

# The Bay-Lake Buzz



Official Quarterly Newsletter of the Bay-Lake RPC

## Welcome!

The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission (Commission) publishes quarterly newsletters to provide updates on Commission activities, recently completed projects, upcoming meetings and events, grants and funding opportunities, and other information relevant to the Bay-Lake region.

The Commission is a public agency formed by executive order of the Governor. Wisconsin state statutes specify that regional planning commissions are to provide intergovernmental planning and coordination for the physical, social, and economic development of the region. The Commission serves an eight-county region within northeast Wisconsin consisting of Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Oconto, and Sheboygan counties.

Wondering how the Commission can help your community? Contact us today to learn how the Commission can assist in the following services:

### Community Planning

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### Transportation Planning

Heena Bhatt, *Transportation Planner*  
Phone: 920-448-2820 (Ext. 107)  
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### Mapping & Visualization

Nicole Barbiaux, *GIS Coordinator/Planner*  
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## Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission

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# Regional Brownfields Update

The Commission hosted an Introductory Brownfield Workshop in August to help get the word out about the US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant currently being administered within the region. The workshop shared introductory information about brownfields, local project examples, and brownfield related resources and tools, including the Brownfield Site Nomination Tool.

## Brownfield Site Nomination Tool and New Brownfield Website



The Brownfield Site Nomination Tool allows anyone to submit potential brownfield sites within their community to the Commission. These sites will be reviewed and prioritized by the Commission and our environmental consultants to be selected for brownfield assessment, cleanup, or redevelopment funding. Sites will be ranked by their redevelopment potential and economic impact, health and safety risks, location, and more.

The Brownfield Site Nomination Tool can be found on the newly released Commission's Brownfield Webpage. The webpage also features additional information regarding the grant, public participation opportunities and additional resources pertaining to brownfields. To learn more about the Brownfield grant being administered in the region or to submit a potential brownfield site, please visit the website [here](#) or by clicking on the image below.

**Overview**

Source: City of Manitowoc

**Bay-Lake RPC Community-Wide Brownfield Assessment Grant Program**

The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission is a multi-service governmental agency in Wisconsin that delivers a variety of federal, state, and local programs. It is a public entity established as a local unit of government providing a range of planning services to eight member counties and their municipalities in northeast Wisconsin. The region consists of Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Oconto, and Sheboygan counties.

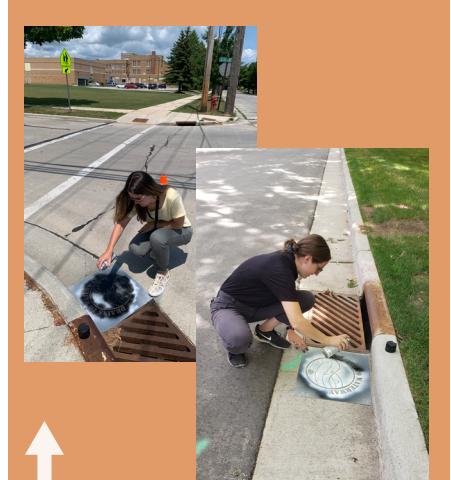
# Stormwater Education

Since 2020, the Commission has assisted Sheboygan County with yearly stormwater education and outreach. Along with the county, six municipalities within the Sheboygan County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) joined forces as the Sheboygan County Stormwater Coalition. This coalition brings together the communities as a hub for stormwater education and outreach.

Commission staff held a “storm drain logo” contest earlier this year and selected a winning design to be made into a stencil based on the following criteria:

- Integration of stormwater pollution/runoff principles
- Legibility and clarity of concept
- Suitability for public display
- Cohesiveness of design and overall aesthetic

Commission staff collaborated with public works departments to identify locations to stencil the winning design. Overall, Commission staff stenciled 16 locations in Sheboygan communities with the winning design, mostly located adjacent to parks, schools, or crosswalks.



*Above, Commission staff Jessica Missall and Izzy Fuller are seen placing the winning stencil nearby storm drains to promote stormwater education.*

*To the left, the winning stencil can be seen next to a storm drain in front of the Howards Grove Village Hall and the original submission of the winning design.*

# Sheboygan MPA Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

The Commission is currently working on developing a Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The existing bicycle and pedestrian network in the Sheboygan MPA contains gaps that often force bicyclists and pedestrians to use high-traffic and high-speed roads, use unsafe intersections, break traffic laws, or choose a different mode of transportation. The aim of this plan is to connect the people within the MPA by a safe, convenient, and enjoyable bicycle and pedestrian network that is accessible and comfortable for individuals of all ages and abilities. Furthermore, when completed, the plan will provide strategies to enhance the existing infrastructure and provide recommendations to close existing gaps in each municipality within the Sheboygan MPA.

