

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

The Wisconsin Department of Administration describes intergovernmental cooperation as “any arrangement by which officials of two or more jurisdictions communicate visions and coordinate plans, policies, and programs to address and resolve issues of mutual interest.” Issues that are largely regional in scope, such as transportation, economic development and community services, rely on the support of multiple jurisdictions for their success. The realities of today’s lifestyle, in which people readily cross municipal borders in their daily routines, evidence an increasing need for intergovernmental cooperation. As West Allis plans for the future, intergovernmental cooperation will likely be a vital component to its success.

This chapter describes and analyzes existing relationships between the City of West Allis and other governmental entities, including neighboring municipalities, overlapping jurisdictions, Federal and State agencies, and other relevant authorities. This chapter also details current agreements or areas of

future concerns, and provides recommendations for new or continued collaboration.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**Goal:** Build and maintain mutually **beneficial relationships and open communications with intergovernmental jurisdictions and authorities that provide cost-effective, orderly services and compatible development within West Allis and the region.**

- **Objective 1:** Support coordination with the WAWM School District. Continue to work with the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District on the future needs of facilities and services within the community.

American Planning Association

# NEWS & views

*Economic Development Division*

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## West Allis, Wisconsin Uses a Public-Private Partnership in a Successful Industrial Redevelopment

*by Kristi Johnson, Planner II, City of West Allis*

Whitnall-Summit Co. and the City of West Allis have formed an economic development partnership that has catalyzed redevelopment and brought creative financing to the revitalization of the former Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co. complex. The 166-acre former industrial user, Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co., went bankrupt in 1987 at the cost of thousands of jobs. From 1979 to 1989, West Allis lost 8,500 manufacturing jobs and experienced a decline of 10,000 residents, while the average wage within the City dropped 25 percent. In the last three years, the site has dramatically increased in value, due to the collaboration between Whitnall-Summit Co., and the City of West Allis. The redevelopment is an excellent

*(continued on page 3)*



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- **Objective 2: Maintain communication with adjacent communities.** Maintain continuous communication and comprehensive planning participation with surrounding municipalities.
- **Objective 3: Coordinate with other entities to support Smart Growth.** Work with neighboring municipalities, overlapping jurisdictions and regional entities on the development of plans and policies that support Smart Growth development within West Allis and the region.

## CURRENT RELATIONSHIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Shared Municipal Boundaries

The City of West Allis is the most populous inner-ring suburb within the Milwaukee metropolitan area. In Milwaukee County, the City of West Allis shares municipal borders with the Cities of Greenfield, Milwaukee and Wauwatosa, as well as the Village of West Milwaukee (Figure 11-1). West Allis also maintains a border with the Cities of Brookfield and New Berlin, which are located in Waukesha County.

### City of Milwaukee

West Allis maintains two (2) separate borders with the City of Milwaukee, one on its northern edge and the other along portions of W. Oklahoma Avenue on the south. The City of Milwaukee has created neighborhood area plans to guide its future development, and two of these plans, the West Side Area Plan and the Southwest Area Plan, border West Allis. Both plans were adopted in December 2009.

Milwaukee's West Side Area Plan calls for neighborhoods with strengthened identities where persons can "age in place." The plan calls for encouragement of more owner-occupancy in single-family developments, as well as rehabilitation and reinvestment in its general housing stock. Key recommendations focus on supporting mixed-use neighborhoods with local businesses that provide balance to commercial corridors, and traffic calming improvements that promote multi-modal transportation options. No major land use changes have been proposed on West Allis' border.

The Southwest Area Plan recommends implementing projects that increase sustainability and encourage mixed-use neighborhoods. The plan recommends continued aesthetic and infrastructural improvements to major districts and corridors within the area through increased landscaping, and pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

The City of Milwaukee also has an overarching Citywide Policy Plan that acknowledges the requirements of Wisconsin's Smart Growth Legislation. As the center of the metropolitan region, the Milwaukee's Policy Plan will have implications for West Allis, in particular regards to Economic Development, Transportation and Housing.

### Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1.1:** The City of West Allis should work with the City of Milwaukee to encourage property maintenance and commercial improvements along W. Oklahoma Avenue and the remainder of its southeastern border.
- **Recommendation 1.2:** The City of West Allis should work with the City of Milwaukee to encourage transportation, commercial and

neighborhood improvements in Milwaukee south of I-94 and north of West Allis' border, as this area serves as a gateway into West Allis for many interstate commuters.

- **Recommendation 1.3:** The City of West Allis should maintain awareness of the planning efforts in the City of Milwaukee, review drafts and provide comments regarding policy recommendations; in order to strengthen economic conditions and quality-of-life measures in the metro region through compatible urban redevelopment.

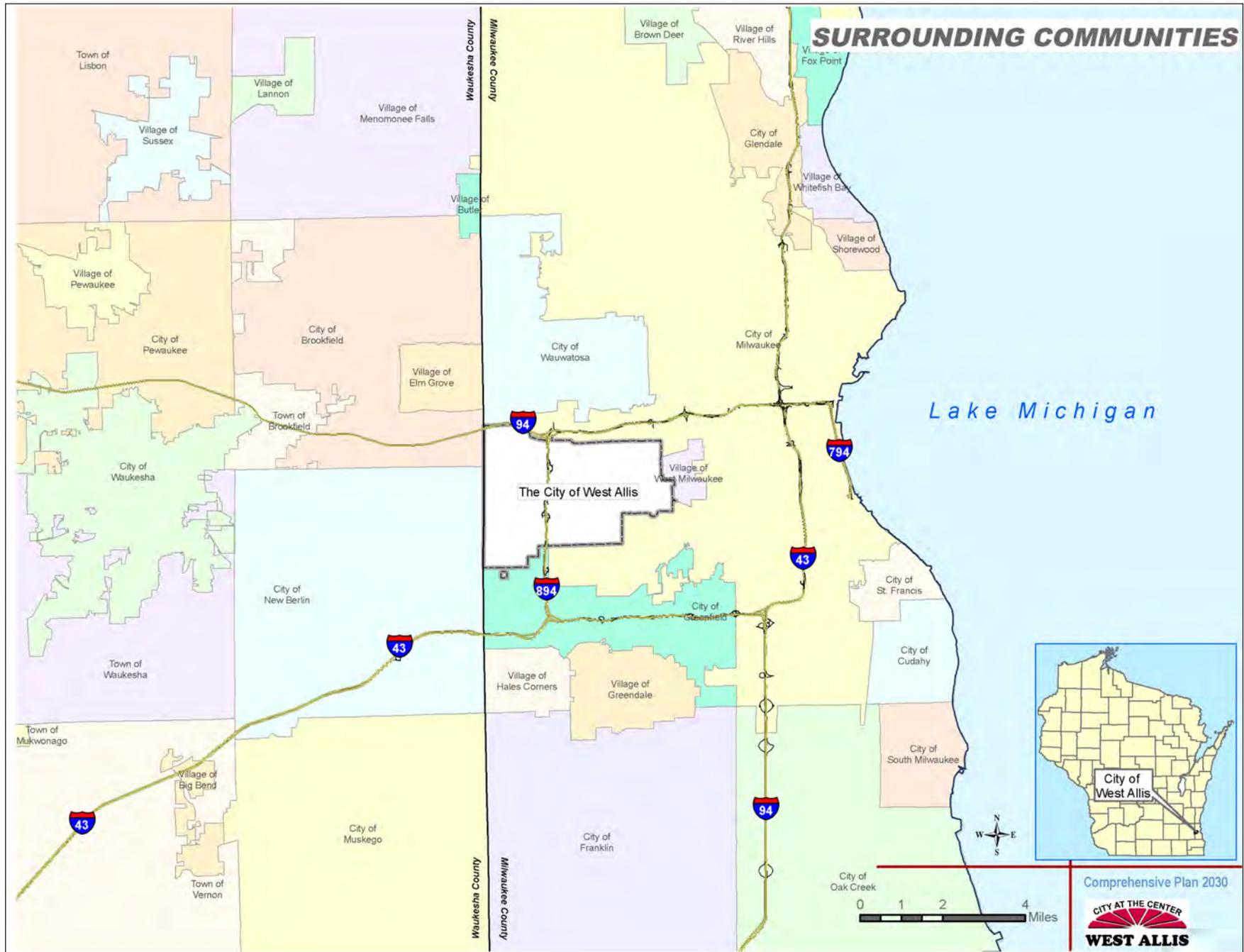
### City of Greenfield

The City of Greenfield is located along West Allis' southern border from S. 124 St. to S. 100 St. Greenfield adopted its current Comprehensive Plan in November 2008. In relation to the City of West Allis, Greenfield's future land use plan calls for continued residential uses along W. Morgan Avenue and commercial uses along Highway 100 abutting the City of West Allis. An area of currently vacant land surrounding the City of West Allis' Morgan Avenue Yard along S. 116 St. is identified for future conversion to mixed residential.

### Recommendations

- **Recommendation 2.1:** The City of West Allis should continue to work with the City of Greenfield to ensure compatible development, with particular attention to the area including West Allis' Morgan Avenue Yard.
- **Recommendation 2.2:** The City of West Allis should work with the City of Greenfield to assure that transportation corridors, such as Hwy 100 and north-south bike routes, transition between municipalities in accordance with desired standards.

Figure 11-1.



## City of Wauwatosa

The City of Wauwatosa is located along West Allis' northern border from S. 124 St. to Hwy 100. The transportation and utility corridor along I-94 largely defines this border, with a predominance of industrial and commercial uses on both sides. There is also some single-family development adjacent to the border, on Wauwatosa's side. Wauwatosa's current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in December 2008, and its future land use map does not project any significant changes along West Allis' border.

### Recommendation

- **Recommendation 3.1:** The City of West Allis should continue to work with the City of Wauwatosa to assure compatible development, transportation infrastructure and economic development issues associated with their shared borders, with particular attention to the Hwy 100 corridor.

