

Village of Boaz Comprehensive Plan 2023-2033



PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY



SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION

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Boaz Vision 2033

“Boaz is a well-maintained community surrounded by a beautiful landscape. Community events, locally-owned businesses, high-quality recreational amenities, and access to nature encourage visitors throughout the year. Residents enjoy a high quality of life unique to rural communities that are small enough to know everyone.”

A vision statement sets a shared direction and foundation for all current and future leaders, employees, residents, and partners. It is also used to assist in moving beyond existing barriers and resistance that prevents the community from making necessary changes. The above vision statement is a response to the core values identified through community input and stakeholder engagement. It represents a desired future state for Boaz.



CORE VALUE: Community Contribution

In Boaz, community contributions of time and energy are vital to maintaining the community's major assets. Residents and park users expressed their commitment to accomplish the work, even when there is no compensation. Part of what it means to live in Boaz is working to solve a problem when it arises, and contributing to the improvement, maintenance, and livability of the Village. As long as the Village can maintain this core value among residents - new and veteran, young and old - the Village will continue to offer residents and visitors a high quality of life.

CORE VALUE: Asset Development

Boaz understands their development limitations due to topography, floodplain, and limited market opportunities. Boaz also understands their strengths. Local businesses, community events, outdoor recreation, and the park are major assets the Village is committed to preserving. The Village knows that building and investing in these assets will create opportunities for attracting new residents and maintaining community events necessary to sustain the community.

CORE VALUE: Family Oriented

Boaz's greatest assets appeal to rural families. The park attracts people from all around the area for community events, equestrian hobbies, or to just get outside. Boaz Fun Daze offers entertainment for all generations and attracts not just current and former residents, but also people from around the region. The local businesses are family-friendly and cater to midwestern traditions, serving as community centers with weekends that start with a Friday night fish-fry.

CORE VALUE: Unconventional

Boaz isn't for everyone, but it's pretty great for those who appreciate what it offers. The Village isn't overly concerned with the lack of development pressure or the need for additional housing. New residents will always be welcome, but the Village understands what makes them unique is their small population and lack of development. Boaz understands their competitive advantage is different from larger communities and serves as a welcome home for those seeking refuge from the pace of modern life.



Planning Approach

Scenario Planning

On January 12, 2022, Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) facilitated a scenario planning session with the Village Board and Planning Commission. The board and commission discussed the forces driving change locally, regionally, and globally and how those changes were expected to impact the Village over the next ten years. This exploration informed Boaz's advantages, disadvantages, and what is within the Village's influence.

Marketing and Branding

On April 7, 2022, SWWRPC invited board members, business owners, and community associations to a marketing workshop. The purpose of this event was to explore Boaz's target market, marketing opportunities, community branding, and how the Village and community associations can create an annual event calendar and coordinate marketing efforts. The marketing workshop provided this plan with a wealth of information about the value of community events and served as a first step towards several initiatives and projects discussed in this plan.

Outdoor Recreation

Very early in the planning process, it was evident that Boaz Community Park is the heart of the community. The park is often the catalyst of community and a driver of tourism. In coordination with the comprehensive planning efforts, SWWRPC completed a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) for the Village. The CORP evaluates the existing outdoor recreation resources for the Village and establishes a general plan for future projects to improve or expand recreational assets in the community. The CORP is a requirement of a variety of grant programs offered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Village is encouraged to seek these funding opportunities for projects identified in this plan and in the CORP.

Public Input

On March 3, 2022, the Village invited residents, elected officials, business owners, community associations, and others with an interest in Boaz to a public input meeting. During the meeting, stakeholders provided comments and insight on their vision for Boaz, concerns and issues, development potential, and project opportunities. The public input provided a foundation for Boaz's core values and vision statement, as well as desired projects.

Planning Elements

Wis. Statute 66.1001 outlines nine elements required for communities to include in comprehensive planning. This plan addresses those nine elements in the following four chapters. The chapters and their corresponding planning elements are listed here:

- Chapter: Issues and Opportunities - Issues and Opportunities element.
- Chapter: Community and Economic Development - Housing, Transportation, and Economic Development elements.
- Chapter: Resiliency - Utilities and Community Facilities, Agriculture, Natural, and Cultural Resources, Intergovernmental Cooperation, and Land Use elements.
- Chapter: Implementation - Implementation element.

Planning Process

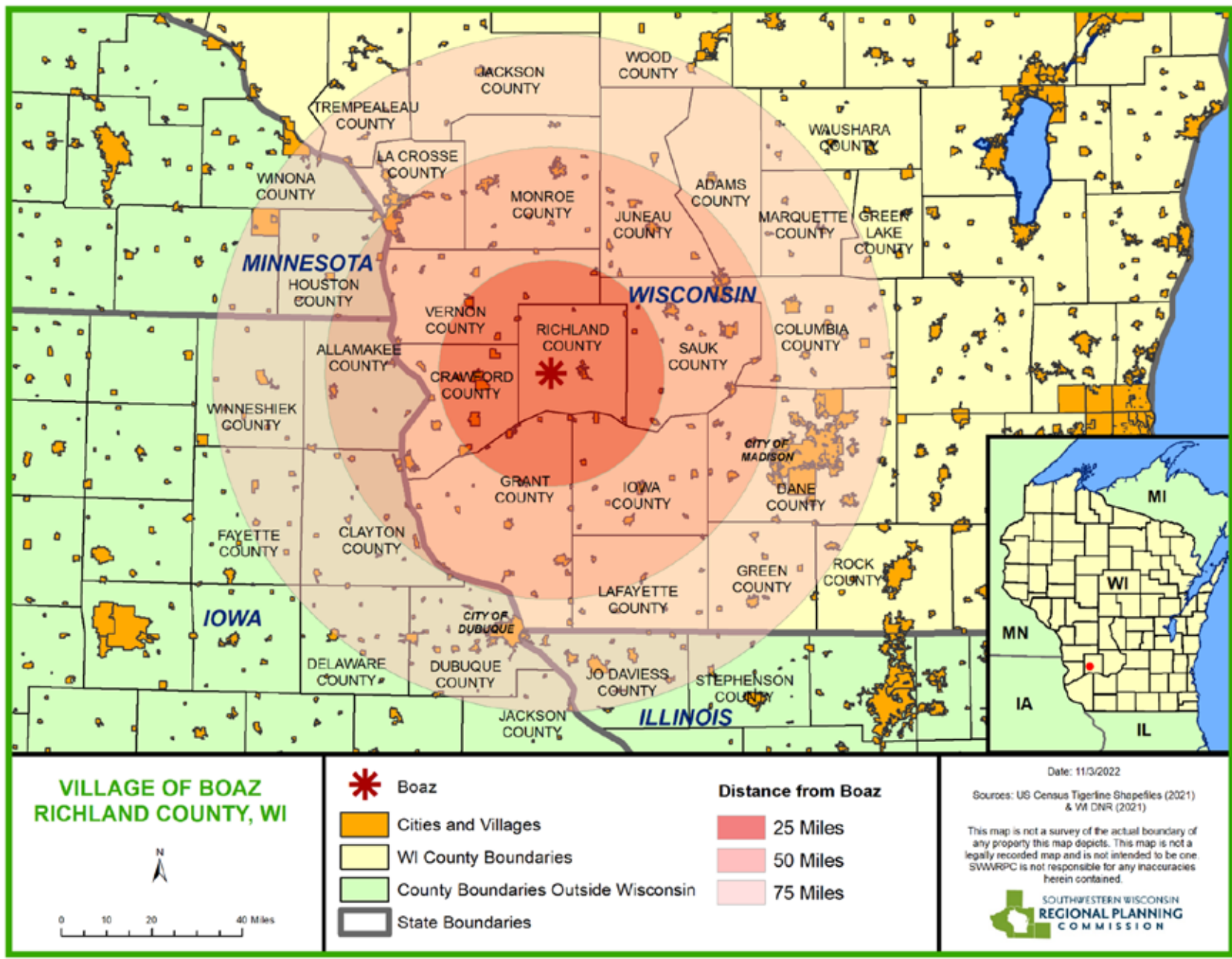
The Boaz Comprehensive Plan update process began with initial discussions with the Village Board and Plan Commission in 2021. During the Winter and Spring of 2022, Boaz began working with the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) to develop a 10-year Comprehensive Plan to facilitate and coordinate efforts within and outside of the Village to accomplish this shared vision. With the assistance of an Economic Development Agency (EDA) Grant, the Village and SWWRPC began a process to gather resident and stakeholder input. That input, along with the most relevant data, is incorporated into the following plan to provide a community informed and directed vision and guide for the Village of Boaz over the next ten years.

