

Chapter 0: Introduction

History

The Menomonie area was originally established as a trading post in 1788. By the late 1800's Menomonie was one of the largest cities in western Wisconsin with a population of more than 5,000 residents. The primary industry and largest employer at that time was the lumber industry.

Some of the people that helped to shape Menomonie's early history have an impact to this day as many buildings and streets throughout the community are associated with the names - Wilson, Tainter, Knapp, and Stout. William Wilson, the City's first elected mayor, Andrew Tainter and John Holly Knapp were the major interest holders in the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company. This lumber mill was the largest employer in the late 1800's and employed over 2,000 people in its prime. James Huff Stout, whose father help to found the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company, founded the Stout Manual Training School that would eventually become what we know today as the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

The early 1900's brought more industry and agriculture to the area and from these early years, the City of Menomonie has continued to grow and is still one of the largest cities in Western Wisconsin.

Location and General Regional Context

The City of Menomonie is located in the central part of Dunn County, Wisconsin (see Map 0-1) and is located east of St. Croix County that is one of the fastest growing counties in the State.

It is a transition area between urban and rural. The City is split by Interstate 94, which takes a large percentage of area residents that work outside the City to work each day. To the east approximately 25 miles is the City of Eau Claire, with a metropolitan area of nearly 100,000 people. Directly to the east is the Town of Red Cedar and to the west is the Town of Menomonie, also growing but more rural in nature.

The City is geologically divided by the Red Cedar River and Lake Menomin. These water resources are highly valued and protected and make the City an attractive place to live.

Comprehensive Planning Law

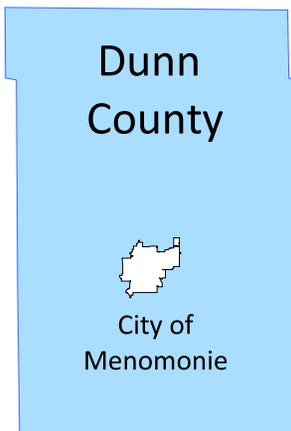
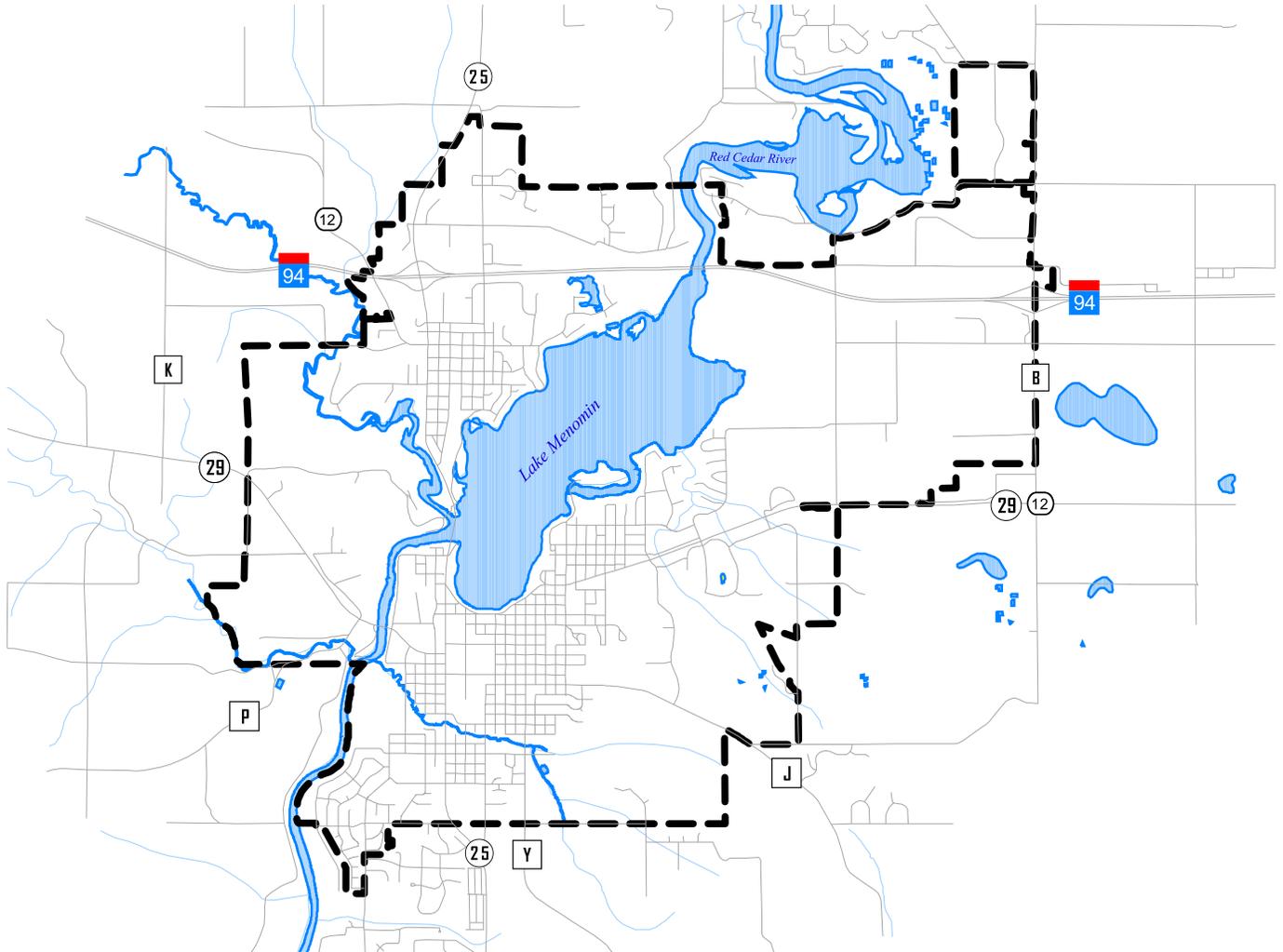
Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law, or "Smart Growth Law" was passed in October, 1999 as part of the State's biennial budget. This law requires that every town, village, and city be guided by a comprehensive plan by January 1, 2010. Smart Growth was enacted to encourage long-range planning for communities and provide consistency in land use decision making.

