

Chapter 9

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

The Village of Elm Grove prides itself on fostering meaningful, ongoing and effective methods of working with other jurisdictional entities. Such action is critical given that the Village is geographically landlocked by neighboring municipalities. Additionally, there are multiple issues of regional interest, such as the impacts and efficiencies of transportation and stormwater drainage systems that expand beyond the Village's boundaries; intergovernmental cooperation ensures that such issues are appropriately addressed.

It is understood that success is not achieved without collaborative efforts involving all stakeholders. There are specific benefits to be gained from open dialogue amongst functionally separate yet like-minded entities seeking cooperation. Such benefits include:

Conservation of Resources : cooperation can save time, money and other valuable resources by evaluating programs and services that may be better provided on a larger scale.

Advanced Issue Identification : understanding the nature of a given issue early on increases the likelihood of public buy-in and decreases the chances of encountering conflict later on in the process.

Consistency : a cooperative approach ensures that policies, programs, goals and objectives are carried out in a similar fashion.

Predictability : awareness of community objectives at a higher level (i.e. a regional approach) enables informed decision-making to take place and creates a level of understanding amongst impacted stakeholders.

Intergovernmental Goal, Objectives and Policies

Goal

Cooperate with neighboring municipalities, Waukesha County, special districts, state agencies and the Elm Brook School District for mutual benefit.



Objective 1

Continue to maintain cooperative agreements for mutual aid and services with adjoining units of government and explore opportunities to reduce financial costs and eliminate inefficiencies and duplication.

Policy

- Continue active dialogue between the Village Municipal Water Study Advisory Committee and potential municipal water suppliers and municipal leadership to determine the feasibility of establishing a municipal water system.

Objective 2

Work closely with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and neighboring municipalities.

Policy

- Cooperate with adjacent authorities (e.g. cities of Wauwatosa and Brookfield; counties of Waukesha and Milwaukee) to facilitate the pedestrian and bicycle trail plans that allow for a comprehensive system of paths and routes that traverse the Village.

Objective 3

Ensure that intergovernmental planning efforts address protection of water quality, natural areas, wetlands, woodlands and natural drainage ways.

Policies

- Continue to work cooperatively to connect parklands and open space areas, provide interconnected wildlife habitat corridors, and to provide opportunities for nature-based recreation.
- Continue to work with other units of government, including the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, to coordinate watershed and stormwater management planning.
- Ensure that Village zoning ordinances accurately reflect natural resource regulations consistent with state and federal mandates.

Potential Conflicts of Intergovernmental Relations

As a built-out community that is completely surrounded within the urban fabric of the Milwaukee metropolitan area, the Village of Elm Grove is well versed in preserving relationships with other governmental entities. The Village is cognizant of the fact that conflict related to specific issues may arise in the future. It is the Village's intent to work with other entities to ensure that conflict is either mitigated or altogether eliminated.

Adjacent Local and County Governments

The Village engages in dialogue on a regular basis with the cities of Wauwatosa (shared border to the east) and Brookfield (shared borders to the north, south and west).

Subject matter is diverse and ranges from municipal utilities, transportation, floodplain regulation, architecture and land use. Redevelopment plans, floodplain area remapping and other areas of interest are discussed in earnest prior to any final action taking place. To date, such efforts have been addressed to the benefit of all involved, with no conflict emerging.

The Village and its employees participate in a number of cooperative organizations that span Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee, Racine and Milwaukee counties. Some of these organizations such as the Regional Telecommunications Commission and Milwaukee Area Municipal Employers Association provide for cooperative training and negotiation. The Waukesha County Cooperation Council is a group of all elected and appointed executive officers. This group meets on issues of countywide concern and focuses on opportunities to collaborate and combine services. Examples of this are the shared 800 MHz trunked radio system, consolidated dispatch, and recently the library governance review.

The Village is actively engaged in discussions with regional communities to purchase water and manage what may become a Village water utility.

Elmbrook School District

The Elmbrook School District currently consists of six elementary schools, two middle schools and three high schools. One elementary (Tonawanda) and one middle (Pilgrim Park) school are located in the Village of Elm Grove.

In an effort to maintain clear lines of communication with the school district, the Elm Grove Board of Trustees appoints a liaison to the District. At this time the District does not plan for any expansion of school services or construction of school facilities within the Village.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

There are a variety of local natural resource issues related to stormwater storage and conveyance, vegetation management, and parklands that are shared by agencies and governments with whom the Village of Elm Grove must coordinate. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) takes a lead role in protecting the natural resource base of urban and rural areas, and has worked cooperatively with the Village in the area of stormwater management.

In the fall of 2005 the Village of Elm Grove received a Chapter 30 permit for implementation of its flood management project, which included additional floodwater storage areas in Village Park and on the sites formerly occupied by the Sleepy Hollow Motel and Villager Apartments as well as a diversionary channel to reroute floodwaters away from the downtown business district. This permit was completed after extensive planning efforts on behalf of both the Village and WDNR.

Included in this joint cooperative effort was a memorandum of understanding (MOU) wherein the Village agreed to create a plan for the possible naturalization of Underwood Creek within the downtown business district. Although this matter will not create conflict with the WDNR, it may be a sensitive issue for abutting property owners, given the perceived impact to parking and downtown redevelopment.

Also within the realm of palpable dialogue are the Village's floodplain regulations. The Village is in regular contact with the WDNR regarding specific revisions and changes to the regulations, which were most recently updated in November of 2005.

All communities within the Menomonee River watershed applied jointly for and received a NR 116 stormwater permit from the WDNR. This was a cooperative effort between the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), WDNR and all of the tributary communities to put forth a comprehensive management plan.

