process, charged with helping to set regional economic development policy through the preparation of the CEDS document, helping prioritize public and private economic development projects for EDA funding consideration, and assisting ECWRPC staff on other items as warranted.

The CEDS Committee will meet on September 2, 2015 to review the 2015 CEDS Annual Performance Report document and will rank the economic development projects submitted from local governments and economic development professionals throughout the region. The projects are to be submitted to ECWRPC by August 21, 2015 in order to become part of the approved 2015 CEDS Annual Performance Report and to be eligible for possible EDA funding consideration.

To submit new projects for inclusion in the 2015 CEDS, please fill out the basic request form on our website (http://www.ecwrpc.org/programs/economic-development-housing/ceds/ceds-project-submission/) or submit to Sarah Van Buren at svanburen@ecwrpc.org. Please duplicate the form if you have more than one project to submit.

For questions or more information on the CEDS update process, please contact Sarah Van Buren at svanburen@ecwrpc.org or (920) 751-4770 x 6821.
Transportation Needs Assessment and Mobility Management Study

In December 2013, Waupaca County through their human services public transportation coordinated planning effort identified lack of rural transportation and regional transportation coordination across municipal boundaries as major priorities. Since the completion of Waupaca County’s 2014-2018 Human Services Public Transportation Coordinated Plan, Waupaca County’s Transportation Committee and Health and Human Services Department discussed the need for a study to identify transportation solutions to their problems. As a result, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) and Waupaca County decided to partner and apply for a Section 5304 state planning grant to perform the study. In the process of applying for the grant, discussions ensued on who should partake in the study and who is affected by transportation barriers. The study scope was widened to surrounding counties and to include all sectors within the county.

In December 2014, ECWRPC and Waupaca County received a Section 5304 planning grant through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for improvements on CTH CA/STH 125/College Avenue from Memorial Drive. In January of 2015, East Central was selected by the Federal Highway Administration to use the health in transportation framework as part of this project. Through this framework the committee will be looking at the health impacts of the current and future transportation system on this corridor. Currently staff and the committee are conducting field audits and analyzing data as it relates to the existing conditions (including land use, demographic data, crash data, health data, etc.) along the corridor. East Central will be asking for public input on this corridor in the fall of 2015. Please watch our Facebook page for more information. Contact Melissa Kraemer Badtke (mbadtke@ecwrpc.org) or Ben Krumenauer (bkrumenauer@ecwrpc.org) at (920) 751-4770 for more information on this project.

Healthy Corridor Envisioned for Western College Avenue

In the Appleton (Fox Cities) Transportation Management Area (TMA) and Oshkosh Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the College Avenue Corridor was identified as a major transportation corridor and potential east-west bicycle and pedestrian connection for the Appleton (Fox Cities) TMA. This project is a collaborative effort with East Central, the Federal Highway Administration, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Health Service, Outagamie County, local municipalities, and many other partners and organizations. The scope of the project is to analyze the current transportation system and develop recommendations for improvements on CTH CA/STH 125/College Avenue from the Outagamie County Regional Airport to State Highway 47/Memorial Drive. In January of 2015, East Central was selected by the Federal Highway Administration to use the health in transportation framework as part of this project. Through this framework the committee will be looking at the health impacts of the current and future transportation system on this corridor. Currently staff and the committee are conducting field audits and analyzing data as it relates to the existing conditions (including land use, demographic data, crash data, health data, etc.) along the corridor. East Central will be asking for public input on this corridor in the fall of 2015. Please watch our Facebook page for more information. Contact Melissa Kraemer Badtke (mbadtke@ecwrpc.org) or Ben Krumenauer (bkrumenauer@ecwrpc.org) at (920) 751-4770 for more information on this project.

ECWRPC Attends Wisconsin Public Health Association Conference

East Central staff recently presented a poster on health in planning work that has been done through the Healthy WI Leadership Institute. East Central staff are working with local municipalities and counties (both planners and public health professionals) to incorporate health into planning processes and improve the built environment which will be instrumental in changing the health of our community. East Central staff have been working with staff from the Town of Menasha as well as Shawano, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties along with staff from the Healthy WI Leadership Institute. One of the deliverables from this project was the development of the logic model and in the model there are a few additional activities that staff and local government staff will be working on, which includes a health in planning resource center. For more information on the health in planning program, please contact Tom Baron at tbaron@ecwrpc.org or (920) 751-4770.
Local Schools Recognized for their Safe Routes to School Efforts

On Tuesday, May 19, local schools were recognized for developing the partnerships, programs and policies that help to ensure the safety of students and their local coalition’s communication efforts as part of the first East Central Wisconsin Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Recognition Program.

Schools with Safe Routes to School programs were encouraged to complete an online application that evaluates the robustness of their efforts. The Regional SRTS Program is using the recognition program to enhance the adoption and integration of SRTS strategies by the student, teacher and school system. The process provides an assessment tool for school administrators and boards to use in evaluating the success of SRTS programming. Schools were awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold award, depending upon accumulated points.