Public Notice, Hearing, and Adoption

On December 29, 2022 a Class 1 public notice was posted in three physical locations within the Village and on the Village's website to inform residents and stakeholders that a draft of the comprehensive plan was available for review for well over 30 days. Following this notice, the Boaz Plan Commission held a public hearing to hear comments and suggestions related to the draft plan on February 23, 2023. Following the public hearing, the Plan Commission took action to recommend the Village Board adopt the comprehensive plan. The Village Board adopted the comprehensive plan at a meeting immediately following the Plan Commission's meeting.



Figure 1: Boaz General Reference Map



Issues and Opportunities

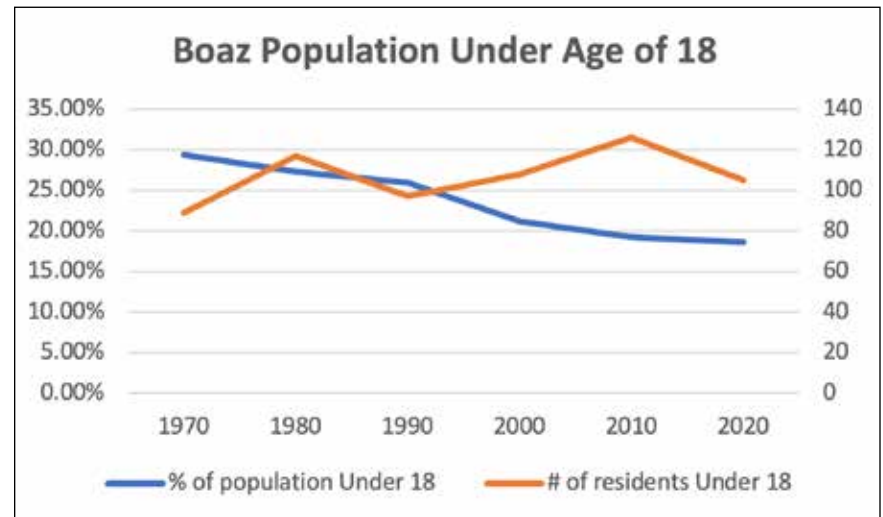
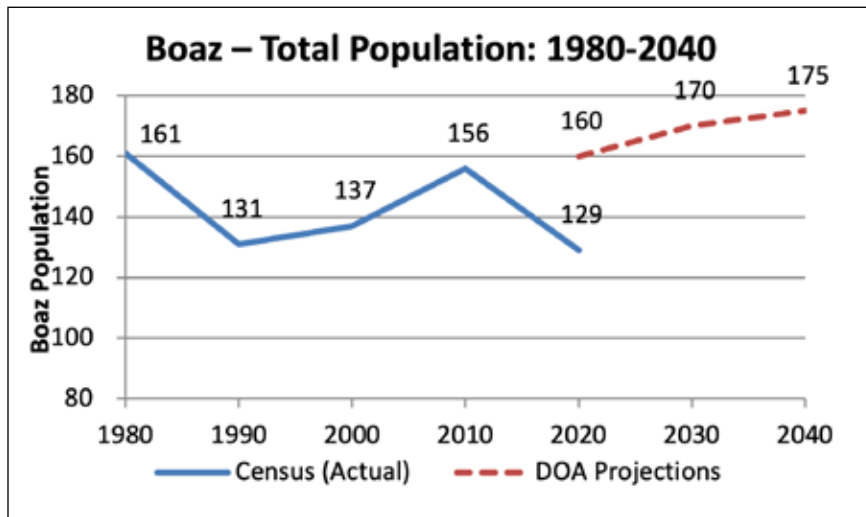
Issues

To identify issues and opportunities the Village can expect in the next ten years and has the agency and capacity to address, the Village Board and Plan Commission undertook a scenario planning workshop. As part of this workshop, the Village identified social, technological, economic, environmental, and political (STEEP) trends driving change locally, regionally, and globally. The Village then evaluated those trends on their certainty, impact, and ability of the Village to control the impact of these trends. The Village identified the following trends as significant.

Aging and Declining Population

An aging and declining population is not uncommon in rural communities. The 2020 Census identified a total population of 129. This is a decline from 156 residents in 2010, or 17% (27 residents) and in contrast to projections made following the 2010 Census projected a small increase to 160 by 2020. In addition, the Village has a declining percentage of the population under the age of 18, highlighting the aging of the population.

Village officials indicated an aging community is unlikely to change in the near future, but would like to see new residents include young families as current residents leave.



Tourism

Village leaders identified tourism as an opportunity for the Village. Outdoor recreation is a growing trend within the tourism market, and the Village is situated to take advantage of that trend. Further, the Village believes it has the tools and abilities to encourage Boaz as an outdoor recreation destination.

According to Travel Wisconsin, travelers in Wisconsin spent approximately \$13.7 billion in 113.2 million visits in 2019. Approximately 14%, or \$1.9 billion, of that spending was on recreation. Recreational spending by visitors grew by nearly 25% between 2015–2019, an increase of \$380 Million. Travel Wisconsin shows that Richland County ranks in among the lowest in the state in for tourism spending.¹ Richland County and Boaz offer an amazing landscape with the potential to improve its rank in this area by increasing marketing efforts and improving and expanding upon amenities.

Internet and Electric Systems

The Village identified these two systems as driving forces of change in the world, state, and locally. The development of alternative electric generation systems such as solar and wind are increasing, and existing infrastructure will need to respond. The Village is the site of one of the first local micro-grid projects by the local energy provider, Alliant Energy. This system helps create a resilient power source and can be expanded to include solar arrays. Impacts that are likely to take place within Boaz include increasing loads as private vehicles and home heating transition to electric powered. The Village has an opportunity to invest in these advances for community building. It appears this trend will be both impactful and certain.