Commission staff hosted a booth at the Saturday farmers market event in the City of Sheboygan on August 19th to promote the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and coordinated with the City of Sheboygan Department of Public Works to promote their Complete Streets Policy initiative.



*To the left is the Commission's Transportation Planner, Heena Bhatt, pictured with the City of Sheboygan's Mayor/ Bay-Lake Commissioner Ryan Sorenson promoting the bicycle and pedestrian project at the City of Sheboygan farmers market on August 19th.*



How can you help? The Commission wants to hear from the residents of the Sheboygan MPA about the existing and future bicycle and pedestrian network. Take the online survey now by [clicking here](#).

More information regarding the project can be found by clicking on the project flyer to the right or by visiting the [project webpage](#).



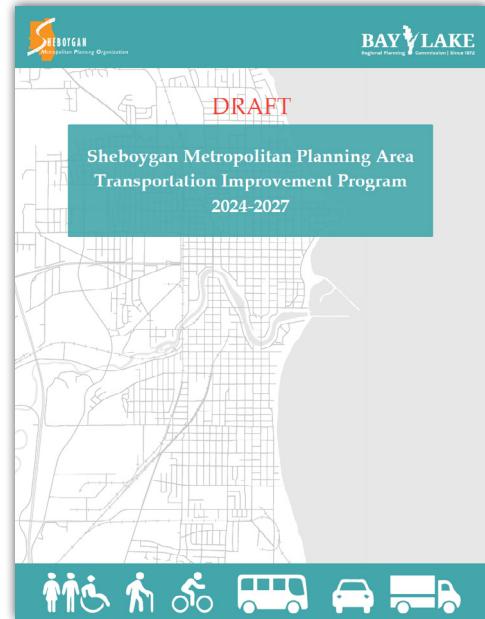
# Sheboygan MPA Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The TIP is a four-year listing of transit operating and capital, elderly and disabled transportation operating and capital, transportation enhancement, and street and highway improvements in the Sheboygan MPA. All major projects receiving federal funding must be included in the TIP. Projects are solicited from jurisdictions in the metropolitan planning area and are incorporated into the TIP. The draft TIP is reviewed by the MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees and by private transportation providers, and the general public is invited to offer comments on the projects. The TIP is forwarded to the Bay-Lake RPC for final approval.

The draft *2024 - 2027 Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* has been released for a public comment period that will run through October 27, 2023. A public hearing of the draft TIP will be held on October 26, 2023, at 1:00pm at Sheboygan City Hall, as part of the joint meeting of the Sheboygan MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees.

Written comments on the draft document should be mailed or emailed by noon of October 27, 2023, to the following:

Heena Bhatt, [hbhatt@baylakerpc.org](mailto:hbhatt@baylakerpc.org)  
Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission,  
1861 Nimitz Drive, De Pere, WI 54115



## Reminder: TAP Applications Due Soon



The deadline for submitting the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant applications is Friday, October 27, 2023. This program can provide funding for both infrastructure and planning projects. Projects must be related to surface transportation and primarily serve to benefit or increase non-motorized methods of transportation.

To find out more information about this program, please visit [WisDOT's TAP webpage](#).

# Community Development Block Grants

## What are Community Development Block Grants and how can they help your community?

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) - Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR) administers the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and provides funding to units of general local government that do not receive an annual allocation directly from HUD. The primary purpose of the [CDBG program](#) is the development of viable communities through the provision of decent affordable housing, a suitable living environment, and the expansion of economic opportunities, principally for the benefit of persons of low and moderate income.

There are multiple CDBG programs within the state. Some of the most common include:

- **Public Facilities (CDBG-PF)** - Funds help support infrastructure and facility projects for communities. Examples of eligible projects include improvements, repairs, or expansions of streets, drainage systems, water and sewer systems, sidewalks, and community centers. Grants are limited to projects that, if implemented, meet a CDBG National Objective. The grant application is expected to be released in January. Get in contact with Bay-Lake RPC for assistance.
- **Economic Development (CDBG-ED)** - Grant funds are awarded to local governments to assist businesses to create or retain jobs for individuals with low and moderate incomes. Examples of eligible projects include: business loans to expand facilities or purchase equipment, specialized employee training, or business infrastructure projects.
- **Planning (CDBG-PLNC)** - Grant funds support community efforts to address improving community opportunities and vitality. Examples of eligible projects include the development of comprehensive plans, community development plans, and small area and neighborhood plans. Grants are limited to projects that, if implemented, meet a CDBG National Objective.
- **Public Facilities Economic Development (CDBG-PFED)** - Grant Funds are awarded to local governments for public infrastructure projects that support business expansion or retention. Examples of eligible applications include: new or improved water & sewer service and streets that result in business expansion and job opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals.

