

The Bay-Lake Buzz



Official Quarterly Newsletter of the Bay-Lake RPC

Welcome!

The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission (Commission) publishes quarterly newsletters in the Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall 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 entity similar to a municipality and provides a range of planning services to member local governments. 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 find more about how the Commission can assist in the following services:

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Retirements Announced



Cindy Wojtczak will be retiring in early June after serving as the Commission's Executive Director for the last seven and a half years. She started her career working for the Commission in 1984 as an intern and ended up filling the Economic Development Planner position for Bay-Lake RPC until leaving in 2003 when she took a similar position in the private sector working for a local engineering firm. In 2015, twelve years later, she returned to the Commission to finish out her 26 year career with the agency.

Cindy plans to spend more time with family and to do some extensive traveling once she is retired. In addition to that, her love for crafting, sewing, and golf will keep her plenty busy as she moves into the next chapter of her life.



Jeff Agee-Aguayo has also announced that he will be retiring in early June after serving as a Transportation Planner for the Commission. Jeff has been at the Commission for over 35 years after joining the staff in July 1987. Jeff's main duties in those 35 years have involved a broad range of activities under the Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) program. He has also been involved with other tasks over his career, including consolidated (affordable housing) plans, comprehensive plans, hazard mitigation plans, and various tasks under the Commission's regional transportation program. Jeff's biggest passion at work was assisting transit operations with their planning or any other technical assistance that was needed.

Jeff will stay involved in many activities after retirement, including serving in the Allouez Lions Club, the Eye-Link Wisconsin Board of Directors, the Northeast Wisconsin (NEW) Latinx Rising Board of Directors, and as a volunteer GED instructor for Casa ALBA Melanie and an English tutor for Literacy Green Bay. Jeff also hopes to travel to Iowa and Nebraska more to see his mother and siblings and to southwestern Wisconsin to see his son more often.

The Commission would like to thank both Cindy and Jeff for their many years of service at the Commission and congratulates them on their retirement!

Celebrating 51 Years of Planning!



On Friday, April 21st, the Commission will celebrate 51 years since being established as the official area-wide planning agency for northeastern Wisconsin. The establishment came in 1972 at the request of seven county boards in the Bay-Lake region with the eighth county (Florence) joining the Commission in December 1973.

The Commission logo has always featured the eight counties in throughout history. The Commission's current logo (shown below) became the official logo in 2018 and still features the county outlines.



Spring Stormwater Runoff Education

The sun is out, you hear the melting snow dripping off the roof (finally), and the air feels fresh. Take it all in, then dig a little deeper. The development around you—the roads and buildings—introduce impervious hard surfaces to natural environments where precipitation and runoff could historically soak into the ground. The decreased infiltration and increased runoff that result from impervious surfaces add pollution to streams, rivers, and creeks, and ultimately larger water bodies such as Lake Michigan. The dog waste your neighbor left on the grass down the road, the cigarette butt flicked out of a window as a car passed your house, and the salt caking the road and your driveway will all be picked up by flowing water.

These non-point source pollutants, along with point source pollutants from factory wastewater, oil spills, wastewater treatment plants, and mining ponds, will all be conveyed by the flowing water into local waterways. This pollution can cause algae blooms, fish contamination and die offs, habitat quality reduction or loss, and loss of outdoor activities/beach closures. Here's what you can do about it:



Sheboygan County Stormwater Coalition

For the fourth year in a row, the Sheboygan County Stormwater Coalition has enlisted the Commission to help meet the Wisconsin requirements for stormwater management education and outreach. This year, staff are administering a “storm drain logo contest” among students in Sheboygan County. Submissions should include the text “drains to the waterway” and the winning submission will be converted to a stencil and painted next to storm drains in communities within the coalition to increase public awareness of stormwater runoff and pollution. Read more about the coalition [here](#), and students, submit your design [here!](#)

