Year 2030 Plan for the East Central Region

Regionally Significant Feature Mapping

WHAT ARE ALL THESE MAPS?

The series of maps to your right are a product of the preparation of our Year 2030 Regional Comprehensive Plan which is being developed to meet the 'smart growth' planning requirements established in Wisconsin State Statues 66.0295. **These maps are being used in the continued development of the Year 2030 Regional Comprehensive Plan.**

WHAT DO THE MAPS MEAN?

Staff developed the maps to better portray various resources, features, characteristics and special designations that are likely to be considered as being of 'regional significance. **These identified features are considered to be outstanding or unique from a regional perspective.** Furthermore, the identified features currently do, or will, play a role in the overall development of the region and **their regional context should be considered in some fashion for both short and long-term land use decisions** made by counties and local units of government. The Regionally Significant Features maps were prepared to better assist citizens and officials visualize the overall context of the region's resources and how their particular community may, or may not, fit within this framework.

For each plan element and sub-element outlined in Milestone Report #1, a set of selected features have been developed and displayed. **Thirteen different mapping themes and 20 separate maps** have been (or are being) developed based on the nine elements (and sub-elements) listed in the smart growth planning statutes. Collectively, these maps then assist in representing the 'land use' element of the regional plan.

1. Geologic Resources
2. Non-Metallic Mineral Resources
3. Ecological Resources (2 maps)
4. Surface Water Resources (3 maps)
5. Groundwater Resources
6. Open Space Resources (2 maps)
7. Agricultural Resources
8. Recreation Features (in progress - not displayed)
9. Cultural Resources (In progress - not displayed)
10. Economic Features
11. Transportation Features (2 maps)
12. Stormwater Features
13. Community Facilities (3 maps)

The maps will be used as a **basis of discussion for the continued development of strategies and implementation policies** for the region in Milestone Reports #3 and #4.

HOW WERE THE MAPS CREATED?

These features identified on these maps were chosen by East Central staff based on information obtained from other planning documents, technical committee reviews and discussions, and public input received up to this point during the development of the plan. **Each data set was reviewed for items that could be considered 'regionally significant' and, where necessary, objective criteria were developed and applied using the Commission's Geographic Information System.** The criteria were mainly numerical in nature and considered some aspect of size (i.e. 'x' acres or more), proximity (i.e., within 'x' distance of some feature), or contiguousness (i.e., 'x' or more features adjacent to one another).

The application of these criteria better illustrate, or emphasize, the sub-set of features that are being considered. In many cases, these criteria allow us to simplify our view of the features and the mapping begins to show broad, landscape scale patterns across the region. An example of this would be using agricultural resources. One may look at all of the region's existing agricultural lands and consider their relative size to be a factor in determining its relative importance. Out of all the farmlands, maybe only those areas which are 100 contiguous acres or more in size should be considered. The GIS is used to subtract and map out a sub-set of farmlands from the entire data set which fits this criteria. **In most cases, each map legend describes the criteria which was used to map and illustrate the feature(s).**

WHAT DO WE WANT YOU TO DO WITH THESE MAPS?

Review the maps closely for us! We are continually seeking input on the development of the regional plan and these maps will be an important part of the basis for further discussions on strategy and policy development. The basic question is **"Do you agree with the features that are noted?"**, however; we encourage you to consider other aspects of the maps as well:

- ☐ Should other features or characteristics be shown and considered as 'regionally significant'?
- ☐ Should certain features be removed from them maps because you would not consider them to be 'regionally significant'?
- ☐ Is a feature mapped in the wrong location?
- ☐ Is a feature called by the wrong name?

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