## Did you know...

The Commission provides grant writing, grant administration, and labor wage monitoring services for CDBG and other state/federally funded projects. A few recently completed projects that the Commission recently assisted on are shown below.



From left to right: Town of Underhill Fire Station Project, Oconto County New Beginnings Project, Manitowoc County Parks Project (Walla Hi Pavilion).

To learn more about CDBG or other grant program please contact Sydney Swan by [email](#) or at 920-448-2820, Ext. 108.

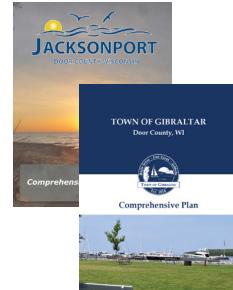
# Hot off the Press - Completed Documents

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## Comprehensive Plans

The Commission recently completed comprehensive plan updates for the Towns of Jacksonport and Gibraltar in Door County. These comprehensive plans serve as a long-range guide for the growth and development of these communities for the next 20 years. These plans can be viewed by clicking on the links below.

- The [Town of Jacksonport Comprehensive Plan](#) was adopted by the Town Board on June 27, 2023.
- The [Town of Gibraltar Comprehensive Plan](#) was adopted by the Town Board on July 5, 2023. An [online story map](#) was also created with the plan update.

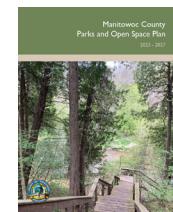


Within the past couple of months, the Commission initiated comprehensive plan updates with the towns of Egg Harbor and Washington and the Village of Sister Bay, in Door County. These plans are anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2024.

If you have any question about updating your comprehensive plan, please contact [Brandon Robsinson](#).

## Outdoor Recreation

The [Manitowoc County Parks and Open Space Plan](#) was adopted by the County Board on August 15, 2023. An [online story map](#) was also created with the plan update and serves as an interactive representation of the document. The plan will help assist the county with future decisions involving county-owned and maintained parks and open spaces as well as assist in funding opportunities for park enhancements.



In September, the Commission began working with the Village of Sister Bay on an update to the Village's Outdoor Recreation Plan. This plan update is anticipated to be completed in June of 2024.

If you have any questions about updating your comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, please contact [Nicole Barbiaux](#).

# Featured Funding Opportunities

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The Commission maintains a [Funding and Grant Opportunities Portal](#) that provides information about new and upcoming funding opportunities. Funding opportunities that are due over the next three months are highlighted below.

## **■ AARP Small Dollar, Big Impact Grant** (Deadlines: October 17, November 21, December 12)

Small Dollar, Big Impact grants are exactly what the name describes - simple, short-term, low-cost solutions that could have remarkable impacts on the shaping of neighborhoods and cities. We know how impactful \$1,000 can be. This is our way of extending some seed money to get these projects off the ground. [More info...](#)

## **■ WisDOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)** (Deadline: October 27)

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a legislative program that was authorized in Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act ("FAST Act"), the federal transportation act that was signed into law in December of 2015. TAP can provide funding for infrastructure and planning projects. These projects must be related to surface transportation and primarily serve to benefit or increase non-motorized methods of transportation. [More info...](#)

## **■ PeopleForBikes (P4B) Community Grant** (Deadline: October 31)

The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. [More info...](#)

## **■ WDNR Clean Water Fund Program** (Deadline: October 31)

Since 1991, the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) provides affordable financial assistance to municipalities for publicly-owned wastewater and storm water infrastructure projects that are needed to achieve or maintain compliance with federal and state regulation, such as Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permits. [More info...](#)

## **■ WDNR Safe Drinking Water Loan Program** (Deadline: October 31)

Since 1998, the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) provides affordable financial assistance to municipalities for publicly-owned drinking water infrastructure projects that are needed to protect public health and achieve or maintain compliance with federal and state regulations relating to water supply, such as the SDWA. [More info...](#)

