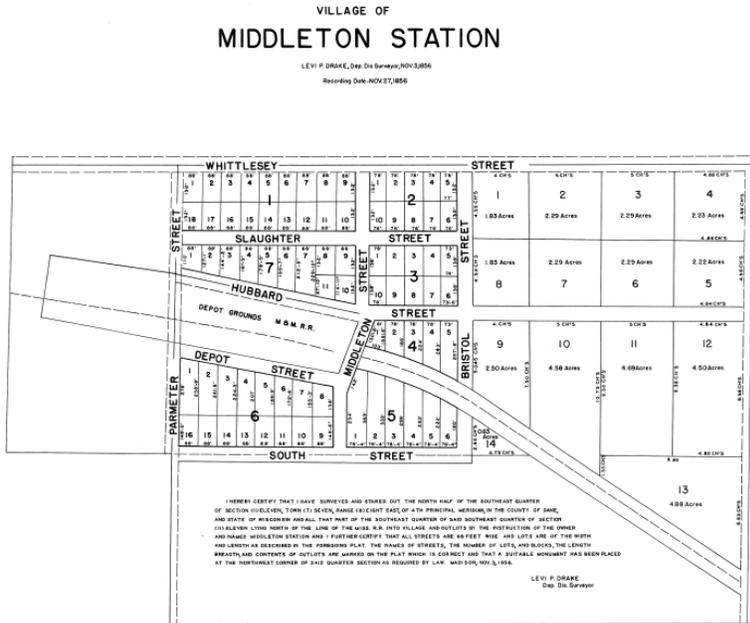


## Role and Purpose of Plan

The Comprehensive Plan of the City of Middleton is a policy document which provides direction to City leaders as to how the community should grow and develop, including areas of open space, recreational opportunities and environmental corridors. The plan expresses the application and implementation of goals, objectives and strategies for land use, transportation, housing, environment, and community facilities. The Comprehensive Plan is a dynamic document, with guidelines to be used, amended, and revised as needed to implement the strategic principles.

The recommendations contained herein are based upon sound decision making relating to the City’s future economic, physical and social development. Adherence to these recommendations helps to ensure that limited community resources will be allocated wisely to ensure maximum benefit to all Middleton residents. While the Comprehensive Plan clearly focuses on City residents, an essential goal is to support strategies that blend into land use, transportation, and service objectives of neighboring communities.

The City of Middleton was incorporated as a Village in 1905 and became a City in 1963. The official registration of the survey and plat map of Middleton Station, as the community was known at the time, occurred in 1856. In 2006, the City celebrated its Sesquicentennial, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the year Middleton was established.



Original plat of the Village of Middleton Station, recorded November 27, 1856

The City has a long history of planning, beginning even before the City was incorporated.

According to a 1961 “Reconnaissance Study” (the earliest identified overall plan for Middleton) that was prepared by an engineering consultant for the (then) Village of Middleton, “To meet the challenges of change and growth affecting communities today, there is a need for determining what action program is necessary, so as to establish a planned growth and development within the scope of the physical, social, and economic potential of the community”. The study

went on to identify what it called one of the greatest benefits of the study, that the “citizens of Middleton ...will understand and actively participate in planning for Middleton’s future.”

In 1973, the City of Middleton adopted a plan that was the culmination of two (2) years of intensive work by the Plan Commission and consultants. That plan recognized the need for an “on-going planning program in Middleton to assure orderly growth and an attractive place in which to live and work.” The 1973 plan outlined a planning process that resulted in “...recommendations as to scale, location, and development potential of various land uses, the transportation network and the community facilities.” The plan also described the functions that could be served by the plan, including as a “means of stimulating public interest and assuring participation of local residents in community development.”

In 1982, the City of Middleton adopted a master plan that had been prepared with the Middleton Plan Commission by the Dane County Regional Planning Commission staff. The 1982 plan stated that “The fundamental goal of the city Master Plan is to improve the quality of life for every Middleton resident.” The plan indicated that the Plan Commission and the staff “...have relied on suggestions of the city’s citizens...”

As was stated in the City’s 2006 Comprehensive Plan, “it is the responsibility of any community to plan adequately for its future. Because the City of Middleton is growing and is part of a dynamic metropolitan area, it is essential to utilize the comprehensive planning process to analyze and assess the future needs of the community.”