Increasing Cost of Goods and Services and Revenue Constraints

Boaz has limited ability to increase revenue through the tax levy due to a limited ability to grow and state mandated caps in increases equal to net-new construction. Despite the limited ability to increase revenue, the cost of goods and services have and will continue to increase. These driving forces are certain and impactful. Within the next ten years, the Village may find the need to present a referendum to residents to cover increasing costs. With a limited tax base, the strategy around a referendum will need to consider other taxing entities' same challenges, as well as unique solutions. Resources to assist the Village in these matters include SWWRPC and the County of Richland.

Housing

While housing is a challenge in Boaz, it is a challenge limited by the Village's ability to grow and the existing floodplain. Existing housing is old and limited to approximately 60 structures. Many of these structures are in good repair and several appear to need significant cosmetic attention. Maintaining properties is vital to attracting new residents and building the wealth of the community. There are options available for residents to make improvements to vital systems such as furnaces. Assessors' data from 2021 indicated that at least seven structures retained oil furnaces. Residents should be encouraged to take advantage of federal and state programs.

Further, the Village will need to continue to be proactive in encouraging residents to maintain their properties.

¹ Travel Wisconsin. Economic Impact of Tourism in Wisconsin, 2019. Tourism Economics. <http://industry.travelwisconsin.com/research/economic-impact>

Floodplain and Climate Change

Most of Boaz exists in a floodplain. Yet, much of it is considered the flood fringe. Building within the flood fringe is allowed but requires certain measures. The Village has stated that flooding is a limited problem and working with the existing floodplain zoning and monitoring drainageways is important to keeping it a limited issue. The Village also expressed concern about the age and condition of a series of “check” dams that were built to slow the drainage of the surrounding hills into the valleys. The Village has little control over these dams, as they are all located outside of the Village boundaries.

The driving force of climate change has the potential of exacerbating the concerns and impacts of flooding. The Wisconsin Institute of Climate Change Initiatives (WICCI) has indicated that Wisconsin is expected to see warmer and wetter conditions as a result of climate change, especially in the southwest region. Climate change also presents an opportunity for the Village to attract residents from regions expected to experience much greater impacts from climate change.

Opportunities

Boaz regularly makes decisions on a variety of matters, big, small, exciting, boring, expected, and unexpected. Sometimes, the Village must act quickly to take advantage of a situation or address an urgent matter. Examples may include the opportunity to annex adjacent land or apply for grant funding.

Yet, not all opportunities help Boaz accomplish long-term goals. Approaching opportunities in a strategic manner provides a foundation and rationale behind decision-making and answers “how” the Village will accomplish its overarching goals. Opportunities in this plan are presented as strategies for the Village to consider in decision-making. Boaz should consider the following strategies when approaching new endeavors or opportunities.

People Focused

“Does this promote a welcoming and inclusive community?” / “Are we being transparent, welcoming, and trustworthy?”

While being welcoming and inclusive is not a traditional role for the government, the Village has the ability to act as a leader in its actions to develop this culture. A welcoming, transparent, and inclusive community is a place that people want to live and visit. Being people focused will not only increase the quality of life for residents, but increase the reputation of the Village in the region.

Capacity Building

“Does this provide the necessary capacity for the Village to effectively and efficiently provide residents the services they expect?” / “Does this demonstrate the Village’s commitment to our existing staff?” / “Are we taking advantage of the resources available to us?”

Over time, operational requirements, reporting, and the demand for public services have increased and become more complex. Increasing requirements and demands generally do not come with increased funding or staffing. The Village will need to develop and retain the capacity to accomplish its long-term goals.

Capacity building is also about increasing the means to accomplish initiatives. This means finding new ways to do business through efficiency and creative solutions.

Action Infrastructure

“What action infrastructure is in place, or needs to be in place, to address this issue or accomplish this initiative?”

The Aspen Institute’s Community Strategies Group has developed a framework to guide rural development called, *Thrive Rural Framework*. Within this framework, *Organize an Action Infrastructure* is identified as a recommendation for communities to work towards productive action. An *Action Infrastructure* includes, “the institutions, policies, systems, data, information, media, and resources needed to establish, align, and achieve priorities that increase both well-being and outcomes.”²

An action infrastructure manages issues and protects the Village by offering a basis for objective decision-making. The Village likely already has established an action infrastructure but should regularly evaluate and amend it as needed.

Collaboration

“Can this service be shared with another municipality?” / “Can this product or service be jointly contracted for?” / “Can we achieve this more efficiently and with the same results in cooperation with another organization or municipality?”

Communities have a limited ability to raise revenue and the cost of services and goods is increasing. Revenues have not and are unlikely to keep pace with expenses in the future, so the Village will need to learn to do business in a new way. Boaz can collaborate with other municipalities and identify services to share. These services can include sharing staff or jointly contracting for services.

Competition

“Does this make us more competitive?”

Boaz is in competition with other communities. The Village competes for new residents, new businesses, and where tourists and residents spend their time and money. In order to be competitive, the Village needs to invest in itself. Competition should not be confused with comparison. If a community has had success with a certain endeavor, that does not mean Boaz will also have success. Rather, identifying and investing in Boaz’s competitive advantage will allow it to accomplish its goals.

Resiliency

“Does this make us more resilient?”

Recent years have demonstrated the local impacts of global disruptions. Pandemics, inflation, and climate change all have local impacts. Additionally, localized events such as severe storms create another level of disruption for communities. As local challenges like population decline and flooding continue, disruptions become more impactful and more frequent. Building resilience is working to decrease the impacts of disruptive events. Resilience is the ability to bounce back, reduce the long-term impacts, and evolve. Building resilience is comprehensive and requires addressing all aspects of municipal operations.

² <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/programs/community-strategies-group/thrive-rural/>

Community and Economic Development

Assets:

Parks, Recreation, and Natural Beauty

The Boaz Community Park is likely the Village's greatest asset outside of its residents. The park hosts several large community events each year including Boaz Fun Daze and Boaz Blast. These events attract a significant number of visitors to the Village.

The park has several unique amenities, including a horse arena and pulling track grounds. These unique amenities attract communities of shared interest, such as the saddle club and pulling enthusiasts. These communities, although not always residents of the Village, are an asset to the community and contribute to the active use and improvement of the park.

Steep wooded bluffs, narrow ridges, and snaking valleys create an enhanced feeling of remoteness in and around Boaz. Outdoor sportsmen and sportswomen admire this sense of isolation, as do those seeking refuge from urban areas. This is evident by the motorcyclists and bikers in the region, and the amenities and businesses established to serve them. The beauty and isolation of the area attract visitors for a variety of reasons.

Local Businesses and Commercial Space

In addition to the natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities, Boaz's local businesses attract visitors from across the region. Within the Village, the Lonesome Dove Tavern, Karen's Supper Club, and the Whatnot Emporium serve residents and attract visitors. Local businesses understand they share in the Village's success and are often contributors to community events and local groups who have an interest in the improvement of the Village.

The Village has several underutilized buildings. These buildings are assets and have the potential to house local businesses. The Village should work with Richland County Economic Development and property owners to encourage suitable businesses to utilize these buildings.



Needs:

Marketing and Coordination

Community events and local businesses are the primary assets attracting visitors to Boaz. These assets are vital to the vibrancy of the Village. With a limited ability to expand the Village or develop additional assets, a core value of the Village is the continued development and stewardship of these existing assets, which includes marketing.

