

**City of Mineral Point
Town of Mineral Point
Town of Waldwick**
Community Vision Plan

Iowa County

**A Summary of Public Input
December 2002**

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On Tuesday December 3 the City of Mineral Point, Town of Mineral Point and the Town of Waldwick participated in a community-visioning program called: ***“Community Vision: Looking to the Future.”*** This visioning exercise took place at the Alliant Building in Mineral Point. Paul Ohlogge of the UW-Extension Office, Amy Knox of Regional Planning and Mary Jenkins of Regional Planning facilitated this program.

Communities today face any number of pressing concerns, including requests for rezoning, demands for affordable housing or the loss of a major employer. Unfortunately, decisions about these issues are frequently made in the absence of a real vision of how the residents want their communities to look in the future.

Planning for a community’s future can be a difficult, time consuming and costly job. Residents are often more concerned about daily tasks rather than think about a vision. Residents want good schools, decent jobs, safe and clean environments and safe neighborhoods in which to live. Without a vision, however, communities limit their ability to make decisions about these issues – somewhat like driving across the country without a roadmap.

Who should determine a community’s future, other than its residents? Should it be a consultant hired to develop a plan, a state or federal agency making decisions on highways or wetlands preservation, or a private developer constructing a shopping mall or a residential subdivision? All these could have a large impact on a community without input from a broad range of residents. Residents need to participate in and actively envision the future of their communities – or other groups and individuals will determine it for them.

The community-visioning program lasted approximately three hours with good healthy discussions on what folks of these three municipalities envisioned their future to be. The program was broken down into three sections. The first section concentrated on: “Our Current Condition”. The second portion focused on: “Challenges and Opportunities.” The third portion focused on: “The Future.”

What follows is a summary of information gathered during the visioning session on a series of questions posed to the group of citizens in attendance. This information, along with other information gathered from a recent written county wide survey, will be used to assist the Regional Planning Commission in drafting a comprehensive plan for the participating jurisdictions. This visioning session will help guide the future of the participating town and village Plan Commissions in their efforts to work toward comprehensive planning.

Section 1: Our Current Condition

The following three questions were asked to the group regarding our current condition:

1. What do you like about living in this area of Iowa County?
2. What are some of the community values?
3. What is unique about your community that is not found anywhere else?

What do you like about living in this area of Iowa County?

- The diversity
- Natural open spaces
- Rural character
- Rolling hills
- Scenic views
- The nice pastures
- Interesting architecture
- Ease of transportation
- No crime
- Sincere people
- Good people
- Good education and health care
- Good parks
- Friendly people
- Good snow removal in the winter
- Family owned dairy farms
- Owner operated businesses
- Quiet
- Like to watch the crops grow
- Outdoor recreation
- Low light pollution
- Prairie and savannah, driftless area
- Mix of people
- Springs and streams
- A lot of wild animals
- Artist community
- Libraries are valued
- Taxes could be worse
- Good roads
- Close to populated areas
- Good parks and recreation

What are some of the community values?

- ◆ Watching out for each other
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Hardworking
- ◆ Honesty
- ◆ Trust
- ◆ Freedom
- ◆ Being able to make own decisions
- ◆ Local history
- ◆ Affordable home ownership
- ◆ Open spaces
- ◆ Volunteerism
- ◆ Family farms and agriculture in general
- ◆ Family farm business
- ◆ Clean air and clean water
- ◆ Churches
- ◆ Good neighbors
- ◆ Young people

What is unique about your community that is not found anywhere else?

- Native American history
- Highway 39 to Hollandale – beautiful curves
- Orchard Lawn and the Old Opera House
- Hilly Fairgrounds
- Cornish Festival
- Geology of the area
- Lands' End
- More five-point intersections than anywhere else
- Cold-water trout streams
- Twinned (Mineral Point) with another city (Redruth in Cornwall)
- More Pasties to eat than anywhere
- New road around Mineral Point
- Historic Buildings and Architecture
- Diverse art community
- Oak savannas exist here
- Not a lot of national chains (WalMart, K-Mart, etc.)
- Residential downtown
- Shake Rag – Pendarvis
- Mineral Point was a key settlement in the state of Wisconsin history
- Lead mining history
- Authentic history – no need to create a theme

Section 2. Challenges and Opportunities:

The second portion of the Visioning Program focused on the Challenges and Opportunities facing the Towns of Mineral Point and Waldwick as well as the City of Mineral Point. The following questions were used to facilitate discussion on the upcoming challenges:

1. What are some of the challenges and concerns facing your community?
2. What type of development or redevelopment should occur in this area?
3. What type of development should not occur?