Emergency Services

Emergency services are vital to the well being of any community. The Village of Elm Grove understands this truism and participates in a variety of cooperative agreements, including:

Public Works Emergency Response Mutual Aid Agreement

- 21 municipalities within the counties of Milwaukee and Waukesha, including Elm Grove, have entered into an agreement regarding the provision of mutual aid and assistance for one another during times of disaster or public works emergencies. This agreement was entered into by the Village on January 24, 2006.
- The Elm Grove Department of Public Works also participates with Wauwatosa and Brookfield in a service agreement for roads that transcend municipal boundaries for the purpose of snow removal.

Elm Grove Police Department Mutual Aid Agreement

- It is the policy of the Elm Grove Police Department to provide for, request of, and document by report procedure mutual aid involvement with other law enforcement agencies consistent with Wisconsin State Statutes 66.0313 and 66.0513. The intent of the policy is to provide mutual assistance in the event of emergencies of such magnitude that the law enforcement agency of one particular municipality or county finds it impossible to handle.

This agreement includes the following law enforcement agencies: the City of Brookfield; the City of West Allis (in Milwaukee County); the Village of Butler (in Milwaukee County); the Town of Brookfield; the City of Wauwatosa (in Milwaukee County) and Waukesha County.

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- The Village of Elm Grove has adopted the nationally recognized incident management system standard to ensure that all related efforts effectively and efficiently provide optimal levels of incident management, which relates to collaboration by and among all federal, state, local and tribal homeland security partners.

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

- Section 66.0301 of Wisconsin Statutes authorizes communities to contract with other towns and municipalities for the receipt or furnishing of services, such as fire protection and emergency medical services, including municipalities located in another state. The Village of Elm Grove has entered into such an agreement for the purpose of providing a mutual aid box alarm system for municipalities providing fire protection

and emergency medical services in the counties of Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Rock and parts of Green, Dane and Jefferson counties (Wisconsin) and Lake McHenry, Boone, Winnebago and Cook counties (Illinois). This agreement further provides for the coordination of fire protection and emergency medical services in the event of a large-scale emergency, natural disaster, or man-made catastrophe.

Regional Government and Organizations

The Village of Elm Grove thoroughly understands that any one municipality does not make it on its own; a symbiotic relationship must exist so that all involved may flourish. In a sincere effort to fulfill such a notion, the Village has entered into several joint efforts, including:

A Stormwater and Floodland Management Plan for the Dousman Ditch and Underwood Creek Subwatersheds in the City of Brookfield and the Village of Elm Grove

- The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), in conjunction with the City of Brookfield, the Village of Elm Grove (including its engineering firm) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), prepared a comprehensive report that identified specific findings and recommendations regarding floodland and stormwater management for the Dousman Ditch and Underwood Creek subwatersheds in Elm Grove and Brookfield. Drafted in 1999, the report would later become a primary justification for implementing the Village's flood management project.

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)

- The Village is part of a regional sewerage district, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and is an active participant in planning and implementation of various projects and the overall system.

Southeast Wisconsin Park and Recreation Council (SEPRC)

- The Elm Grove Recreation Department is actively involved in SEPRC to address local issues relating to park and recreation related activities.

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)

- The Village is a member of and continues to provide relevant planning data to the SEWRPC on a continual basis to ensure that decisions of regional and local importance consider quality, up-to-date information.

Transportation Planning

- Roadways are an integral component of the Milwaukee metropolitan area and assist greatly in providing means of access to the Village of Elm Grove. Multiple entities exercise jurisdiction of certain roads at the Village's periphery, hence it becomes imperative to understand current conditions and projected improvements to ensure that the Village's transportation network is efficient and effective.

State Highway Network

- The Village will continue to work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) on any future modifications to roadways falling under their jurisdiction.

County Highway Network

- Waukesha County exercises control over North Avenue, the Village’s northern border. Elm Grove will assist the County with any future planning to the greatest extent practicable.
- Pilgrim Parkway (the western border of the Village) is currently under the jurisdiction of Elm Grove. The approximately two-mile stretch is one of the last remaining links not under the control of Waukesha County. It is within the County’s long-range plan to acquire the roadway; however, no such dialogue has transpired between the County and the Village.

Opportunities for Intergovernmental Cooperation

As documented within Section B (Potential Conflicts of Intergovernmental Relations) of this chapter, the Village of Elm Grove is very much amenable to the concept of intergovernmental cooperation. In a concerted effort to further advance governmental teamwork, the Village acknowledges the following potential opportunities:

Continuation of Open Communication

The Village will continue to engage in dialogue (with other jurisdictional entities) related to impacts germane to its periphery, including but not limited to land use, transportation and economic development.

Resource Sharing

The Village should continue to share relevant information (e.g. Geographic Information Systems data) with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) where matters of land use and floodplains are concerned.

Collaboration on Land Use Changes at Municipal Boundaries

The Village will continue to evaluate land use and transportation projects that may impact its periphery on a case-by-case basis. Such evaluation would include but not be limited to neighborhood redevelopment plans for the cities of Brookfield and Wauwatosa.

Municipal Utilities

The Village will continue to evaluate and pursue the implementation of a long term, reliable water system by means of tying into an existing municipal source.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Strategies

Project or Action	Responsible Party	Timeframe
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION		
Work with planners and leaders from adjoining local units of government.	Village Staff	Ongoing
Work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation if modifications to Bluemound Road (State Highway 18) are proposed in the future.	Village Staff	Ongoing
Continue to work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to seek approval of floodplain delineation and projects affiliated with stormwater management.	Village Staff	Ongoing