## City of New Berlin

The City of New Berlin is located along West Allis' western border on S. 124 St. from W. Greenfield Ave to W. Morgan Ave. New Berlin adopted its Comprehensive Plan in 2009. The plan indicates that no adjustments to land use are projected to occur along New Berlin's border with West Allis, which will maintain predominantly residential uses and park space (New Berlin Hills Golf Course). New Berlin's plan includes a recommendation to seek opportunities to improve "gateway corridors" between the two communities.

### Recommendation

- **Recommendation 4.1:** The City of West Allis should work with the City of New Berlin on creating compatible development and improved gateway corridors between the two communities.

## City of Brookfield

The City of Brookfield abuts the City of West Allis along its northwestern border along S. 124 St. north of W. Greenfield Avenue. Brookfield completed its 2035 Comprehensive Plan in 2009, which includes projected land uses. This plan indicates that no changes are expected in land use along West Allis' border, which is predominantly developed as single-family housing and described as medium density housing.

### Recommendation

- **Recommendation 5.1:** The City of West Allis should seek collaboration with Brookfield, New Berlin and the State of Wisconsin for any future transportation improvements to W. Greenfield Ave.

## Village of West Milwaukee

The City of West Allis shares its eastern border with the Village of West Milwaukee. As part of the Comprehensive Planning process, southern areas of this shared border with West Milwaukee have been identified for redevelopment and improvements. The area encompassing S. 54 St. and W. Burnham St. is currently occupied with underutilized and aging industrial infrastructure that will need to be investigated for redevelopment.

The City of West Allis and the Village of West Milwaukee share several community services, including a common Health Department Chamber of Commerce and school district. The two municipalities also share Information Technology services.

### Recommendations

- **Recommendation 6.1:** The City of West Allis should work with the Village of West Milwaukee to ensure that mutually beneficial and compatible development is planned along its borders.
- **Recommendation 6.2:** Key transportation and gateway corridors with West Milwaukee, such as W. National and W. Greenfield Avenues, should be looked at for improvements.
- **Recommendation 6.3:** West Allis should continue to evaluate its service relationships with West Milwaukee and look for ways to improve its efficiency and quality.

