EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this section is to explain how the comprehensive plan will be utilized to guide future growth and development in Ridgeway and is intended to serve as the blueprint for the future. As change is inevitable, the plan may need to be amended to appropriately reflect major changes. Section I will review how each section of the comprehensive plan elements interrelate and how the plan will be monitored and evaluated. The final part of this Section is a discussion on how the plan will be updated at a minimum of once every ten years.



Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(i)

(i) Implementation element. A compilation of programs and specific actions to be completed in a stated sequence, including proposed changes to any applicable zoning ordinances, official maps, or subdivision ordinances, to implement the objectives, policies, plans and programs contained in pars. (a) to (h). The element shall describe how each of the elements of the comprehensive plan will be integrated and made consistent with the other elements of the comprehensive plan and shall include a mechanism to measure the local governmental unit's progress toward achieving all aspects of the comprehensive plan. The element shall include a process for updating the comprehensive plan. A comprehensive plan under this subsection shall be updated no less than once every 10 years.

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IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES

> Enforce local ordinances to maintain the character of existing and future land uses within the Town of Ridgeway.

Local ordinances must be enforced consistently to maintain the character of the town. Again, the keyword is enforcement.

> Update the Town of Ridgeway comprehensive plan at a minimum of every ten years as required by Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001.

This plan needs to be updated at least once every ten years. Depending on development or other changes, the plan may need to be updated on a more frequent basis.

Amend the local comprehensive plan and ordinances only after careful evaluation of existing conditions and potential impacts.

Depending on what takes place in Ridgeway in the next 20 years, this comprehensive plan and enforcement ordinance may need to be amended. This should be done with extreme caution.

CONSISTENCY AMONG PLAN ELEMENTS

As required by Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001, all elements included in this plan are consistent with one another and no known conflicts exist. All nine elements included in this plan work to achieve the desired future for the Town of Ridgeway.

PLAN ADOPTION

The first official action required to implement the Town of Ridgeway comprehensive plan is official adoption of the plan by the local Plan Commission. Once the local Plan Commission adopts the plan by resolution, the Town Board then needs to adopt the comprehensive plan by ordinance as required by State Statute 66.1001. After the plan is adopted by ordinance, it then becomes the official tool for future development in the next 20 years. The plan will guide development in a consistent manner.

LOCAL ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS

The intent of the local ordinances and regulations is to control development of land within the town. By carefully applying these local ordinances and regulations, the Town of Ridgeway will be accomplishing policies of the comprehensive plan. Enforcement of such ordinances and regulations serve an important function by ensuring orderly growth and development. The Town of Ridgeway will continue to use the lowa County Zoning Ordinance as a primary tool of enforcement.

PLAN AMENDMENTS

The Town Board can amend the Town of Ridgeway Comprehensive Plan at any time. Amendments would be any changes to plan maps or text. Amendments may be necessary due to changes in town policies, programs, or services, as well as changes in state or federal laws. An amendment may also be needed due to unique proposals presented to the town. Proposed amendments should be channeled through the local planning commission and then final action should occur at the Town Board.

PLAN UPDATES

As required by Wisconsin State Statute, the comprehensive plan needs to be updated at least once every ten years. An update is different than an amendment, as an update is a major revision of multiple plan sections including maps. The plan was originally written based on variables that are ever changing and future direction might be inaccurately predicted. A plan update should include public involvement, as well as an official public hearing.

RURAL RESIDENTAL SITING CRITERIA

The criteria in Table I.1 must be met in order to comply with the Town of Ridgeway and Iowa County's comprehensive plans. Items listed in Column A are standard across the county. Items in Column B are specific to the Town of Ridgeway.

Table I.1 Rural Residential Siting Criteria

Complies	Does Not Comply	Column A – Iowa County Criteria	Complies	Does Not Comply	Column B – Town of Ridgeway Criteria
		1.Septic System Requirement (Required space to accommodate a septic system and back-up system – unless connected to a municipal system)			Minimum Lot Size (One acre – Development must have adequate space for facilities (e.g. well, septic, field))
		2.Private Well (Required space to accommodate a well – unless connected to a municipal system; adequate sizing (requiring evidence of a DNR well permit); type of water conservation techniques will be used in business)			2. Density Standard (none)
		3. Access/Driveway Approval (Written approval from the respective town stating a driveway access would be permitted to this site)			3. Driveway Standards (See Town of Ridgeway Driveway Ordinance)
		Floodplain (Rezone must conform to any state and federal floodplain standard)			4. Compliance with Town Land Use Map
		5. Shoreland & Wetland (Rezone must confirm to any state or local shoreland and wetland standards)			5. Compliance with Town Ordinances
		6. Use Must Comply With District (The proposed uses comply with uses in requested or existing zone district; lot configuration, etc.)			6. Compatibility with Surrounding Land Uses
		7. Compliance With Town Criteria (The rezone must comply with the minimum number of town standards required in Column B)			7. Visual/Aesthetic Standards
					Prime Soils (Development must preserve ag land)
					Review BRRTS database for applicable DNR activity