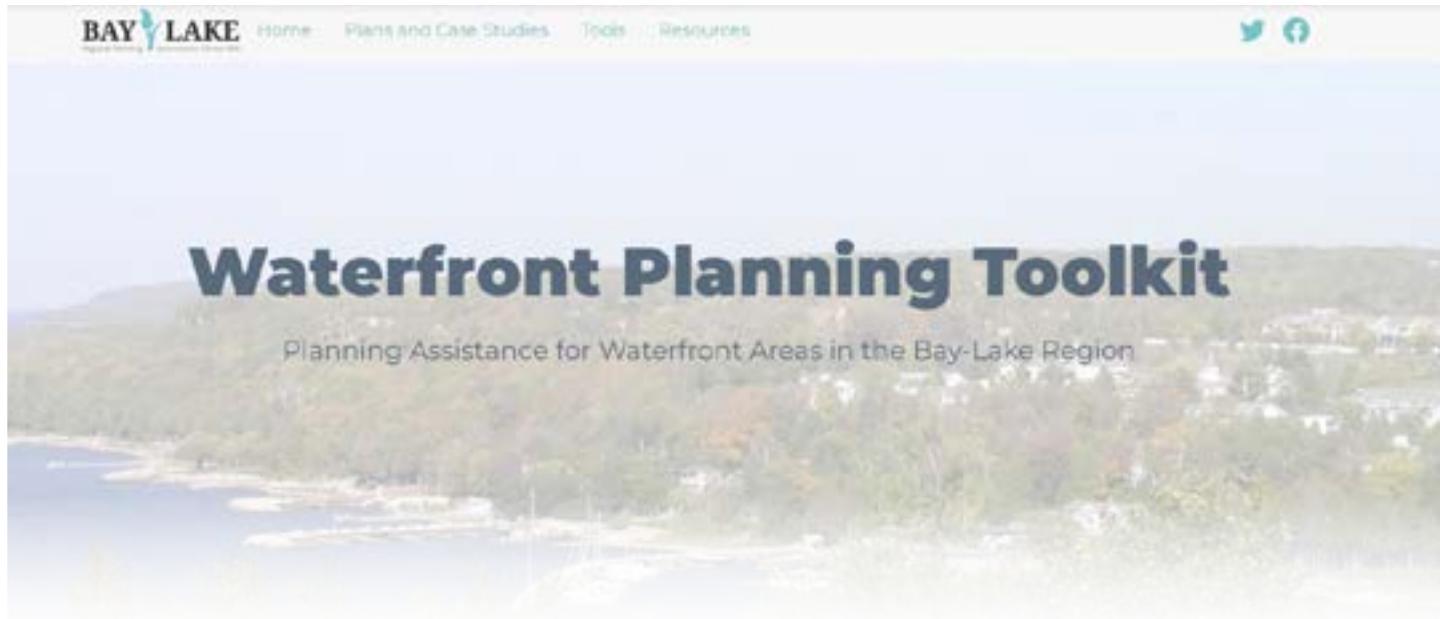


STORM DRAIN LOGO CONTEST!
Students, submit your design today!



Waterfront Toolkit

On May 23rd, Commission staff will host an open house for the Waterfront Toolkit, a resource designed to provide planning assistance to and catalyze change in waterfront areas in the Bay-Lake Region. Funded by the [Wisconsin Coastal Management Program](#), the toolkit strives to articulate the value of waterfront plans and help waterfront communities shape their long-term resilience and sustainability by establishing a set of tools and best practices to promote successful planning efforts.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Waterfront Planning Toolkit. The header features the Bay-Lake logo and navigation links for Home, Plans and Case Studies, Tools, and Resources. Social media icons for Twitter and Facebook are also present. The main title "Waterfront Planning Toolkit" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, dark blue font. Below it, a subtitle reads "Planning Assistance for Waterfront Areas in the Bay-Lake Region". The background of the page is a photograph of a coastal landscape with a rocky shoreline and buildings in the distance.

The toolkit website is broken down into four main sections. **Home** gives a project overview and can help inform visitors whether waterfront planning is right for them and their community. The next tab is **Plans and Case Studies**, where you can find information on and links to waterfront and other related plans. There is also detailed information about diverse waterfront projects broken down by cost/funding strategies, public participation, successes/obstacles, and partnerships, as well as overarching themes drawn from the set of projects. Next is **Tools**, which includes downloadable pdf, Word, and InDesign documents designed specifically for the waterfront planning process, including developing a timeline and committee, assessing amenities, developing outreach efforts, and organizing a final document. Finally, under **Resources**, you will find external links to funding sources, waterfront planning related guides, and data sources that can be used in planning efforts.