## OVERLAPPING JURISDICTIONS AND OTHER ENTITIES

Beyond municipal relationships, West Allis also has intergovernmental interaction with the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Fair Park, Milwaukee County, Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS), West Allis–West Milwaukee School District, and Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC). In addition, West Allis lies within the boundaries of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's (MMSD) authority. The following text provides a summary of how West Allis interacts with these and other entities, as well as any known areas of interest in relation to this 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

## State of Wisconsin

[\[www.Wisconsin.gov\]](http://www.Wisconsin.gov)

The City of West Allis must work with and be continually aware of State legislation and policies. The City also works regularly with various state departments and agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation and State Fair Park on matters where the State has reserved authority on local matters. State agencies, including the Departments of Administration and Commerce provide a source of funding opportunities for the development and implementation of local plans. Revenue sharing is also administered by the State, and local shares have decreased while local issues and problems remain in need of funding.



### Recommendations

- Recommendation 7.1: West Allis should continue to be aware of State legislation and work with State agencies to implement local actions.
- Recommendation 7.2: West Allis should work with the State to ensure that adequate funding, through revenue sharing and other programs, is allocated to first-ring industrial cities.

## Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

[\[www.dot.state.wi.us\]](http://www.dot.state.wi.us)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) oversees the Interstate Highway System that runs through the region and bisects West Allis. WisDOT also manages Hwy 100 and parts of W. Greenfield Avenue (west of I-894). West Allis has well established transportation infrastructure that serves as an important link to commuters throughout the metropolitan region and urban core. This infrastructure is aging and needs to be properly maintained for a healthy region.



### Recommendation

- Recommendation 8.1: The City of West Allis should continue to work with WisDOT to ensure that state controlled transportation projects complement local goals and objectives, with particular attention to the Zoo Interchange.

## Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

[\[www.dnr.state.wi.us\]](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is dedicated to the preservation, protection, effective management, and maintenance of Wisconsin's natural resources. The WDNR implements state and federal laws that protect the natural resources of the state, and



coordinates many disciplines and programs to ensure a clean environment.

In an urban environment like West Allis, the WDNR operates programs aimed at environmental clean up and management. The WDNR oversees the state's Remediation and Redevelopment program, which provides assistance in the investigation, clean up and redevelopment of contaminated properties.

### Recommendations

- Recommendation 9.1: West Allis should continue to work with the WDNR to attain funding and assistance for the management and redevelopment of contaminated sites throughout the City.
- Recommendation 9.2: The City should ensure that the policies of the WDNR do not prohibit urban redevelopment and promote sprawl.

## Wisconsin State Fair Park

[\[www.wistatefair.com\]](http://www.wistatefair.com)

Wisconsin State Fair Park is an agency of the State of Wisconsin. A Board of Directors, comprised of 13 individuals representing various communities, industries, and members of the State legislature, oversees the staff and operations at the Fair Park. A Chairperson appointed by the Governor of Wisconsin leads the board. The park, which comprises nearly 140 acres, is located within West Allis' and Milwaukee's municipal borders. Although the land is currently controlled by the State, whose authority supersedes that of West Allis, it is in the best interest





of all parties, including the City of Milwaukee, to work together on sustainable solutions for the area.

The annual 11-day Wisconsin State Fair, which is held in August, is the State Fair Park's largest event. Numerous other events are held at the State Fair Park, in addition to events hosted by the Pettit National Ice Center, Wisconsin Exposition Center and The Milwaukee Mile. Each of these entities is operated by management teams independent of the Fair Park and of each other.

### Recommendations

- Recommendation 10.1: As a major landholder, traffic generator and consumer attraction, West Allis should engage the Wisconsin State Fair Park in discussions regarding long-range plans for the site.
- Recommendation 10.2: The City should communicate with State Fair to ensure that all proposed land uses and new developments complement the City's vision at this site.
- Recommendation 10.3: Peak traffic demands associated with the park should be integrated with the city's infrastructure capacity.