This Comprehensive Plan update is the culmination and refinement of ideas generated since the time Middleton became a city. The overall goal reflected in this document is to enhance and protect the high quality of life in the City of Middleton by utilizing the following criteria and standards: preserve and protect neighborhoods; protect and enhance the environment; provide efficient and effective public services; integrate multi-modal transportation opportunities; facilitate sustainable growth and preservation; and promote compact urban form, to create a safe, livable environment for all current and future residents.

## **Wisconsin Smart Growth Law**

This document has been prepared to be in compliance with the State’s “smart growth” planning legislation that became law through Wisconsin Act 9 I October 1999. This plan addresses the nine comprehensive plan elements identified in Wis. Stats. s. 66.0295(2).

Pursuant to Section 66.0295 of Wisconsin Statutes, as of January 1, 2010, any City of Middleton program or action that affects land use shall be consistent with the City’s comprehensive plan, including all of the following:

- (a) Municipal incorporation procedures under s. 66.012, 66.013 or 66.014.
- (b) Annexation procedures under s. 66.021, 66.024 or 66.025.
- (c) Cooperative boundary agreements entered into under s. 66.023.
- (d) Consolidation of territory under s. 66.02

- (e) Detachment of territory under s. 66.022.
- (f) Municipal boundary agreements fixed by judgement under s. 66.027.
- (g) Official mapping established or amended under s. 62.23 (6).
- (h) Local subdivision regulation under s. 236.45 or 236.46.
- (i) Extraterritorial plat review within a city's or village's extraterritorial plat approval jurisdiction, as is defined in s. 236.02 (5).
- (j) County zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s. 59.69.
- (k) City or village zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s. 62.23 (7).
- (l) Town zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s. 60.61 or 60.62
- (m) An improvement of a transportation facility that is undertaken under s. 84.185
- (n) Agricultural preservation plans that are prepared or revised under subch. IV or ch. 91.
- (o) Impact fee ordinances that are enacted or amended under s. 66.55.
- (p) Land acquisition for recreational lands and parks under s. 23.09 (20).
- (q) Zoning of shorelands or wetlands in shorelands under s. 59.692, 61.351 or 62.231.
- (r) Constructive site erosion control and storm water management zoning under s. 59.693, 61.354 or 62.234.
- (s) Any other ordinance, plan or regulation or a local governmental unit that relates to land use.

Source: Wis. Stats. 66.0295 (3)

## **Plan Structure and Content**

This comprehensive plan update follows the structure of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan, with the plan elements as required by the State of Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Statute. These elements include:

- **Issues and Opportunities** (Chapter 2)
- **Intergovernmental Cooperation** (Chapter 3)
- **Housing** (Chapter 4)
- **Transportation** (Chapter 5)
- **Utilities and Community Facilities** (Chapter 6)
- **Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources** (Chapter 7)
- **Economic Development** (Chapter 8)
- **Land use** (Chapter 9)
- **Implementation** (Chapter 10)

In addition to the plan elements, adopted plans and planning efforts since the 2006 Comprehensive Plan are incorporated through inclusion in the Appendices.

## **Planning Area**

The planning area covered by this comprehensive plan update includes the current area of the City of Middleton plus short and long term identified growth area and areas of joint planning with adjacent towns.

## **Preparation of the Plan**

The City of Middleton planning staff, Plan Commission and Common Council began work on this updated Comprehensive Plan in the spring of 2015, with a series of eight (8) public input sessions that were held at various locations, days of the week and time of day in an attempt to reach as many citizens as possible. A compilation of the comments received can be found in Appendix     , as well as a list of the session locations and dates/times.

## **Public Participation Plan**

Prior to beginning work on this updated plan, the City of Middleton adopted a Public Participation Plan, outlining the procedures that the City would use to encourage public participation in the comprehensive planning process. These measures have included information on the City's website, notices distributed on the City's 'Notify Me' system on the City's website, mailings and emails to interested individuals and groups, and discussion at open meetings as well as publication of hearing notices in the local newspaper.



Middleton High School public participation board, February 24, 2015

## **Existing Adopted (or adopted with this update) Plans and Initiatives**

- Tax increment Finance Districts #3 (TID #3) and TID #5
- Redevelopment Districts 1, 2 and 3
- Parmenter Corridor Neighborhood Plan
- Sustainable City Plan
- Public Art Master Plan
- University Ave BUILD (Better Urban Infill Development) Plan
- Future Urban Development Area Study
- Downtown Parking Study
- Parmenter Area Concept Plan
- Historic Pheasant Branch Concept Plan
- Urban Greenway Area Study