

Door County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Volume II: Resource Report

Adopted by the Door County Board of Supervisors,
October 27, 2009

Effective upon distribution per Wisconsin State Statutes,
November 6, 2009

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO THIS REPORT

This Resource Report is intended to serve two purposes. Its first role is to act as Volume II of the Door County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, providing the demographic and other information required by the Wisconsin Statutes for a comprehensive plan. 1999 Wisconsin Act 9 and amendments, most commonly referred to as Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" legislation, mandated preparation of a comprehensive plan – to include prescribed topics as outlined in the statutes – by municipalities with zoning or subdivision ordinances or official mapping programs. Door County has for many years had zoning and subdivision ordinances, and was therefore required to develop a new comprehensive plan. For more information on Wisconsin's planning legislation, the process followed in preparation of the Door County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, and the county plan vision statements and goals, see Volume I.

The second function of this Resource Report is to serve as a resource for local municipalities and organizations, assisting in current and future organizational and strategic planning efforts. Municipalities looking to update or begin planning efforts will be able to use the pertinent county-level data herein; conduct further, municipal-level research by seeking out the sources and other resources offered; and then create and implement local comprehensive plans. Likewise, other agencies and organizations, public and private, should be able to use the information and resources provided in the Resource Report to guide, augment, or frame organizational planning or other efforts.

The Resource Report is comprised of ten chapters. Chapter 2, Issues and Opportunities, provides an overview of results from county-level visioning exercises conducted in 2006 and 2007, the general issues facing and the opportunities available to the county identified through those visioning exercises, and population data for the county pertinent to all comprehensive plan topics. Chapters 3 through 10 cover the topics of Historic and Cultural Resources; Agricultural and Natural Resources; Housing; Economic Development; Transportation; Utilities and Community Facilities; Land Use; and Intergovernmental Cooperation, respectively. Each of these chapters contains data, maps, inventories, or other information pertinent to Door County with regard to that topic as well as a final section containing resources for further information. Note that all maps referenced in chapter text may be found together at the end of this document.

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY

Door County is part of a narrow peninsula located in northeastern Wisconsin. The county lies between the waters of Green Bay to the west and Lake Michigan to the east and north. Its entire southern border is adjacent to Kewaunee County. Door County is over 68 miles in length from the southwestern point where State Trunk Highway 57 crosses over from Kewaunee to Door County, northeast to the northern tip of Rock Island. The county seat, the City of Sturgeon Bay, is located roughly 10 miles from the southern border of the county, based on the shortest road route. Based on shortest road routes, the City of Sturgeon Bay is 45 miles from the City of Green Bay, 157 miles from Milwaukee, 185 miles from Madison, and 246 miles from Chicago.

Door County encompasses approximately 488 square miles of land and 300 miles of coastal shoreline – one of the highest numbers of miles of coastal shoreline of any county in the United States. The county is comprised of 19 local municipalities as listed below and illustrated on Map 1.1, Door County Geography, located at the end of this document. (Note that the map also depicts the boundaries of the county's five school districts, discussed further in Chapter Eight, Utilities and Community Facilities.)

- City of Sturgeon Bay
- Village of Egg Harbor
- Village of Ephraim
- Village of Forestville
- Village of Sister Bay
- Town of Baileys Harbor
- Town of Brussels
- Town of Clay Banks
- Town of Egg Harbor
- Town of Forestville
- Town of Gardner
- Town of Gibraltar
- Town of Jacksonport
- Town of Liberty Grove
- Town of Nasewaupée
- Town of Sevastopol
- Town of Sturgeon Bay
- Town of Union
- Town of Washington