[Explore the toolkit here!](#) Please reach out to Izzy Fuller with any questions or feedback via email (ifuller@baylakerpc.org) or phone (920-448-2920 ext. 106).



The invitation for the Waterfront Toolkit Open House is displayed on a yellow background. It features the text "Waterfront Toolkit Open House" and a large yellow arrow pointing to the right, with the word "Details" inside the arrow. The background image shows a coastal scene with a rocky shoreline and water.

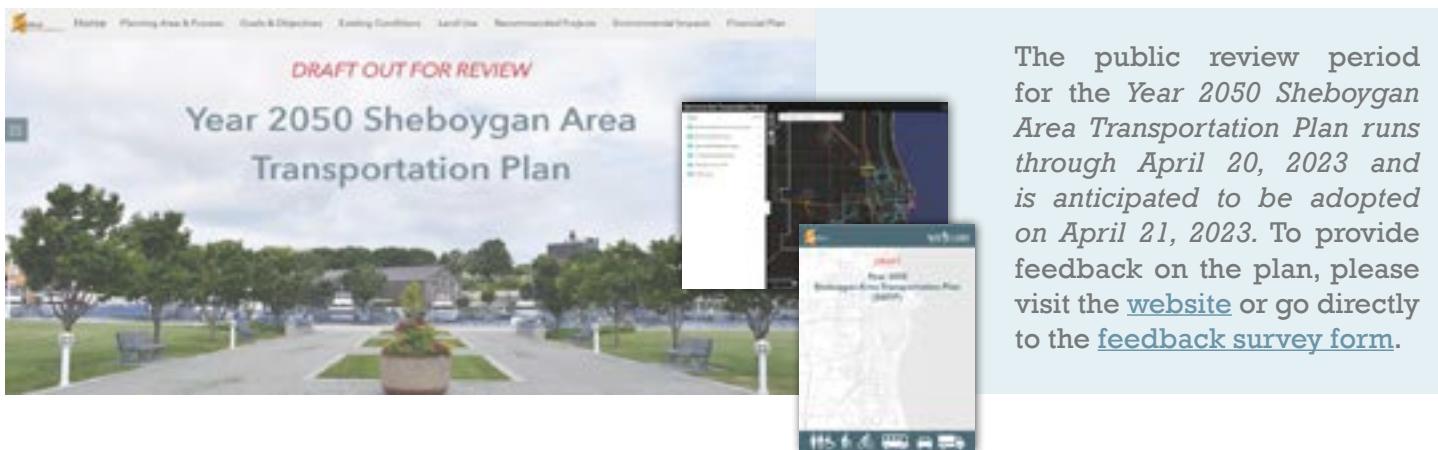


The details page for the open house is shown on a blue background. It includes the date and time (May 23, 2023, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm), location (Riverview Room, Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Manitowoc), and an invitation to an open house featuring the Waterfront Toolkit. The toolkit's subtitle, "Planning Assistance for Waterfront Areas in the Bay-Lake Region", is also present. A QR code is provided for exploring the toolkit via QR code or website. The footer includes the Bay-Lake logo and navigation links for Home, Plans and Case Studies, Tools, and Resources.

Year 2050 Sheboygan Area Transportation Plan

The *Year 2050 Sheboygan Area Transportation Plan* (SATP) is a long-range transportation plan for the Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area that is required to be updated every four years. The plan identifies the long-range transportation needs projected to the year 2050 by analyzing existing systems and preparing plans and studies in a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous manner. It also considers possible infrastructure improvements and establishes priorities to implement projects based on anticipated funding.

An interactive website was created to visualize existing conditions, land use, and environmental impacts in comparison to the six recommended capacity modifying street and highway improvements projects. The website gives users the ability to better understand the recommended projects, locations, and potential effects. Additionally, within the site, there are links to the full chapters to dive deeper into the document, downloadable PDFs of maps including existing conditions of the transportation network, and related documents and resources. [Click here to explore the site!](#)



The public review period for the *Year 2050 Sheboygan Area Transportation Plan* runs through April 20, 2023 and is anticipated to be adopted on April 21, 2023. To provide feedback on the plan, please visit the [website](#) or go directly to the [feedback survey form](#).

