

## Chapter 8

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# Intergovernmental Cooperation

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### Purpose

According to Wisconsin State Statutes 66.1001 the Intergovernmental Cooperation chapter is “a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps, and programs for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions, including school districts, drainage districts, and adjacent local governmental units, for siting and building public facilities and sharing public services. The element shall analyze the relationship of the local governmental unit to school districts, drainage districts, and adjacent local governmental units, and to the region, the state, and other governmental units. The element shall consider, to the greatest extent possible, the maps and plans of any military base or installation, with at least 200 assigned military personnel or that contains at least 2,000 acres, with which the local governmental unit shares common territory. The element shall incorporate any plans or agreements to which the local governmental unit is a party under s. 66.0301, 66.0307, or 66.0309. The element shall identify existing or potential conflicts between the local governmental unit and other governmental units that are specified in this paragraph and describe processes to resolve such conflicts.”

### Existing Agreements

The Village of Ellsworth has a number of agreements or has opportunities for cooperation with neighboring governments and agencies. These agreements and opportunities are listed below:

- Pierce County Department of Solid Waste: Pierce County Dept. of Solid Waste provides recycling opportunities for the Village.
- Ellsworth School District: The Village of Ellsworth lies completely within the School District. The Village, Police Department, and School District worked together to develop the Safe Routes to School Plan. The School District also utilizes various athletic fields/courts at the Village parks.
- Pierce County Fair Grounds: The Pierce County Fair Grounds are utilized by the Village for various community functions and events.
- Ellsworth Area Fire Service Association & Ellsworth Area Ambulance Service: Ellsworth Area Fire Service Association and Ellsworth Area Ambulance Service provide Fire and Rescue services for the Village. They also provide services and/or mutual aid to a number of neighboring Towns, Village's, Cities, and Counties.
- Extraterritorial Zoning (ETZ) agreement: The ETZ agreement is held between the Village of Ellsworth that the Towns of Trimbelle and Ellsworth.
- West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility: The West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility, which is owned by multiple municipalities, including Ellsworth, processes biosolids from the municipal wastewater systems.
- Pierce County Sheriffs Department works with the Village Police Department to provide mutual aid services.
- The Village of Ellsworth has an approved Emergency Management Plan. The plan supplies the actions needed to take place in the event of a community

emergency. Some of the information provided in the plan includes a list of communities that have agreed to provide emergency assistance and a list of hospitals, schools, and contractors that have agreed to provide assistance.

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## State Government Units

The first step in coordinating cooperation between various governmental units is to identify some of their existing plans or regulations. The following is a list of governmental agencies that affect the Village of Ellsworth.

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR): The Wisconsin DNR is often the regulatory agency that is responsible for the protection and sustained management of woodlands, waterways, animal habitat, and other natural resources.
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT): The Wisconsin DOT is responsible for maintaining and improving U.S. Highways 10 and 63, and State Highways 65 and 72 the main transportation, commercial, and industrial corridors in the Village. For this reason, cooperation and communication between the Village of Ellsworth and the Wisconsin DOT are extremely important.

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## Existing or Potential Conflicts

Potential conflicts may arise related to the future growth of the Village. Land for residential, commercial, or industrial growth is usually met through annexing adjacent Town lands at the request of the landowner and then approval by the Village Board. Annexed land results in a reduction of the tax base for a Town and can be a point of contention between communities. At this time, no conflicts of this nature exist, through joint meetings the Village of Ellsworth and Towns of Ellsworth and Trimble developed an Extraterritorial Zoning (ETZ) agreement that identifies the future land uses of those properties lying within one and one-half miles from the Village boundary. The ETZ agreement was approved in 2006 and no conflicts have developed at this time.

Potential conflicts may arise between the Village and other governments or agencies within the Village limits that have long-range plans in which the Village is unaware.

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## Resolving Conflicts

When conflicts arise, it is important to address them in a manner that produces mutual understanding of the issues and creates an atmosphere under which the conflicts can be resolved successfully. The Village should hold joint meetings with neighboring governments to resolve future conflicts.

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## Future Areas for Intergovernmental Cooperation

Existing and future intergovernmental cooperation can help Ellsworth implement the Village's Comprehensive Plan. Listed below are potential areas for cooperation the Village may wish to pursue.

- Continue to explore ways to improve fire and emergency services.

- Work with Pierce County Parks Department, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Towns of Ellsworth and Trimbelle when considering additional parks, walking, biking, or other trail systems.
- Encourage coordination with the Pierce County Historical Society to document and preserve the Village's history.
- Consider working with other municipalities for the purchase of equipment/supplies, or consider the options for renting/sharing equipment/supplies between municipalities.

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## Goals, Objective, and Policies

**Goal 1:** Encourage improved communications between the Village of Ellsworth and other governing bodies.

**Objectives:**

1. Hold regularly scheduled joint meetings with those bodies of government that have existing agreements with the Village of Ellsworth.
2. Encourage the creation of additional committees or associations to increase communications between administrative staff, boards, and committees.
3. Expand the relationships between the Village and State Representatives, Senators, and Congressmen.

**Policies:**

1. Continue to hold joint meetings between the Village of Ellsworth and the Ellsworth School District.
2. Encourage setting up joint meetings with Pierce County departments to discuss plans, events, and future needs.
3. Encourage improved communications between the Village and the Ellsworth Area Fire Service Association.
4. Encourage improved communications between the Village and the Ellsworth Area Ambulance Service.
5. Continue to hold joint meetings with the Towns of Ellsworth and Trimbelle to discuss Extraterritorial Zoning (ETZ) and future zoning decisions.
6. Encourage Village staff and board/committee members to join/attend associations related to their area(s) of expertise.
7. Become more involved with the Pierce County Economic Development Corporation.
8. Encourage communications between Village officials and State Representatives, Senators, and Congressmen.

**Goal 2:** Support intergovernmental cooperation with neighboring towns and government agencies to promote mutual understanding and problem solving.

**Objectives:**

1. Work with governments on natural resource management and protection.
2. Provide quality police, fire, and emergency medical services to the Town's residents.
3. Reduce costs for services to taxpayers.

**Policies:**

1. Coordinate with the Wisconsin DNR and local groups on natural resource management and protection issues.
2. Coordinate with the Towns of Ellsworth and Trimble when identifying areas within the ETZ boundary that may be prime agricultural land or contain sensitive habitats and/or species.
3. Provide copies of the Village of Ellsworth Comprehensive Plan to surrounding Towns, Pierce County, and Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to communicate the Village's overall vision for its future.
4. Work to resolve potential conflicts through joint meetings.
5. Establish Joint Committees to focus on specific/common issues.
6. Consider ways of sharing future equipment needs with surrounding communities to disperse costs.