What are some of the challenges or concerns facing your community?

- Keeping it the way it is
- Groundwater quality
- Threat of a mega chain store to move in
- With big chain store we would lose local dollars moving through the community
- Loss of identity
- Budget cuts in local governments
- Property taxes
- Losing industry
- Infrastructure deterioration
- Attract new tax base into the community
- Affordable housing
- Affordable health care and education
- More and better paying jobs
- Growth down the 151 corridor (no plan for it)
- Lack of vision by the elected officials
- Losing farms and farmers
- Protecting the open spaces
- Fearful of large factory farms
- Fearful of factors that we have no control over i.e. milk prices, tax assessment
- Community schools in the future
- Find tools so farmers can have an out when retiring
- How to cross the barrier as agricultural land lost and population increases
- Water pressure for firefighters in the city
- Infrastructure keeps pace with the growing population
- Growth of the internet shopping
- Providing opportunities for young people
- Land use
- Keep all the churches operating
- Planned housing
- CWD, West Nile, Lymes Disease
- Development that does not cost more than the community can support
- Green space and protected areas
- Park facilities
- Absentee landowners
- Lack of high speed internet access
- Lack of cellular coverage
- Absentee landowners

<p><u>What type of development or redevelopment should occur in this area?</u></p>	<p><u>What type of development should not occur?</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed use in downtown Mineral Point • Business incubator should be explored • Cluster type rural housing • Conservation sub-divisions • Historic district enlarged • Agriculture and small ag operations • Local farmers markets • Commercial development that puts relief on property tax payers and will bring in better paying jobs • Development at increasing tourism • Recreation – hunting, fishing and hiking (keep this preserved, enhanced and accessible without trouble of trespassing) • Build where you want • Explore what other types of development exists if family farms are not economically feasible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 acre rule for building a house • Houses should be on large parcels over 40 acres • Commercial business that costs their communities in terms of infrastructure dollars • Factory farms • Factories in general • Large chain stores • Absentee owners of chain restaurants • Small lot subdivisions in rural areas • Development that threatens water quality • Commercial use of our natural resources (no Perrier) • City of Mineral Point should not lose its uniqueness • Number of access points

Section 3. The Future

The final segment of the visioning process was to look ahead at a preferred vision of the future. Visioning is *a process* by which a community envisions the future it wants, and plans how to achieve it. Through public involvement, communities identify their purpose, core values and vision of the future. The following questions were asked to encourage discussion on the community's vision for the future.

1. What words do you want your grandchildren to use to describe your community?
2. What do you want to preserve?
3. What do you want your community to look like in 2022?

What words do you want your grandchildren to use to describe your community?

- ◆ Clean
- ◆ Safe
- ◆ Gorgeous
- ◆ Quiet
- ◆ Friendly
- ◆ Neighborly
- ◆ Welcoming
- ◆ Abundance of food
- ◆ Farms and farm land
- ◆ Livestock here
- ◆ Timberland
- ◆ Opportunities
- ◆ Optimistic about this place

What do you want to preserve?

- Preserve the view-scape of highway 151 – (the first impression)
- Mineral Point's uniqueness
- Preserve the hills and valleys of Waldwick
- Preserve habitat for ground nesting birds
- Pastures
- Savannas
- Safe environment
- Cultural amenities
- Preserve farms (somehow preserve the farms)
- Small businesses
- Timber and forested lands
- Preserve the hills
- Preserve historic outhouses (seriously)
- Preserve the Mineral Point swimming pool on the hill
- Look at our first list why we like it here

What do you want your community to look like in 2022?

- Unchanged and how it is now
- Good mix of green space and development
- People will have an understanding of the past
- Mechanisms in place for folks to work out differences
- Clean air and water
- Unified downtown streetscape plan
- Healthy mature trees in Mineral Point
- Ivey's Pharmacy still here and in business
- Lands' End still here
- Every building in the downtown area has a viable business in it
- Efficient public transportation