COMMERCIAL SITING CRITERIA

Because commercial development can vary significantly from retail sales to heavy industrial, the criteria below are more general in nature. Individual towns may want to consider having more specific requirements for particular types of business. The concept here is similar to the process for rural residential siting criteria. Items listed in Column A are standard across lowa County; items in Column B are specific to the Town of Ridgeway.

Table I.2: Commercial Siting Criteria

Complies	Does Not Comply	Column A – Iowa County Criteria	Complies	Does Not Comply	Column B – Town of Ridgeway Criteria
		Septic System Requirement (Required space to accommodate a septic system and backup system – unless connected to a municipal system)			1. Feasibility of Business - Required
		2. Private Well (Required space to accommodate a well – unless connected to a municipal system; adequate sizing (requiring evidence of a DNR well permit); type of water conservation techniques will be used in business.)			2. Driveway/Access Approval – not to exceed Town standards.
		3. Access / Driveway Approval (Written approval from the respective town stating a driveway access would be permitted to this site)			3. Social Impacts – the town will look at negative and positive impacts. -Traffic patterns: look at road maintenance and safety - Aesthetics: how does it affect people around it? - Sense of Neighborhood: how does it affect people around it? - Potential Ancillary Development: Will it fit in the future?
		4. Floodplain (Rezone must conform to any state and federal floodplain standards)			4. Natural Resource Impacts - Air Quality Impacts: will it pollute air in future? - Water Quality Impacts: will quality or supply be affected? - Erosion Potential: will erosion be controlled during construction? - Noise Impacts: will noise be an issue? - Odor Impacts: do not allow if smell
		5. Shoreland & Wetland (Rezone must conform to any state or local shoreland and wetland standards)			will affect neighbors. 5. Compliance with Town Land Use Map
		6. Use Must Comply With District			6. Compliance with Town Ordinances

(The proposed uses comply with uses in requested or existing zoning district; lot configuration, etc)	(Development must comply with Town or Ridgeway land use ordinances.)
7. Social impacts (Traffic patterns; compatibility with neighboring land use; ancillary development potential.)	7. Other Criteria The town's focus is on how a proposed development affects the community and neighbors, not as much so for on potential success of the business.
8. Impact on natural resources (Erosion control plan; air quality; water quality; chemical infiltration of soils; erosion potential; noises; odors)	8. Review BRRTS database for applicable DNR activity
9. Business Plan (Growth potential, market, financing, phased developments, etc)	9.
10. Compliance Town Criteria (The rezone must comply with the minimum number of town standards required in Column B)	10.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

The Town of Ridgeway Comprehensive Plan Policy Summary Tables (below) list the Town's policies by element and provides spaces for actions, implementation groups, and timeline to implement various aspects of this comprehensive plan.

Table I.3 ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Policies	Action-Plan	Key Groups of Implementation	Timeframe
Protect and improve the health, safety, and welfare of residents in the Town of Ridgeway.			
Preserve and enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Town of Ridgeway.			
Protect and preserve the small community character of the Town of Ridgeway.			

Table I.4 HOUSING

GOAL: ADEQUATE RANGE OF HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THE VARIED NEEDS OF EXISTING AND FUTURE RESIDENTS

Policies	Action-Plan	Key Groups of Implementation	Timeframe
Policies Encourage the provision of an adequate supply			
of single-family homes, condominiums and townhouses,			
duplexes, assisted living, and housing for the elderly.			
Provide choices of owner and renter type-housing units			
to serve the current and future needs of all residents.	11.2		

Promote the preservation and rehabilitation of the existing housing stock in the Town of Ridgeway.	
Preserve and expand the supply of affordable rental and ownership housing for low and moderate-income individuals.	
Enforce the lowa County Zoning Ordinance to maintain the character of existing and future residential neighborhoods.	
Coordinate planning activities with Iowa County and surrounding jurisdictions to effectively plan for residential growth.	
Discourage residential development in areas where soils, slope, environmental, or other topographical limitations prove to be unsuitable for maintaining ground quality and preventing erosion.	
Continue to identify areas and designate land for future housing developments.	
Review new housing proposals and support those proposals and programs that meet the town's housing needs and are consistent with the policies outlined in the comprehensive plan.	