Events and businesses attract people who otherwise would have no reason to stop in Boaz. These visitors are potential residents, customers, and members of shared interest groups (such as the saddle club and pulling enthusiasts). Marketing is how Boaz informs and reminds potential stakeholders about its events and businesses and encourages visitors. In other words, it is how the Village is able to compete for visitor's time and money.

During the planning process, local business owners, community associations, and elected officials held a workshop on marketing. The purpose of this meeting was to explore ways to better market the Village's events and business and coordinate activities. A primary takeaway was the need for regular meetings of community associations, elected officials, and local business owners. Primary meeting takeaways include an annual event calendar and associated marketing campaigns.

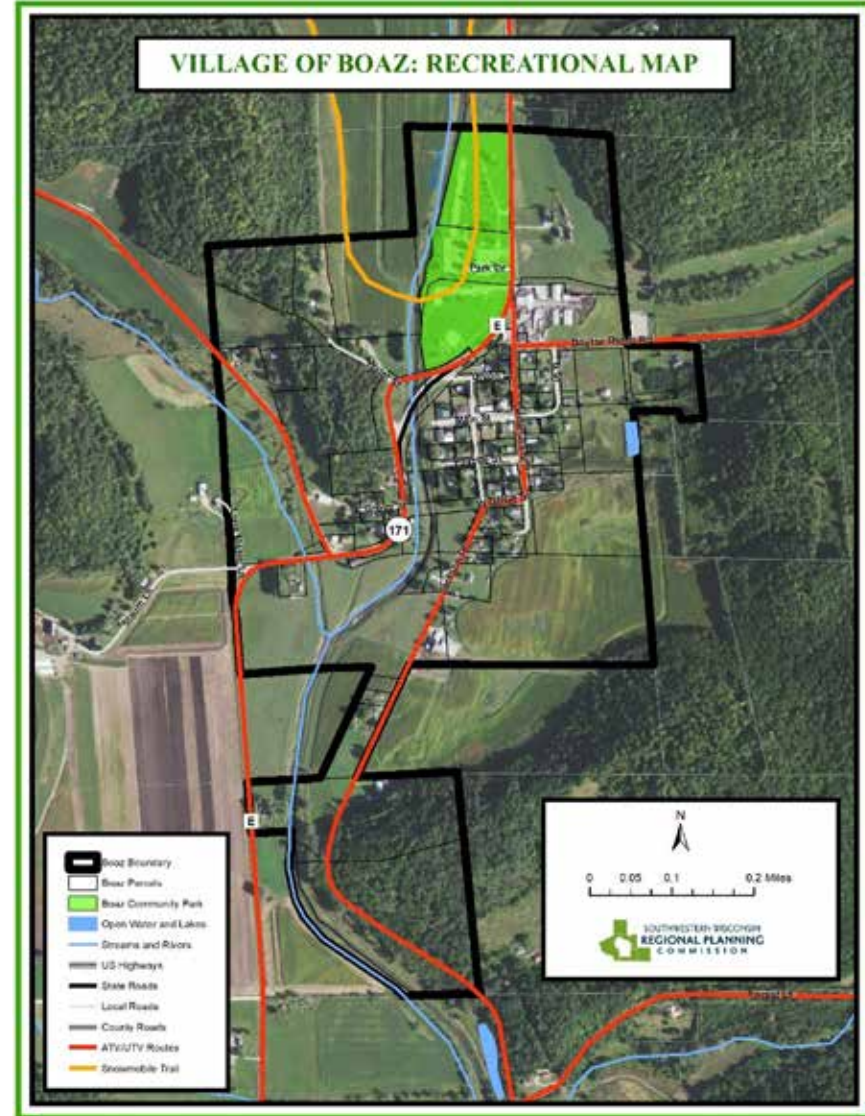
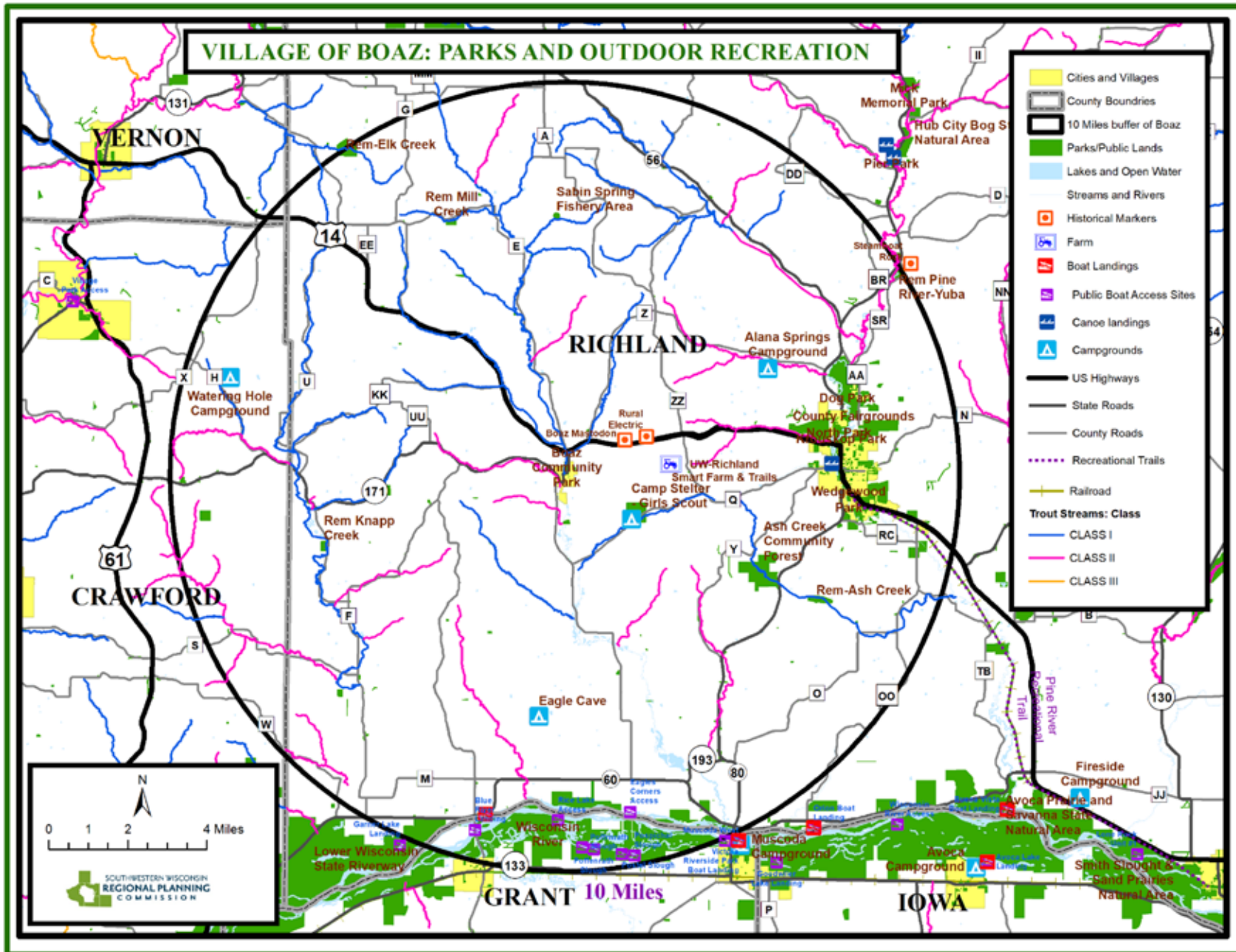


Figure 1: Boaz General Reference Map



Amenities to support events, recreation, and local businesses.