## Milwaukee County

[[www.milwaukeecounty.org](http://www.milwaukeecounty.org)]

Milwaukee County manages several county-owned parks and parkways within West Allis, provides oversight of some well-utilized transportation infrastructure and offers various social services to the citizens of City of West Allis. As an overlapping taxing jurisdiction, Milwaukee County maintains a position on West Allis' Joint Review Board. There has also recently been discussion of changes to services or the structure of the County government itself.



### Recommendations

- Recommendation 11.1: Work with Milwaukee County to ensure long-term maintenance of streets, parks, parkways and regional transit within West Allis.
- Recommendation 11.2: West Allis should engage in communications with the County pertaining to the preservation, contraction or expansion of existing programs, as the County defines its future role in providing services.
- Recommendation 11.3: The City should maintain discussions with the County pertaining to the continuation and formation of TIF districts within the City.

## Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS)

[[www.ridemcts.org](http://www.ridemcts.org)]

Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) operates public transportation busses within Milwaukee County. MCTS is run by a private, not for profit management company under contract to Milwaukee County. MCTS provides more than 150,000 passenger trips daily in the Milwaukee metro area, granting mobility and freedom for all types of users. MCTS provides regularly scheduled transit service within a quarter-mile walking distance of 85% of Milwaukee County residents. Through its extensive coverage, transit service provides benefits to the entire region, and therefore, the management of such service should be operated in a regional manner. MCTS supplies important service to all citizens of the community, including those who do not regularly use transit services, but benefit from the work and mobility of those who do. As such, support for transit services should be maintained in a similar manner to that of the extensive local road network, which the public has been willing to subsidize.



### Recommendations

- Recommendation 12.1: The City of West Allis should work with MCTS to assure that regional transit service continues to be offered within the city.
- Recommendation 12.2: West Allis should identify and provide suggestions for improvements to transit service, such as potential Bus Rapid Transit or fixed-rail service within the City of West Allis.

- **Recommendation 12.3:** West Allis should participate in discussions regarding the formulation of a regional transit authority to oversee the preservation and management of the region's transit system.

### **Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)**

*[www.mmsd.com]*

MMSD is a regional government agency that provides water reclamation and flood management services for about 1.1 million customers in 28 communities in the Greater Milwaukee Area. It serves 411 square miles that cover all, or segments of six watersheds. The district was established by state law and is governed by 11 commissioners with taxing authority.



In terms of environmental management, MMSD has adopted an Environmental Sustainability policy which affirms its commitment to act as an environmental steward for the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds through the pursuit and establishment of policies, programs, and practices that are focused on environmental sustainability. MMSD focuses its services and processes toward the preservation of natural resources and the investment of resources to ensure capacity and infrastructure committed to pollution control. MMSD also partakes in floodplain conservation and waterway restoration. MMSD sets forth development standards for stormwater retention that affect redevelopment within the City of West Allis.

### Recommendations

- **Recommendation 13.1:** The City of West Allis should work with MMSD to ensure that MMSD's policies are not so onerous that they make sustainable urban redevelopment more costly than greenfield sprawl. (Cost prohibitive redevelopment policies should be modified to support a balance between user fees and developer costs.)
- **Recommendation 13.2:** The City of West Allis should continue to review plan documents and participate in discussions with MMSD, as potential stormwater or water restoration projects are considered.

### **West Allis-West Milwaukee School District**

*[www.wawm.k12.wi.us]*

The mission of the School District of West Allis - West Milwaukee, in partnership with family and community, is to provide challenging curriculum and engaging instruction so that every student may attain academic success. The district offers full and half-day kindergarten, Special Education, School-to-Work, Fine Arts, and Gifted, Talented and Creative programs.



The geographic area of the school district is comprised of the City of West Allis, the Village of West Milwaukee, and parts of the Cities of New Berlin and Greenfield (Figure 11-2). The school district occupies considerable land that is used for recreation and open space within the city. The district operates twelve elementary schools, two middle schools and two high schools. In total, the district serves approximately 18,400 children.

A nine member Board of Education, whose at-large members serve three-year terms, governs the district. In addition, a representative from the school district sits on the City's Joint Review Board and has the authority to review and approve TIF districts within the City.