## **■ DOA Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP)** (Deadline: November 3)

The Coastal Management Grant program provides grant funding to local governments, nonprofit organizations, schools and universities, and state agencies for coastal resiliency projects. The funding of these grants is made possible by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management in the U.S. Department of Commerce, with a match requirement from applicants, for innovative coastal initiatives. [More info...](#)

## **■ WDNR Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Grant** (Deadline: December 1)

Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control (UWDAC) grants are used to help urban areas develop wildlife plans, implement specific damage abatement and/or control measures for white-tailed deer and/or Canada geese. [More info...](#)

## **■ WDT Meetings Mean Business (MMB) Grant Program** (Deadline: December 1)

The purpose of the fund is to assist destinations as they bid for national or Midwest regional meetings and conventions that generate hotel overnights and a significant economic impact for the area where they'll be held. Such meetings may be held by a variety of different kinds of businesses, trade shows organizations, groups, etc. The purpose is to bring meetings or conventions into the state, but not to fund existing in-state events that are regularly scheduled or which routinely rotate to destinations within the state. [More info...](#)

## **■ Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative Grant Program** (Deadline: December 15)

The Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative is dedicated to those who work and play outdoors including, but not limited to, those who rely on off-highway vehicles (OHVs) to ride, camp, hunt or fish. Supporting the outdoor enthusiast, the Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative's mission is to provide practical support for efforts that promote safe, responsible use of OHVs, educate the public on proper recreational land use and wildlife conservation practices, and protect appropriate and sustainable access to public lands. [More info...](#)

## Featured Funding Opportunities (Cont.)

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### ■ **T-Mobile Hometown Grants Program** (Deadline: December 31)

T-Mobile is committing up to \$25 million over the next 5 years to support small towns across America by funding community projects. [More info...](#)

### ■ **WisNRF Go Outside Fund** (Deadline: December 31)

We know that nature provides tremendous physical and mental health benefits - yet today's children spend less than 1% of their time outside. The Go Outside Fund provides funding that helps connect youth to outdoor, nature-based learning experiences. [More info...](#)

### ■ **WDT Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) Grant Program** (Deadline: January 1)

The purpose of the fund is to assist destinations as they bid for national or Midwest regional competitive sporting events that generate hotel overnights and a significant economic impact for the area where they'll be held. [More info...](#)

### ■ **WDT Tourist Information Center (TIC) Grant Program** (Deadline: January 1)

The Department is pleased to support our industry partners that are on the front lines of meeting, greeting and directing travelers on the road. Providing information about the state of Wisconsin and your region drives traveler spending and helps visitors have a memorable Wisconsin visit. This grant program is open to non-profit tourism organizations, municipalities or Native American tribes who operate a regional tourism businesses. This means that you are housed in a key location for travelers to stop by, that you have trained staff, track visitors and provide information on your region and the state. [More info...](#)



## Upcoming Events/Meetings

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### October

Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) - Fall Regional Meeting  
October 18 - 20 | Location: Pointe Hotel and Suites, Minocqua, WI ([More info..](#))

2023 Wisconsin Economic Summit  
October 23 - 24 | Location: Fox Cities Exhibition Center, Appleton ([More info..](#))

Sheboygan MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees Joint Meeting and public hearing for 2024 - 2027 Transportation Improvement Program  
Thursday, October 26, 1:00pm | Location: Sheboygan City Hall

Bay-Lake RPC Executive Committee Meeting  
Friday, October 27, 10:00am | Location: Bay-Lake RPC Office

Village of Sister Bay Outdoor Recreation Plan Update - Public Workshop  
Monday, October 30, 3pm - 6pm | Sister Bay Liberty Grove Fire Station, 2250 Mill Rd, Sister Bay

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### November

Esri Wisconsin User Group (EWUG) 2023  
November 9 - 10, 8am - 5pm | Location: Lambeau Field Atrium, Green Bay ([More info..](#))

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### December

Sheboygan MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees Joint Meeting  
Thursday, December 7, 1:00pm | Location: Sheboygan City Hall

Bay-Lake RPC Full Commission Meeting  
Friday, December 8, 10:00am | Location: Bay-Lake RPC Office



## Holiday Office Hours

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Throughout the next couple of months, the Bay-Lake RPC office will be closed on the following days due to holiday observances:

■ Thursday, November 23, 2023	■ Friday, December 29, 2023
■ Monday, December 25, 2023	■ Monday, January 1, 2024
■ Tuesday, December 26, 2023	