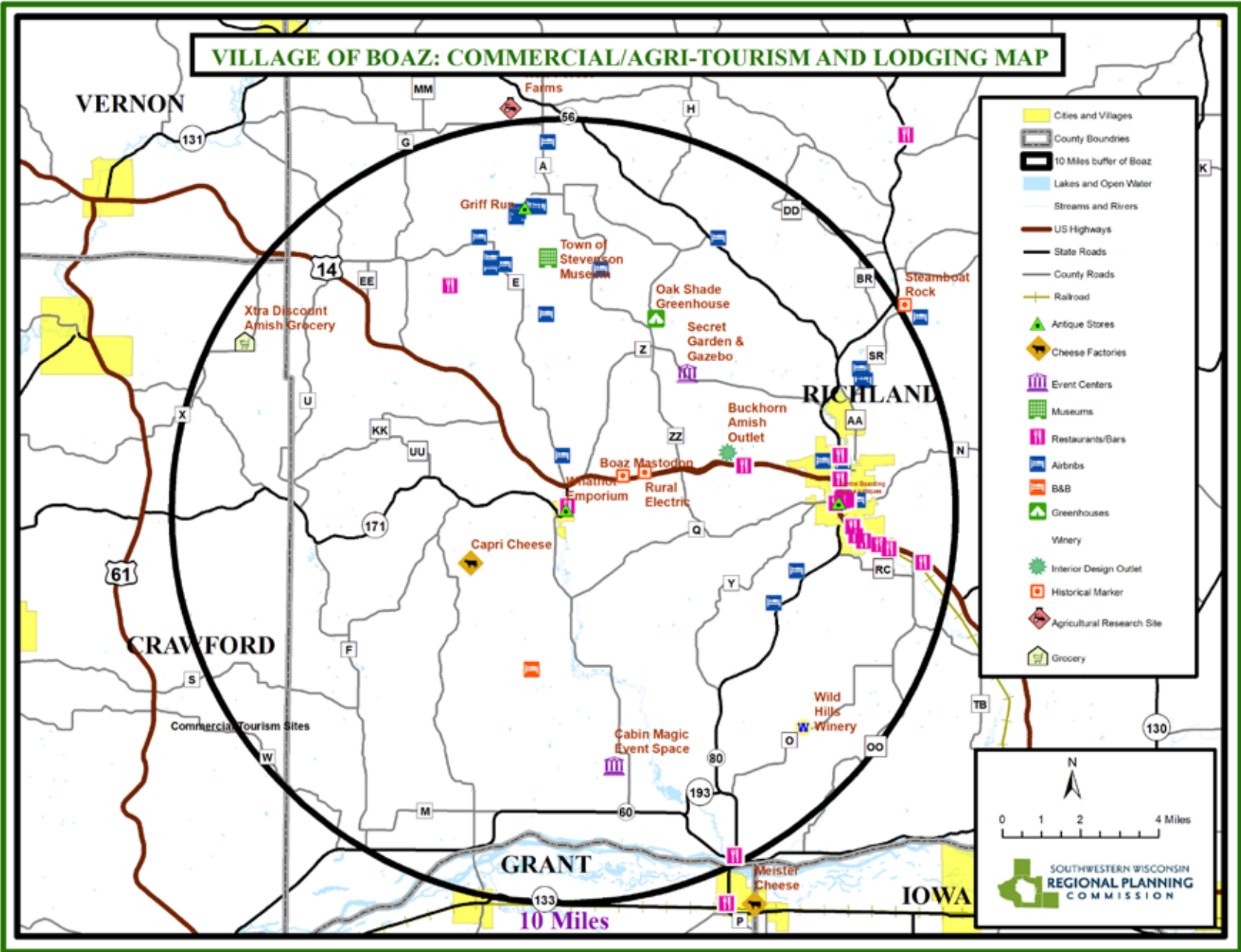
In addition to supporting events and businesses through marketing, a major need discussed during the planning process was the need to support and improve these assets by providing vital amenities. Parking space and a campground were the primary amenities the Village expressed a need for, in order to support their local events.

Parking is an ongoing issue, especially during truck and tractor pulling events when visitors and pulling participants compete for dry land to park. Drainage issues in the floodplain often make areas close by unsuitable for parking. The current practice utilizes the shoulder of Highway 171, which is not ideal and potentially unsafe. The Village should explore agreements with property owners to allow parking on their property during events. Potential locations include adjacent fields and open areas near the Village utility building and on Main Street. Other options include encouraging visitors to park on the shoulder of Village streets as these areas are safer than parking on the highway.

The Village also expressed the desire for a campground to support visitors to its events and has explored utilizing the community park for this purpose. Additional exploration is needed to determine the Village's ability, feasibility, and cost of offering this amenity. While the Village would undoubtedly be served by a campground in the near vicinity, the Village lacks the capacity to operate a year-round campground. To explore the demand for a campground, the Village can begin by early marketing of nearby campgrounds along with its events. Partnerships with adjacent private campgrounds may provide initial indications of additional demand. Additional work with Richland County Development and Richland Tourism may help encourage local businesses to expand or locate campgrounds nearby.



Figure 1: Boaz General Reference Map



Community and Economic Development Goals and Actions:

PARKS, RECREATION AND EVENTS GOALS

Tourism is a strength. Develop baseline of the number of visitors and work to increase this by 10% each year through marketing, events, directed development, and an understanding of tourism demand.

**Strategy aligned
with actions**

Work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to install a crossing and signage on Highway 171 connecting Boaz Community Park with the rest of the Village.

Adopt an outdoor lighting ordinance to protect Boaz's dark skies. Dark Skies are a resource for the Village that increases the quality of life for residents and attracts visitors. All future development should take into account the protection of dark skies including Village street lights, commercial billboards, and other developments.

Pursue fundraising and grant opportunities through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to expand and improve the existing park facilities.

Ensure the park's amenities do not become obsolete. Evaluate amenities use and recommended upgrades. Develop a master plan specific to the park's amenities that evaluates each use and recommended upgrades. Evaluate upgrades based on return of potential utilization. Example: Will improvements to the horse arena result in greater use, will the improvements consider greater use.

Evaluate the ability to utilize the horse arena as an ice rink in the winter months. If feasible, discuss a partnership with local organizations and/or Richland County Parks to offer this amenity.

As resources allow, consider an assessment of drainage options for the northern field of the Boaz Community Park.

Approach landowners in the winter about renting land for parking and or campgrounds during large community events.

Convene Boaz Community Park stakeholders on a regular basis to plan a calendar of events at the park. Encourage stakeholders to contribute towards marketing events and the park's amenities.

 People Focused

 Capacity Building

 Action Infrastructure

 Collaboration

 Competition

 Resiliency

During community events, such as Boaz Fun Daze, consider the ability to increase revenue to ensure funding is available to continue to hold the event. Options may include 50/50 raffles and donation jars.

