
Chapter One: Introduction

A. Snapshot of Dekorra

Dekorra, located in southwestern Columbia County, contains a mostly rural landscape of drumlins, moraines, and stream bottoms. Over the past decade or so, the 46 square mile Town has experienced modest growth due to its landscape and location. Residents enjoy the rural atmosphere of the Town, Lake Wisconsin and accessibility to nearby centers such as Madison. Interstate 39/90/94 and U.S. Highway 51 run through the Town. Most of the land in Dekorra is undeveloped, but the landscape is punctuated by pockets of residential development, especially along the Wisconsin River and Lake Wisconsin. Map 1 shows the regional influences that affect Dekorra.



B. Purpose of this Plan

The Town of Dekorra Comprehensive Plan is intended to update and replace the Town's Land Use Plan, adopted in 1997. The purposes of the Comprehensive Plan are to:

- Identify areas appropriate for development and preservation over the next 20 years;
- Recommend types of land use for specific areas in the Town;
- Preserve agricultural lands and retain farming as a viable occupation;
- Identify needed transportation and community facilities to serve future land uses;
- Direct private housing and other investment in the Town; and
- Provide detailed strategies to implement plan recommendations.

This Comprehensive Plan is being prepared under the State of Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" legislation, adopted in 1999 and contained in §66.1001, Wisconsin Statutes. This Plan meets all of the statutory elements and requirements of the "Smart Growth" law. The document is organized into several chapters corresponding with the required plan elements under this law.

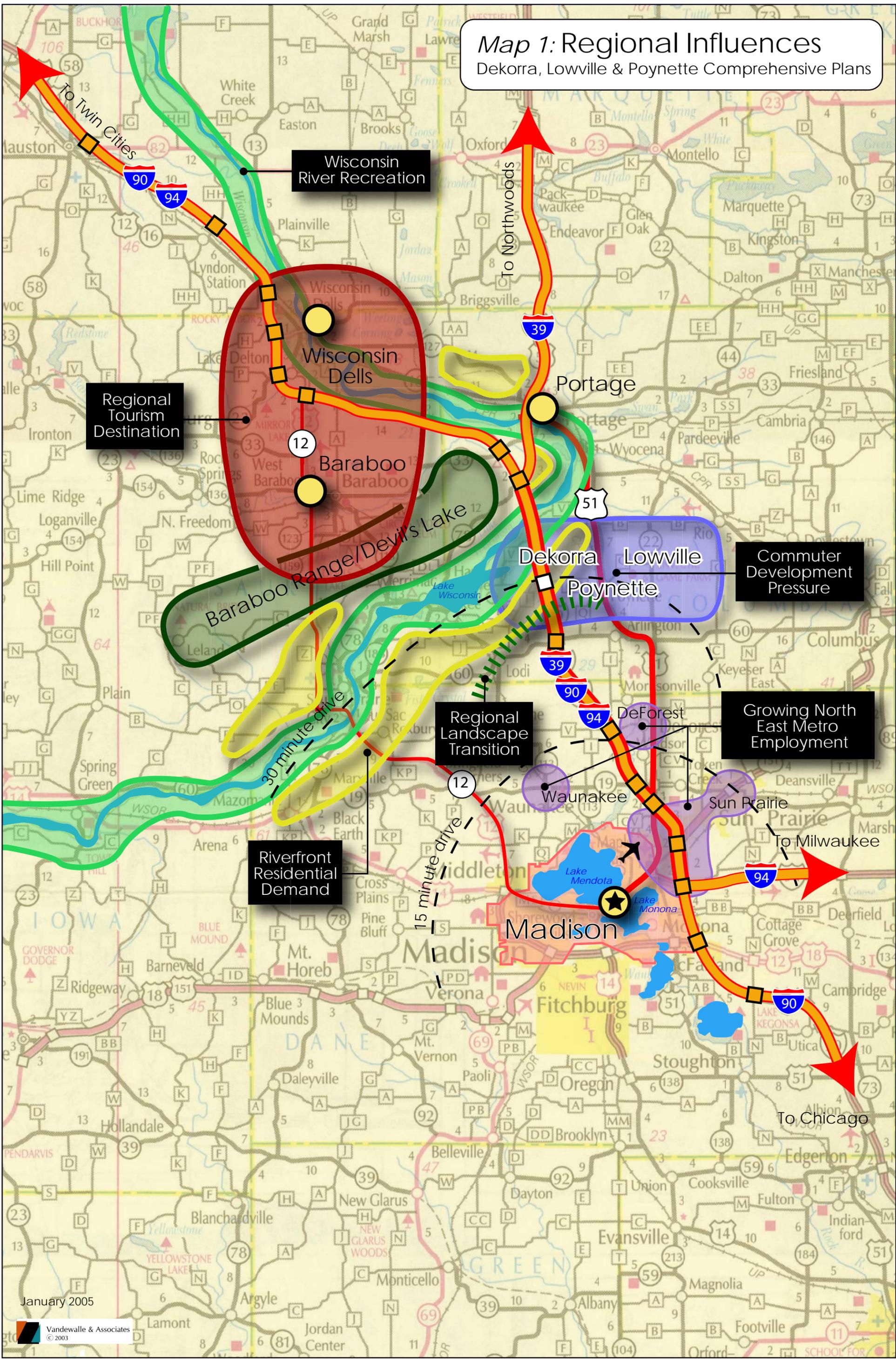
C. General Regional Context

Map 2 shows the relationship of Dekorra to nearby places. Dekorra is in the southwest quadrant of Columbia County, roughly five miles south of Portage. Dekorra surrounds Poynette on three sides--portions are within Poynette's 1½ mile extraterritorial jurisdiction. Dekorra abuts the Town of Lowville to the east, Lake Wisconsin and the Town of Caledonia to the west, the Town of Pacific to the north, and the Towns of Arlington and Lodi to the south.

To complete this Plan, Dekorra participated in a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning effort with Lowville and Poynette. This effort was aided by a state grant. A Joint Steering Committee created regional goals and objectives, coordinated the public participation process, helped to resolve any potential conflicts among local draft plans, and served as liaisons to the village and town boards and commissions.

Map 1: Regional Influences

Dekorra, Lowville & Poynette Comprehensive Plans



Regional Tourism Destination

Wisconsin River Recreation

Commuter Development Pressure

Growing North East Metro Employment

Riverfront Residential Demand

Regional Landscape Transition

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