### Recommendations

- **Recommendation 14.1:** The City should work with the School District on mutually beneficial upgrades to its facilities, such as the conversion of paved play areas to grass fields.
- **Recommendation 14.2:** As a sensitive traffic generator, with considerable attention needed to safety, the City should continue to work with the School District on establishing or maintaining transportation amenities throughout the city to service the needs of the District.
- **Recommendation 14.3:** The City should encourage the implementation of workforce development curricula to foster growth from secondary education to the labor force; trade, tech and apprentice programs; technical colleges; and/or, universities.
- **Recommendation 14.4:** The City should continue to work with the School District on implementing cost-effective redevelopments through TIF that will financially benefit both parties.

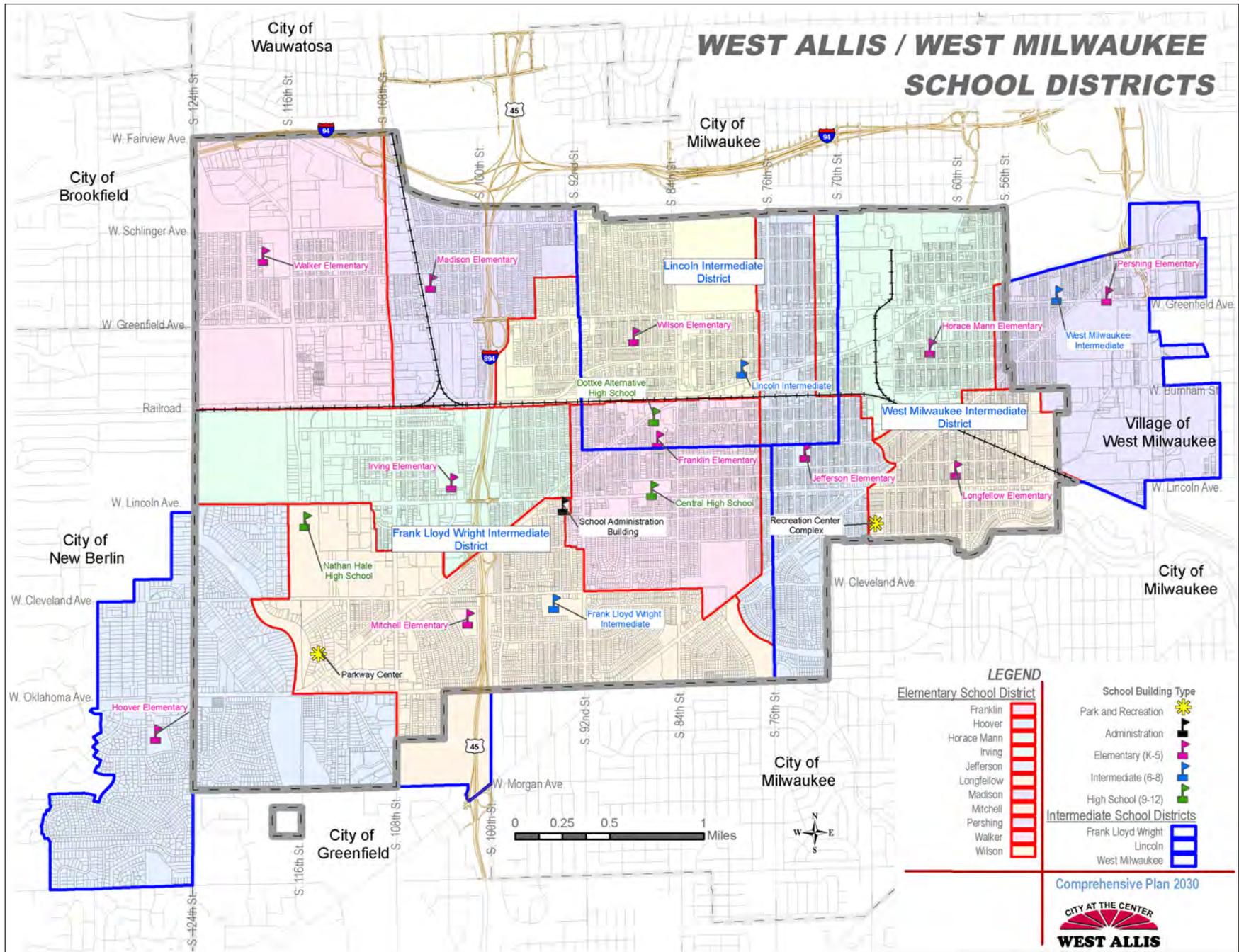
### **Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)**

*[www.matc.edu]*

The Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) is one of the districts within the 16-district



Figure 11-2.