Boaz has expressed the desire to have a campground within the Village or nearby. To accomplish this as a Village endeavor, the Village will need to identify and acquire use of land for the purpose of a campground, develop and invest in infrastructure to serve the campsite, and plan for the management of the campsite.

Considering the capacity of Village staff, encouraging the private development and operation of a campsite by offering strategic incentives may offer the best option for a permanent campground.

Prior to pursuing a permanent campsite, the Village can explore a Special Event Campground as defined and regulated under ATCP 79. Boaz Fun Daze offers the opportunity to test the concept of a permanent campground.

Consider a winter-time event in the park to encourage all-season use of the park. This may include horse-drawn sleigh rides or snowman-building contests.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Strengthen and diversify the local economy by creating opportunities for new and existing businesses to locate and grow in Boaz.

Strategy aligned with actions

Work with Richland County Economic Development, Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, and owners of vacant businesses to identify and market opportunities to fill vacant spaces.



Maintain membership in the Southwest Wisconsin Regional Connect Communities program to maintain awareness of opportunities.



Encourage businesses in the Village to share best practices and develop an annual calendar of events, to ensure businesses are open during times of increased visitors. Considering working with Richland County Economic Development or SWWRPC to facilitate this meeting.

Work with SWWRPC to develop and utilize a community brand. Consider trademarking Boaz Fun Daze.

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HOUSING AND VILLAGE EXPANSION GOAL

Ensure a diverse, safe, and affordable housing supply for all ages, incomes, and abilities.

Strategy aligned
with actions

Begin exploring the possibility of expanding the Village boundaries by undertaking a study to evaluate potential land, financing, incentives, and return on investment. As determined through a study, discuss opportunities with potential landowners.



Evaluate existing property maintenance ordinances and the current status of structures in the Village. Schedule an annual “windshield survey” of the community to identify properties with deferred maintenance. Evaluate available strategies to address properties with owners.



Monitor and communicate to residents opportunities and programs for housing improvements such as:

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: Private well monitoring, testing, and rehab or replacement.
- Alliant Energy/Focus on Energy: Housing heating systems and weatherproofing.



Make continued education available regarding shoreland and floodplain zoning..



TOURISM AND MARKETING GOAL

Develop active marketing initiatives to increase tourism into the Village, specifically to community events and local businesses.

Strategy aligned
with actions

Work with SWWRPC to develop and utilize a community brand. Utilize the brand on Village documents and signage. Consider trademarking Boaz Fun Daze.

Work with Richland County Tourism to evaluate and pursue additional lodging opportunities in the near vicinity of Boaz, including campgrounds.

Work with SWWRPC and business owners to develop a marketing campaign around the Boaz Fun Daze and Boaz Blast events. Consider monthly marketing campaigns directed at ATVs, UTVs, Motorcycles, and Snowmobiles.

People Focused

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TRANSPORTATION GOAL

Maintain safe, accessible, and efficient transportation options.

Strategy aligned
with actions

Parking is an issue during community events, especially in wet years and with events that include heavy equipment. Work with neighboring property owners to identify potential parking areas depending on crop rotation and weather conditions. Ensure drop-off areas are available during community events.



Meet annually with Dayton Township and neighboring municipalities to coordinate and bid capital improvement projects to seek out lower rates due to decreased mobilization and transportation costs.



Consider shared service agreements with Dayton Township and other surrounding municipalities.



Leverage future state and county projects to improve and expand pedestrian and bicycle transportation networks, especially along County Road E.



Promote SWCAP and Richland County ADRC shared ride services, bus routes, and day trips.



Review ADA parking availability during community events and create temporary set-aside areas for parking and drop-offs in preparation for community events.



Identify and plan for ATV, UTV, and Snowmobile parking.



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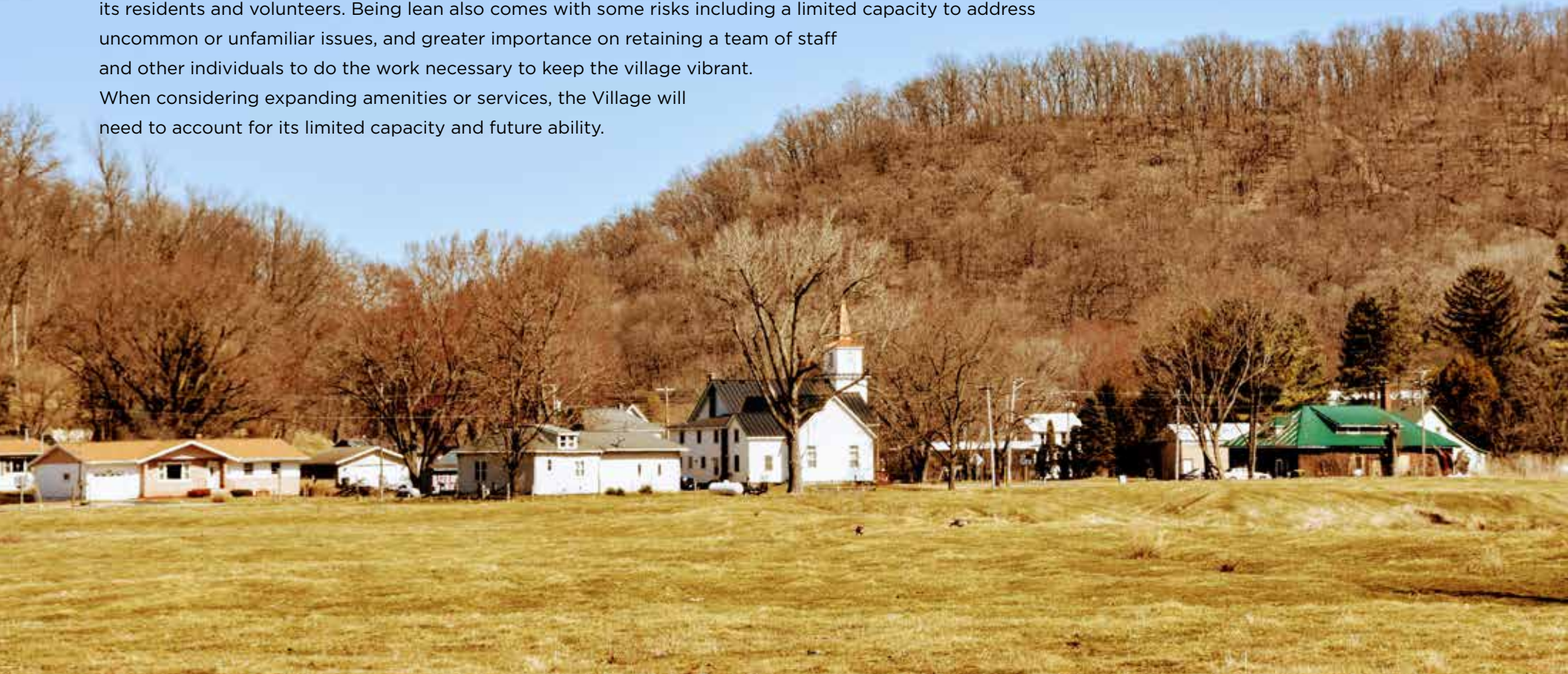
Assets

Social Connectedness

The public input session identified community as a significant asset. Knowing your neighbors and being able to collaborate with other residents is a significant benefit of having a population of approximately 130 residents. Social connectedness, or being a “tight-knit,” community is one of the greatest assets of Boaz and helps create a resilient community. During the planning process, residents and elected officials often discussed how everyone does their part to help the Village and sees looking after each other as part of being a community member.