Table I.5 TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: SAFE AND	EFFICIENT	TRANSPORTATION	SYSTEMS,	WHICH	ACCOMMODATE	THE
MOVEMENT OF PEOF	LE AND GO	ODS				

Policies	Action-Plan	Key Groups of Implementation	Timeframe
Local Transportation Infrastructure and Issues	Create a bicycle route connector to Folklore Village and to nearby camping facilities.		
Transit, Accessibility, and Special Needs Users	Support the development and promotion of paratransit services for local residents.		
Land Use	Concern about the impact of growth on land use.		
Cost	Capital Improvement Program Maintenance & Improvement Funding Source		

Table I.6 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

GOAL: MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE FACILITIES AND SERVICES, WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY

Policies	Action-Plan	Key Groups of Implementation	Timeframe
Encourage well testing as a means of protecting drinking water supplies for private, individual well			
users.			
Educate landowners on the management and maintenance of private septic systems.		6	

Develop a storm water management strategy to protect ground and drinking water supplies.	
Develop a strategy for siting telecommunication ("cell")	
towers.	
Ensure that new development bears a fair share of capital improvement costs necessitated by the development.	
Guide new growth to areas that are most efficiently served with utilities.	

Table 1.7 AGRICULTURE, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

GOAL: PROTECT, CONSERVE, AND MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

Policies	Action-Plan	Key Groups of Implementation	Timeframe
Routinely remind residents of the importance of their agricultural, natural, and cultural resources and the need for continued protection of local open spaces to provide recreational opportunities.			
Build partnerships with local clubs and organizations in order to protect important natural areas.			
Encourage and support prairie and savanna restoration.			
Enforce noxious weed control ordinances.			
Support tree preservation and sustainable forestry practices.			
Maintain proper separation distances between urban and rural land uses to avoid conflicts.			
Identify recharge areas for local wells and inventory potential contaminant sources.			
Restrict development from major drainage areas in order to aid in storm water runoff and prevent flooding.			
Promote tourism opportunities and continue to pursue efforts to capitalize on local resources in conjunction with programs like walking tours, the Wisconsin Historical Markers Program, distributing ATV or bike trail maps, maintaining trails, and preserving the natural beauty of the area.		V	
Utilize County, State, and Federal programs to conserve, maintain, and protect agricultural, natural, and cultural resources.			

Table I.8 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT PROVIDES FOR A HEALTHY, DIVERSIFIED, AND GROWING ECONOMY

Policies	Action-Plan	Key Groups of Implementation	Timeframe
The various interested communities, county			
representatives, and other parties including businesses			
and business organizations, should meet to discuss the			

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creation of a countywide economic development		
corporation.		
All incorporated jurisdictions, as well as the county,		
should provide for annual funding of economic		
development needs, including, but not limited to		
membership dues in organizations that promote		
economic development beneficial to the county.		
Each community should create a community fund		
through the Community Foundation of Southern		
Wisconsin, especially if there is not an alternative		
vehicle for encouraging local charitable contributions		
that go toward overall community betterment.		
Utilize the availability of training programs to enhance		
local capacity building for purposes of community and		
economic development.		
Develop necessary information to market the		
community and the available business sites and		
available buildings within the community on the		
Internet.		
Work on tourism potential as tourism is one of the		
fundamental assets of Iowa County.		
Make historic preservation and tourism a fundamental		
economic development strategy of community and		
county efforts.		
Conduct a housing needs assessment in all areas		
interested in housing development and make housing		
development a fundamental economic development		
strategy in areas where this is desired but evaluate		
proposals by doing a feasibility analysis.		
Become familiar with new Tax Increment Financing		
(TIF) and the Tourism, Agriculture, Forestry (TAF)		
laws. This is pertinent for any jurisdiction, even towns,		
as there may be considerable opportunities for		
economic development.		

Table I.9 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

GOAL: PROMOTE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADJACENT AND OVERLAPPING JURISDICTIONS

Policies	Action-Plan	Key Groups of Implementation	Timeframe
Maintain established intergovernmental relationships.			
Explore new opportunities to cooperate with other local units of government.			
Establish written intergovernmental cooperation agreements.			