Project Location

City of Menomonie



Map 0-1



Smart Growth planning also calls for public participation throughout the entire planning process. Before 1999, public participation and a public hearing were not required for adoption of a local plan.

State statutes require the plans to consist of nine elements, each focusing on an important sector of your community. These elements are:

- Issues and Opportunities
- Housing
- Transportation
- Utilities and Community Facilities
- Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources
- Economic Development
- Land Use
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Implementation

The goal of Smart Growth is to ensure that communities look at how all of these elements intertwine and affect each other, creating an awareness and overall cohesive vision for the City of Menomonie.

Plan Purpose

The purpose of the City of Menomonie's Comprehensive Plan is to ensure the qualities of the community that residents enjoy remain and areas that can be improved upon are addressed. The plan will act as a guide for not only City government, but also local organizations and community residents and will look at, not only the City, but how the City fits into the regional context.

Plan Development Process

The City of Menomonie submitted a multi-jurisdictional application with Dunn County, the Village of Knapp, and Towns of Lucas, Peru, Rock Creek and Sand Creek and was awarded a comprehensive planning grant by the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration in 2004.

The City has incorporated the nine required elements into their plan and created the following chapters:

- Introduction
- Issues and Opportunities
- Agricultural, Cultural, and Natural Resources
- Housing
- Transportation
- Land Use
- Economic Development
- Community Facilities
- Utilities
- Plan Implementation
- Intergovernmental Cooperation

Each chapter was addressed individually before moving on to the next chapter. When all were complete, the comprehensive plan was reviewed as a whole, checking for any inconsistencies and/or contradictions.

Regional Planning Jurisdictions and Government Agencies

While the City of Menomonie plans for its own future, it also is within multiple planning and government agency districts that do their own planning. The City will review all available plans to address any inconsistencies between them. Some of the planning and government agencies that will be contacted include:

- West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- Dunn County

Overall Goals

A Citizen Advisory Board developed the overall goals for the plan to guide the future development and redevelopment of Menomonie over the next 20 years.

1. Promote and continue to enhance the historical downtown.
2. Develop Lake Menomin as a focal point of the community and promote the scenic beauty of the entire area.
3. Ensure a connected, well planned, and safe multi-modal transportation system for the use of all.
4. Continue to support the diverse educational opportunities for citizens and strive to create a balanced community to provide opportunities for them to work, live, and play.
5. Support decisions that enhance the City's unique character.
6. Support residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational growth and development that will make Menomonie a distinct destination area.

Individual plan elements contain specific goals, policies, objectives, and programs which address that element topic.