**Gold Level**—Omro Middle School

**Silver Level**—Riverside Elementary School, Fond du Lac

Green Lake Elementary and Middle Schools, Green Lake

Spring Road Elementary School, Neenah

Carl Traeger Elementary School, Oshkosh

Waupaca Learning Center, Waupaca

**Bronze Level**—Edison and Richmond Elementary Schools, Appleton

Immanuel Lutheran School, Greenville

Hortonville Elementary School, Hortonville

St. Margaret Mary School, Neenah

Parkview and Readfield Elementary Schools, New London

South Park Middle School, Oshkosh

Olga Brener Elementary School and Shawano Middle School, Shawano

**Honorable Mention**—Columbus Elementary School, Appleton

Congratulations to all recipients of this recognition. East Central staff look forward to working with schools within the region to expand their SRTS programs.

Town of Menasha Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Adopted

As part of East Central’s technical assistance program, Commission staff worked with the Town of Menasha Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force to develop their bicycle and pedestrian plan. The bicycle and pedestrian plan looked at connections to existing bicycle and pedestrian accommodations within the town and with adjacent municipalities. Several companies within the town submitted letters of support for the bicycle and pedestrian plan. The plan was presented at the Town of Menasha’s Annual Meeting and approved in May 2015.

Valley Transit Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Transit Center

On Wednesday, August 5th Valley Transit celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Transit Center located in downtown Appleton. The celebration began with short speeches by Valley Transit General Manager Deborah Wetter, Transit Commission Chairman Chuck Rundquist, and Appleton’s Mayor Hanna (pictured left). The speeches touched on how the Transit Center has transformed the transit experience for riders over the past 25 years, as well as the regional importance of transit. Attendees then moved inside for the first look at the new mural commissioned inside the Transit Center, painted by local artist Chad Brady. The mural is of a vintage bus and features a skyline that depicts the urban and more rural areas of the community that Valley Transit serves. The celebration concluded with a wonderful performance by Mile of Music artist Nicole Rae.
Vision Established for Recreational Expansion by Outagamie County Ad Hoc Committee

ECWRPC began working with Outagamie County in the summer of 2014 to develop a parks needs study for the expenditure of American Transmission Company (ATC) funding ($1M) that the county has accrued for a major recreational expansion. A 13-member Ad Hoc Committee was formed and tasked with developing a recommendation based on facts, needs of residents and possible locations.

The year-long study process looked at current needs of parks-to-people ratios and compared Outagamie to the surrounding counties of Brown, Calumet, Shawano, Waupaca, and Winnebago. A siting analysis was also performed utilizing GIS software and mapping criteria to find the best location for a park as well as public input. Five recreational models were developed from the process of brainstorming: traditional park, linear park, campground/RV park, specialty park, and trail expansion.

A series of six public informational meetings were held in the spring of 2015 on the evenings of March 26th, April 9th and 16th, and May 7th and 13th, to engage area residents and stakeholders. All of the meetings were designed to gather input on the type of park, best location in the county, and how the public viewed the current inventory. An online survey was also developed and had over 700 respondents.

Planning principals and goals were established to guide the process as well as a visioning session with the committee to help reach a consensus. A vision statement was prepared to accompany the study and is as follows: “To create a county-based, high quality recreational expansion in areas with park deficiencies located near highly populated growth areas, by means of best practices in leveraging other funding sources where possible.” The proposed vision formulated the study’s findings and will act as a guide for the creation of new facilities.

In the end, concepts were formulated from the public responses of an online survey and informational meetings. These included the models of trail expansion, linear park, and traditional park. Utilizing the needs requested and analysis presented, the Ad Hoc Committee narrowed their final recommendation to two concepts, a traditional park with trail connections in the Duck Creek area and/or trail expansion within a linear park feature in the vicinity of the Fox River Corridor.

While East Central’s role in this planning process is now complete, we do intend to be available for additional assistance in the future, particularly in the implementation process once the project is granted approval by the County Board. More information about the study can be obtained by contacting Trish Nau at (920) 751-4770 or tnau@ecwrcpc.org. Readers can also refer to materials found on the project’s planning webpage https://sites.google.com/site/outagamiecoparkneedsstudy/.

Outagamie County Land Needs by Jurisdiction

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### Annual Parks Cost Per Resident by year each County is spending 2010-2040

Outagamie has the lowest cost spent per resident. With the current budget and revenue, the cost will continue to decrease, well below the average amounts of $11- $12.
UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

September 9, 10:00 a.m.  Community Facilities Committee at ECWRPC Offices in Menasha, WI

September 16-18  2015 WPRA Park & Recreation Facility Tour in Racine, WI

September 17, 4:00-6:00 p.m.  Fond du Lac MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Public Information Meeting at the Fond du Lac City/County Building

September 18, 1:00 p.m.  Steering Committee Meeting, ECWRPC Offices in Menasha, WI


October 6-7  20th Conference on the Small City & Regional Community, UW-Marathon County Center for Civic Engagement in Wausau, WI, https://www.uwsp.edu/cols-ap/smallCity/Pages/conference.aspx

October 7, 1:30 p.m.  Economic Development Committee at ECWRPC Offices in Menasha, WI


October 13, 1:30 p.m.  Transportation Committee at ECWRPC Offices in Menasha, WI

October 14, 1:30 p.m.  Open Space & Environmental Management Committee, Location TBD

October 20, 4:00-6:00 p.m.  ECWRPC Open House - Federal Highway & Transit Administration Certification Review of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, ECWRPC Offices in Menasha, WI

October 21, 10:00 a.m.  Regional Comprehensive Planning Committee at the Menasha Public Library in Menasha, WI

October 31  ECWRPC Quarterly Commission Meeting & Mini-Conference, Fond du Lac County Legislative Chambers