Other Sheboygan MPO Planning Activities

The *2022 System Performance Indicators Report* was prepared by staff in January. The report provides an annual snapshot of how well the transportation system is performing over time in the Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area. It also helps assist the Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) with general transportation planning. To review the report please [click here](#).

There were two new projects added to the *2023 Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Planning Work Program*. One of the projects is a bicycle and pedestrian transportation study and the other is a Sheboygan County Transportation Planning/Feasibility Study as a freestanding element.

Minor amendments to the elderly and disabled transportation project, elderly and disabled transportation capital project, and street and highway improvement project components of the *2023 – 2026 TIP* were processed in January. Major amendments to the street and highway project component of the *2023 – 2026 TIP* were processed in February and March. The *Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for Calendar Year 2022* was also prepared, presented to the MPO advisory committees, and posted to the MPO webpage.

For any questions on the *Year 2050 Sheboygan Area Transportation Plan* or anything related to the Sheboygan MPO, please contact [Heena Bhatt](#) or [Jeff Agee-Aguayo](#).



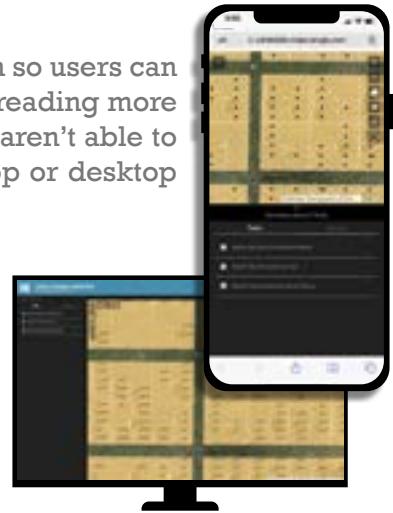
City of Sheboygan Falls Online Cemetery Application

The City of Sheboygan Falls cemetery contains over 9,500 grave sites with over 5,800 burials. Managing all of this information can be overwhelming and can take a lot of city staff time to go out to the cemetery when someone is interested in purchasing an available grave site or wanting to know where someone is buried. To come up with a better solution, the City of Sheboygan Falls teamed up with the Commission to create an interactive [online cemetery application](#) for the city's cemetery. The application provides search capabilities and details regarding all of the grave sites and burials within the cemetery. Members of the public can also identify grave sites that are available for purchase without having to contact city staff to see which sites have already been purchased and which sites are available.

The application can be viewed on any mobile device and has a locate function so users can locate themselves within the cemetery and take their own "self-guided" tour reading more about the cemetery layout and the burials that surround them. For those who aren't able to use the mobile functionality, the application can also be viewed on any laptop or desktop setting.

In addition to the public application, a second internal application was created to assist city staff manage the cemetery database and to provide functionality to edit burials and individual grave sites, assist in running annual reports, and add/view any important notes pertaining to any individual site.

Explore the online cemetery application [here!](#) Any questions related to the project or application can be directed to [Nicole Barbiaux](#).



Hot off the Press - Completed Projects

Comprehensive Plans

Over the past few months, the Commission completed comprehensive plan updates for the Village of Luxemburg in Kewaunee County and the Village of Mishicot in Manitowoc 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 [Village of Luxemburg Comprehensive Plan](#) was adopted by the Village Board on March 14, 2023.
- The [Village of Mishicot Comprehensive Plan](#) was adopted by the Village Board on April 4, 2023.

The Commission continues to work with several communities in northeast Wisconsin to complete their comprehensive plan updates, including the towns of Jacksonport and Gibraltar in Door County and the City of Peshtigo in Marinette County. These plans are anticipated to be completed this Summer.

Did You Know?

While it is common to refer a community's comprehensive plan as a 20 year vision, Wisconsin state statutes require comprehensive plans to be updated every 10 years.



EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Update

The Commission received \$500,000 in Brownfield Assessment funding from the EPA in 2022 and will be used to conduct brownfield site assessments throughout the Bay-Lake region. The Commission issued a Request for Proposals for a qualified environmental professional in February and in March, Stantec Engineering's proposal was selected. Stantec will be assisting with phase I and phase II site assessments, redevelopment and clean up planning, and more.



Know of any potential brownfield sites to be included in the brownfield site assessments? Please inform the Commission by filling out the [Brownfield Site Inventory Form](#) and the site may be eligible to be included in the site assessments provided through the EPA grant.

The Commission will continue to share updates and progress as they begin to work with Stantec and implement the grant throughout the region. Should you have any questions about the EPA Assessment funding, please contact [Sydney Swan](#).

Featured Funding Opportunities

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: April 18, May 16, June 20)

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...](#)

■ **US Marine Highway Grant Program** (Deadline: April 28)

Funds for FY 2023 USMHP grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to assist in funding eligible projects for the purpose of developing, expanding, or promoting marine highway transportation. [More info...](#)

■ **USDOT Port Infrastructure Development Grants** (Deadline: April 28)

The program awards grants to improve facilities within, or outside or and directly related to operations of or an intermodal connection to, coastal seaports, inland river ports, and Great Lakes ports. [More info...](#)

■ **Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Program** (Deadline: May 1)

Subprograms of this grant program share an application form and include Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space (UGS) grants, Urban Rivers (UR) grants, and Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR). [More info...](#)

■ **WDNR Land and Water Conservation Fund Program** (Deadline: May 1)

This is a federal program administered to all states that encourages the creation and interpretation of high quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Funds received by the DNR for this program are split between DNR projects and grants to local governments for outdoor recreation activities. [More info...](#)

■ **WDNR Recreational Trails Program** (Deadline: May 1)

This is a federal program administered in all states. Municipal governments and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive reimbursement for the development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. [More info...](#)

■ **USDOT Port Security Grant Program** (Deadline: May 18)

The PSGP provides funds to state, local, and private sector maritime partners to support increased port-wide risk management and protect critical surface transportation infrastructure from acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies. [More info...](#)

Featured Funding Opportunities (Cont.)

■ **USDOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program** (Deadline: May 30)

The CFI Program is a new competitive grant program created through the BIL to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure in the places people live and work. [More info...](#)

■ **WPS Rewarding Responders Grant** (Deadline: June 15)

Wisconsin Public Service Foundation helps support local public safety response agencies with the Rewarding Responders Grant. Grants may be used to purchase equipment and professional development, but should be part of a well-planned and integrated public safety initiative. [More info...](#)

■ **T-Mobile Hometown Grants Program** (Deadline: June 30)

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...](#)

■ **WDNR Safe Drinking Water Loan Program** (Deadline: June 30)

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...](#)

■ **WisNRF Go Outside Fund** (Deadline: June 30)

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 Tourist Information Center (TIC) Grant Program** (Deadline: July 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. [More info...](#)

■ **NEA Grants for Arts Projects** (Deadline: July 6)

Through project-based funding, the program supports public engagement with, and access to, various forms of art across the nation, the creation of excellent art, learning in the arts at all stages of life, and the integration of the arts into the fabric of community life. [More info...](#)

■ **WDNR Shooting Range Grant Program** (Deadline: July 15)

This grant program is to provide assistance in outdoor shooting range construction, including backstops and berms, target holders, shooting benches, baffles, protective fencing, signs, trenches, gun racks, platforms, restrooms and other items considered essential for the project by the department. [More info...](#)



Upcoming Events/Meetings

April

Sheboygan MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees Joint Meeting
Thursday, April 20, 1:00pm | Location: Sheboygan City Hall (Room 106), Sheboygan

Bay-Lake RPC Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, April 21, 10:00am | Location: Bay-Lake RPC Office

May

Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) Spring Regional Meeting
Wednesday, May 17 - Friday, May 19 | Location: The Lismore, Eau Claire | [Register Here](#)

Waterfront Toolkit Open House
Tuesday, May 23, 2:00 - 4:00pm | Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Manitowoc

June

Bay-Lake RPC Full Commission Meeting
Friday, June 9, 10:00am | Bay-Lake RPC Office