Wisconsin Technical College System. MATC maintains campuses in Mequon, West Allis, Milwaukee and Oak Creek. MATC is managed by a governing board made up of nine members from geographical areas within the Milwaukee Area Technical College District. In 2008, MATC expanded its West Allis campus to include 5,600 sq. ft. of additional classroom and lab space. The West Allis campus currently offers 16 associate degree programs, six diploma programs and 15 certificate programs, as well as Community Enrichment Classes. The MATC Campus is a significant traffic and parking generator in the S. 70 St. Corridor.



**Recommendations**

- Recommendation 15.1: West Allis should maintain current with MATC’s long-range plans for its West Allis campus and plan mutually beneficial land use and transportation infrastructure accordingly.
- Recommendation 15.2: The City should continue to work with MATC and the private sector to develop and provide workforce development programs that coincide with local economic development efforts, including

programs aimed at non-matriculating high school students.

- Recommendation 15.3: West Allis should maintain open communication and planning participation with MATC regarding the financing and formation of redevelopment projects, such as TIF districts.

**Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)**

*[www.sewrpc.org]*

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) was established in 1960 as the official areawide-planning agency for the highly urbanized southeastern region of the State. The Commission serves the seven counties of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha. The Commission was created to provide the basic information and planning services necessary to solve problems, which transcend the corporate boundaries and fiscal capabilities of the local units of government comprising the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. SEWRPC works with regional planning issues dealing with highways, transit, sewerage, water supply, parks and open spaces, flooding, pollution, natural resources, land use and housing.



SEWRPC recently published A Regional Land Use Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035. This plan provides the base for other regional planning efforts in Southeastern Wisconsin. This plan was drafted with four basic principles: land use planning must (1) be regional in scope; (2) be conducted concurrently with transportation and public utility planning; (3) recognize

the existence of a limited natural resource base; and, (4) alternate between area wide systems planning and local planning.

Similarly, SEWRPC has published A Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035 to project the future transportation needs of the region. This multi-modal plan includes four principle elements: (1) public transit; (2) systems and demand management; (3) bicycle and pedestrian facilities; and (4) arterial streets and highways.

**Recommendations**

- Recommendation 16.1: The City should work with SEWRPC to promote policies that capitalize upon the economic and environmental benefits of urban redevelopment, and limit or equalize the cost of urban sprawl.
- Recommendation 16.2: West Allis should continue to work with SEWRPC on regional planning issues by participating in the formulation and adoption of land use, transportation and housing plans.

**Milwaukee 7 (M7)**

*[www.choosemilwaukee.com]*

The Milwaukee 7 was launched in 2005 to create a regional, cooperative economic development platform for the seven counties that comprise Southeastern Wisconsin. Its mission is to attract, retain and grow diverse businesses and talent. This entity presents the Milwaukee economy as a region, complete with a range of choices and opportunities that gives the area



a more competitive advantage. Acknowledging the value of the entire region, M7 operates as a single entity for the 7-county region it serves and aims to limit competition for economic gains between communities within its borders. M7 implements business programs and economic-based research, provides platforms for communication and policy debates, manages a site and building database for prospective businesses, actively promotes regional identity and branding, and pursues business relocation from outside the region. The M7 measures its success on improving per capita income, employment, educational attainment, export value and net regional migration.

#### Recommendation

- **Recommendation 17.1:** West Allis should continue to work with the Milwaukee 7 to improve the economic status of the region, including West Allis, by regularly communicating ideas and pursuing activities that are complementary.