Table I.10 LAND USE

Residential Development Policies	Action-Plan	Key Groups of Implementation	Timeframe
The minimum parcel size for development will be one acre.			
All new driveways and access easements will require			
the review and approval of the Town Board of the Town of Ridgeway.		2	
All new residential development, including access			
driveways, will be required to conform to the natural			
limitations presented by the topography, soils, and			
vegetation of the land being developed.			
The Town of Ridgeway will not accept the dedication or			
maintenance responsibility for any additional roads			
servicing residential development.			
Commercial, Manufacturing and Agricultural			
Development Policies			
Commercial and manufacturing development will be			
permitted in conformance with all the other policies			
established for development in designated areas. In			
addition, the Town of Ridgeway will encourage new			
commercial and manufacturing development to			
'cluster" or locate in or adjacent to existing			
commercially zoned areas. New development shall be			
compatible with adjacent land uses, and shall not			
degrade the environment.			
Except for small family businesses, new commercial and			
manufacturing development will be required to have			
frontage on either a county or state highway or an			
adequately improved Township road. Commercial and			
manufacturing development at any proposed highway			
interchange shall be controlled to promote safe, compact, convenient highway-oriented facilities.			
compact, convenient nighway-onented facilities.			
Manufacturing businesses requiring large quantities of			
water and wastewater disposal will be encouraged to			
locate in areas where municipal sanitary sewer and			
water systems are available.			
Agricultural businesses providing farm services and/or			
supplies will be permitted to locate within the farming			
areas of the Town.			
Recreation and institutional development proposed in			
the Town of Ridgeway will be required to meet all of			
the polices and standards of the Comprehensive Plan.			
When rezoning is requested, only that portion of land			
necessary for the projected use shall be rezoned.			
US Highway 18/151 Interchange Area Commercial,			
Manufacturing and Agricultural Development			
Policies			-
The development should provide needed services,			
resources or assets to the Town of Ridgeway and		1	

complement development promoted by the Village of Ridgeway.		
Development that requires connection to public water and/or sewer service will be considered provided the Village of Ridgeway is agreeable to providing access to those services.		
The anticipated traffic type, volume and pattern must be compatible with the existing public roadways so as not to create a significant safety risk or need for road modification or maintenance at the expense of the Town of Ridgeway.		
Development that produces hazardous, volatile or other substances deemed a potential threat to public health and safety, whether by design or as a byproduct, are discouraged unless there are credible measures put in place for mitigating the potential impacts.		
Development that creates sights, sounds or odors that may be deemed offensive or a nuisance to existing land uses within the area are discouraged unless there are credible measures put in place for mitigating the potential impacts.		
The Town of Ridgeway may consider investing in infrastructure, such as roads, utilities, water, sewer, etc. if deemed to be of benefit to the public, and may encourage cooperation of the Village of Ridgeway.		
When considering an individual development proposal, the Town of Ridgeway will take into account the consistency with, and impact on, existing development in the area.		
Survey results show that preserving scenic views and rural character is important to Town of Ridgeway residents. Town officials therefore request that new business owners beautify their properties with trees, shrubs, fencing and the like.		
Resource Protection and Other Recreation Area Policies		
All plans for development in or adjacent to important natural features will be carefully reviewed by the Town Plan Commission and Town Board to ensure that existing natural features are preserved whenever possible.		
Soil erosion measures will be encouraged in all land uses.		
The preservation and maintenance of areas needed to support wildlife shall be encouraged.		
Environmental Protection Policies		
The Comprehensive Plan is designed to protect the natural environment and special features of the ridge and valley land characteristic of the Town of Ridgeway.		
Rural Non-Farm Area Policies		
Unsewered residential subdivisions on soils identified as having severe or very severe limitations for septic		

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practices.	
The Town will monitor intensive, confinement, and/or large-scale farming operations to avoid possible land use conflicts and environmental nuisances.	
Those lands that exhibit the greatest long-term commitment to agriculture based upon soil type, ownership patterns, investment or other criteria previously identified and mapped shall continue to be recognized.	

Table I.11 IMPLEMENTATION

GOAL: IMPLEMENT THE POLICIES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN			
Policies	Action-Plan	Key Groups of Implementation	Timeframe
Enforce local ordinances to maintain the character of existing and future land uses within the Town of			
Ridgeway.			
Update the Town of Ridgeway comprehensive plan at a minimum of every ten years as required by Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001.			
Amend the local comprehensive plan and ordinances only after careful evaluation of existing conditions and potential impacts.			