Limited Scope of Services

Boaz’s limited scope of services offers a degree of resiliency. The Village’s major infrastructure and improvements are limited to its streets, wastewater treatment plant, and community park and building. This “lean” characteristic means the Village is able to be efficient with its limited resources and better able to focus on things they can control. The Village’s continued ability to be “lean” is a direct result of the participation of its residents and volunteers. Being lean also comes with some risks including a limited capacity to address uncommon or unfamiliar issues, and greater importance on retaining a team of staff and other individuals to do the work necessary to keep the village vibrant. When considering expanding amenities or services, the Village will need to account for its limited capacity and future ability.



Needs

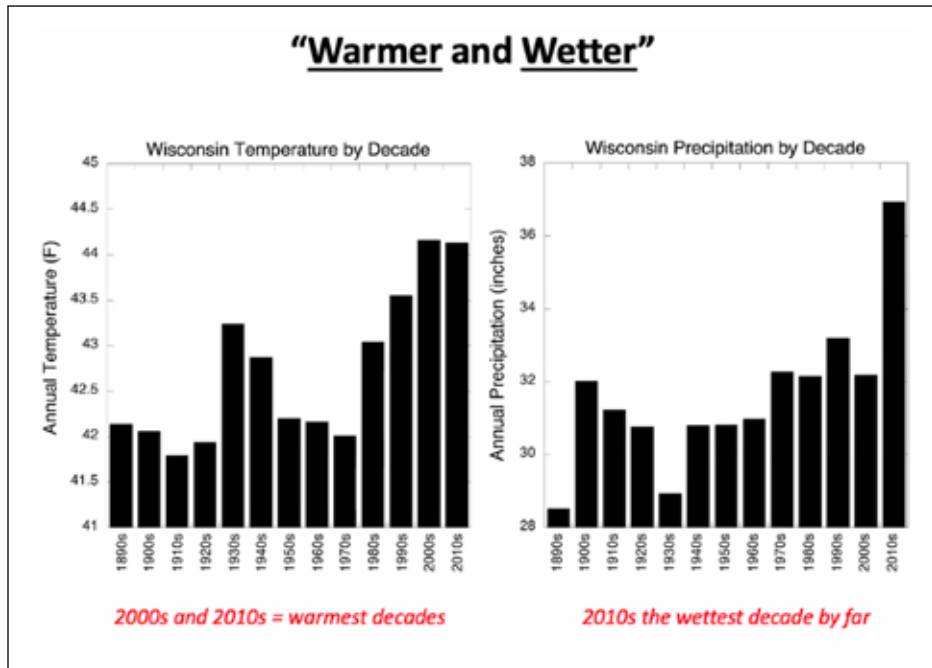
Emergency Planning and Education

Throughout the planning process, Village staff and elected officials had discussed concerns and questions related to emergency planning and management. This is especially important to the Village considering its location is entirely within a mapped floodplain. This plan recommends working with Richland County Emergency Management to educate elected officials and staff, understand requirements for disaster reporting, and develop plans for the continuity of operations and government.

Land Use and Floodplain Mitigation

Boaz does not have land use zoning, but is covered under shoreland and floodplain zoning. It is important that floodplain zoning continues to be administered in order for residents to continue to be eligible for flood insurance. The Village also has the opportunity to explore mitigation efforts that can address flooding and highwater tables. These mitigation efforts may include tiling, stream dredging, or streambank restoration along Mill Creek both within, upstream, and downstream of the Village. Additionally, the Village expressed concerns about the historic weirs and check dams installed in the Mill Creek Valley. These structures were built decades ago, and there is little knowledge of who is responsible for maintenance.

Figure 7: Temperature and Precipitation by decade in Wisconsin, 1890s - 2010s³



³ Travel Wisconsin. Economic Impact of Tourism in Wisconsin, 2019. Tourism Economics. <http://industry.travelwisconsin.com/research/economic-impact> Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts, Steve Vavrus Presentation at Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention. April 20th, 2022. Data sourced from: Midwest Regional Climate Center. Cli-MATE database. <http://mrcc.purdue.edu>. and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction. <http://www.ncei.noaa.gov>.

Resiliency Goals and Actions:

SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS GOAL

All residents, business owners, and members of the greater community feel they have a stake in the *community's success*.

Strategy aligned with actions.

Welcome new residents with community information and direct residents to the Village's website.
Keep important information up-to-date on the Village's website.



Facilitate a meeting of all community associations on a four year cycle for a strategic planning session.



Make a point of celebrating community achievements.



Continue to be transparent in meeting posting and minutes, work to accommodate resident requests to offer greater access. Ensure all committee and council minutes are posted in a reasonable amount of time.



Work with community organizations and businesses to provide youth with seasonal or part-time jobs.
An example may be working with the saddle club to hire a seasonal position to maintain the horse arena.



MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS GOAL

Increase resiliency and residential well-being by mitigating hazards, reinforcing critical facilities, and educating residents and elected officials.

Strategy aligned with actions.

Work with Richland County Emergency Management to develop up-to-date emergency operations, continuity of operations, and continuity of government plans and identify training for elected officials and staff to understand their responsibilities during emergency events.



In addition to expanding the capital and maintenance plan for the Village's critical infrastructure, develop a plan to identify and financially prepare for the future needs of the Village's facilities including utilities, parks, and Community Building.



People Focused

Capacity Building

Action Infrastructure

Collaboration

Competition

Resiliency

Work with Richland County to identify and evaluate the “check dams” that are meant to retain water within the Mill Creek Watershed.	♥
Develop a written plan to provide a heating or cooling station in the event of an emergency.	♥
Pursue wastewater treatment facility discharge compliance with WIDNR. Evaluate riparian and landscape restoration versus streambank stabilization through riprap alone.	♥
In coordination with Richland County, consider a cyber audit and pursue actions to remediate shortcomings.	♥
Establish new intergovernmental mutual aid agreements for sharing services and resources.	💬♥
Identify and designate weather shelters by type in the community and communicate to residents.	👁️♥
Maintain Village-owned culverts and encourage residents to clean out their ditches and culverts. When possible, offer the assistance of public works employees and Village equipment.	👁️♥
Post notice at the park regarding flood plain notifications and encourage outdoor recreationists to download notifications to their phone. Richland County currently uses the Nixle application for mobile notifications.	👁️♥
Encourage local businesses to maintain a weather radio or other adequate advanced warning devices for severe storms.	👁️♥

COLLABORATION GOAL

Increase resiliency by acting regionally and in cooperation with neighboring municipalities to address shared challenges and opportunities.

Strategy aligned with actions.

Develop a boundary and development agreement with the Town of Dayton.



Coordinate and bid capital improvements with surrounding municipalities to seek out lower rates due to decreased mobilization and transportation costs.



Maintain communication with SWWRPC and support county- and region-wide efforts.