### **Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA)**

*[www.weda.org]*

On a statewide economic scale, West Allis participates in activities sponsored by the Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA). WEDA is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to expanding the economy of the state. WEDA represents the collective economic development interests of both the private and public sectors by providing leadership in defining and promoting statewide economic development initiatives. WEDA maintains



Executive and Legislative Directors to administer and direct WEDA's ambitious activities and programs.

The impacts of legislative and regulatory policies on Wisconsin's economic development climate are of the highest priority to WEDA and its members. It is critical that the collective voice of economic development professionals is heard as public policy matters affecting our economy and workforce are debated and acted upon.

#### Recommendation

- **Recommendation 18.1:** West Allis should continue to work with WEDA on advancing the economic prowess of the state in a manner that provides prosperity to West Allis and the Milwaukee region.

### **First-Ring Industrial Redevelopment Enterprises (FIRE)**

First-Ring Industrial Redevelopment Enterprise (FIRE) is a Community Development Entity strategically focused to provide gap financing to mixed-use developments and business expansions throughout the Southeast Wisconsin industrial corridor. Its service area includes Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha counties. FIRE was formed under the auspices of the City of West Allis.



FIRE has a mission of stimulating regional economic growth and was designed to extend the strategies and expertise of successful revitalization opportunities throughout the "first-ring" of industrial corridors in Southeast Wisconsin. Cities in this region have been aggressively utilizing many economic development tools;

however, local entities often need further assistance to fund the extensive amount of opportunities that could be leveraged to reinvigorate our regional economy.

The principal vision of FIRE is to inject capital into mixed-use, commercial and industrial development projects to create jobs, tax base and catalyze new life in the urban cores of these targeted disinvested areas. In order to do this, FIRE has been awarded over \$100 million in New Markets Tax Credits by the CDFI Fund, an arm of the Treasury Department. This resource will be utilized as a primary vehicle to support FIRE's mission.

#### Recommendation

- **Recommendation 19.1:** The City of West Allis should continue to work with FIRE in pursuing redevelopment projects that reinvigorate brownfield property, assist mixed-use development and/or expand businesses that provide jobs for local residents.

### **Downtown West Allis Business Improvement District**

*[www.downtownwestallis.org]*

The Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) was organized in 1989 to provide West Allis' downtown business district with entrepreneurial and organizational services. The mission of the BID is to "build a positive image that encourages customer growth and community involvement." The BID is governed by a Board of Directors, which includes an ex-officio member from the City of West Allis. The district, which is located on W. Greenfield Avenue



between S. 76th and S. 70th Streets, is comprised of small businesses that include traditional and specialty retail, service providers, commercial offices, entertainment, and eating and drinking establishments. In 2001 the district was selected to participate in Wisconsin's Main Street Community program, whose four-part program deals with promotion, organization, design and economic development.

The City and BID work together on a variety of issues, including transportation and utility infrastructure, economic development, façade improvements and signage.



**Recommendations**

- Recommendation 20.1: The City should work with the BID to preserve the cultural heart of the community through mutually beneficial improvements, such as enhanced signage, building facades, streetscape elements and landscaping.
- Recommendation 20.2: The City should encourage the BID to pursue energy-efficient upgrades and conservation measures that increase the competitive advantage and image of Downtown West Allis.

**Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS)**

[[www.mcfls.org](http://www.mcfls.org)]



The West Allis Public Library is a member of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS). MCFLS assumes a leadership role in facilitating cooperation among its member libraries, which are located throughout Milwaukee County. Part of MCFLS's mission is to promote the most effective use of local, county, state and federal funds and assist member libraries in the utilization of current and evolving technologies to provide the highest possible level of library service to all residents of Milwaukee County.

MCFLS is primarily funded by the State of Wisconsin, overseen by the Department of Public Instruction, and administered by a seven-member Board of Trustees. It functions as a membership organization - with its membership made up of the 15 administratively autonomous and fiscally independent public libraries in Milwaukee County. These public libraries join the MCFLS organization voluntarily and renew their memberships periodically by signing a membership agreement.

**Recommendation**

- Recommendation 21.1: West Allis should continue to evaluate its participation within MCFLS as an optimal way of providing cost-effective and improved library services to the citizens of the city.