OPERATIONS GOAL

Increase resiliency of Village operations through strategic investments and planning.

Strategy aligned with actions.

Seek out energy efficiency improvements to all Village facilities in the facilities plan.



Plan for future staffing transitions.



Adopt a policy of local procurement. Seek to purchase products and services from local businesses.



Encourage local businesses to provide products and services where there are current gaps on local offerings.

Invest in continuing education for all Village employees and elected officials. Training can include floodplain management and the connect communities program.



Ensure the Village's vision drives investments and donations. Donations should not drive actions.



Always evaluate funding opportunities in relation to long-term costs.

Work with Richland Economic Development and Alliant Energy to evaluate an electric vehicle charging station at the park.



People Focused

Capacity Building

Action Infrastructure

Collaboration

Competition

Resiliency

GROWTH GOAL

Establish options for growth.

Begin exploring the possibility of expanding the Village boundaries by undertaking a study to evaluate potential land, financing, incentives, and return on investment. As determined through a study, discuss opportunities with potential landowners.



Develop a boundary and development agreement with the Town of Dayton.



Plan for desired land use, if and when considering future Village ownership of adjacent land. Undertake a full return on investment analysis based on the project. Village ownership may assist in annexation but without a planned use or investment, ownership may become an unwelcome liability.

Require all future developments and stormwater improvements to be designed to accommodate expected increases in precipitation tied to climate change..



Strategy aligned with actions.

Implementation

To accomplish any goal, a transition from planning to implementation is required. This plan recommends the Village utilize the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) Cycle. Through the adoption of this plan, the Village has made the first step in this cycle. The Comprehensive Plan is not passive and does not represent a satisfied goal, rather it is a starting point for the community to implement their desired goals. The PDSA cycle requires this plan to be reviewed regularly and, at times, updated when determined vital to the best interests of the Village.

Figure 10: Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) Cycle



Plan

This is the work completed through the Comprehensive Planning process, culminating in this document. It included community engagement, review of relevant data and past planning work, and conducting interviews with key personnel. This process should take place again no later than 2032.

Do

This phase includes plan roll-out and executing the actions identified within each chapter of this plan. Key aspects include:

- Prioritizing objectives – The many actions laid out in this plan must be clearly prioritized in order for the Village to identify which actions to pursue first.
- Identifying responsible parties – Identify Village staff, board members, or asking community associations to step into a role that uniquely fits their mission.
- Identifying required resources and partners – build capacity and establish collaboration.
- Documentation – Develop or finalize the targets and measures the team will use to measure progress towards continual improvement and plan implementation. This includes both the analysis of existing data and collection of new data to be used to measure progress.

Study

Measuring progress requires a team to monitor and manage implementation, and to record progress. Two major steps should be undertaken.

- Identify the committee or group to monitor progress and ensure there is continued momentum. The team should meet quarterly and be able to connect with city staff, committees, and board. The team should be inter-disciplinary and include board members, staff, business owners, and residents with varied interests in the community, all of who have a passion for this work. An engaged planning committee is ideally suited to this work.
- Identify and define barriers to implementation in order to overcome or surmount them when possible. When barriers cannot be overcome, they should be documented to inform future planning work. Common barriers to plan implementation include:
 - Legacy rules or procedures.
 - Lack of staff time to work on initiatives.
 - Choices or trade-offs are not made. Trying to do everything.
 - Choosing to wait for a “better time.”
 - Parochialism / narrow mindedness.

Act

This phase of the process sets the stage for continual improvement. As the city sees progress, documents successes, or encounters barriers on any given initiative, it should look to:

- *Adopt* practices that work and are successful. Formalize them as part of the city's culture.
- *Adapt* good practices that need improvement. This includes surmounting obstacles, finding efficiencies in existing processes, and documenting why things don't work.
- *Abandon* existing practices that don't support progress, and new initiatives that are not the right fit for the county. The aim must document the reason for abandonment so they can learn from this and avoid similar issues in the future.



ORDINANCE NO. 2023-1

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2023-2033 FOR THE VILLAGE OF BOAZ, RICHLAND COUNTY, WISCONSIN

THE VILLAGE BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF BOAZ, RICHLAND COUNTY, WISCONSIN, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to section 62.23 (2) and (3) of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Village of Boaz is authorized to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan as defined in section 66.1001 (1)(a) and 66.1001 (2) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

SECTION 2. The Village Board of the Village of Boaz, Wisconsin, by the enactment of ordinance 2006-1, formally adopted the document titled "Village of Boaz Comprehensive Plan" on September 6, 2005 and, by the enactment of ordinance 2020-4, formally adopted amendments to the plan on August 18, 2020.

SECTION 3. The Plan Commission, by a majority vote of the entire commission at a meeting held on February 23, 2023, has adopted a resolution recommending to the Village Board the adoption of the Village of Boaz Comprehensive Plan 2023-2033 as an update to the Village's Comprehensive Plan as required under Wis. Stats. sec. 66.1001 (2)(i).

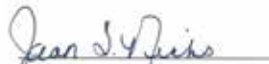
SECTION 4. The Village posted a Class 1 public notice and held a public hearing regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update.

SECTION 5. The Village Board of the Village of Boaz, Richland County, Wisconsin hereby adopts the proposed Village of Boaz Comprehensive Plan 2023-2033.

SECTION 6. The Village Clerk is directed to send a copy of this ordinance and the plan updates and amendments to the parties listed in section 66.1001 (4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and posting as required by law.

Adopted and approved this 23rd day of February, 2023.


Jean Nicks, Village President

COUNTERSIGNED:


Susan Hauri, Village Clerk

Date Adopted: 2-23-23
Date Recorded: 2-28-23
Date Posted: 2-28-23
Date Affidavit Filed: 2-28-23
Effective Date: 2-28-23

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-1

A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2023-2033 FOR THE VILLAGE OF BOAZ, RICHLAND COUNTY, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, the Village of Boaz, pursuant to sections 60.10 (2)(c), 62.23, 61.35, 61.22 (3), and 66.1001 (4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes, adopted a comprehensive plan on September 6, 2005 and amended said plan on August 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Boaz is hereby updating the Village's Comprehensive Plan pursuant to section 66.1001 (2)(i) of Wisconsin Statutes, including updates to all required elements; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Boaz Plan Commission finds that the Village of Boaz Comprehensive Plan 2023-2033 addresses all of the required elements specified in section 66.1001 (2) of the Statutes and that the Comprehensive Plan is internally consistent; and

WHEREAS, the Village has duly noticed and held a public hearing on the Village of Boaz Comprehensive Plan 2023-2033 following procedures in section 66.1001 (4)(d) of the Statutes and the public participation procedures for comprehensive plan updates adopted by the Village on November 9, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to section 66.1001 (4)(d) of the Statutes, the Village of Boaz Plan Commission hereby adopts this resolution approving the Village of Boaz Comprehensive Plan 2023-2033.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Plan Commission does hereby recommend the Boaz Village Board enact an ordinance adopting the Village of Boaz Comprehensive Plan 2023-2033.

Recommended by the Village of Boaz Plan Commission this 23rd day of February, 2023.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 1


Jean Nicks, Village President/Plan Commission Chair

COUNTERSIGNED:


Susan Hauri, Village Clerk



BOAZ, WISCONSIN



SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION

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