



GREEN LAKE COUNTY

571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI 54941

Original Post Date: 08/08/2025

Amended Post Date:

The following documents are included in the packet for the Land, Water, Parks & Community Committee meeting on August 14th, 2025.

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Minutes: 7/10/2025
- 3) Green Lake County Economic Energy Plan Presentation
- 4) Ordinance
 - Ordinance amending Green Lake County Chapter 187, Article IV Boat Launch User Fees
- 5) Department Reports
 - Land Conservation
- 6) Community Development Educator Job Description



GREEN LAKE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Elizabeth Otto
County Clerk

Office: 920-294-4005
FAX: 920-294-4009

Land, Water, Parks & Community Committee
Meeting Notice

Date: Thursday, August 14th, 2025 Time: 9:00 AM
The Green Lake County Government Center, County Board Room
571 County Road A, Green Lake WI

AGENDA

Committee
Members

Bob Schweder – Chair
Mike Skivington – Vice
Chair
Nancy Hiestand
Nita Krenz
Bill Boutwell
David Albright
Wes Eisenga, CASC
Rep.

Karissa Rohde, Secretary

Virtual attendance at meetings is optional. If technical difficulties arise, there may be instances when remote access may be compromised. If there is a quorum attending in person, the meeting will proceed as scheduled.

This agenda gives notice of a meeting of the Land, Water, Parks & Community Committee. It is possible that individual members of other governing bodies of Green Lake County government may attend this meeting for informative purposes. Members of the Green Lake County Board of Supervisors or its committees may be present for informative purposes but will not take any formal action. A majority or a negative quorum of the members of the Green Lake County Board of Supervisors and/or any of its committees may be present at this meeting. See State ex rel. Badke v. Vill. Bd. of Vill. of Greendale, 173 Wis.2d 553, 578, 494 N.W. 2d 408 (1993).

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Open Meeting Law
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Public Comment (3 minute limit)
5. Approve Minutes: 7/10/2025
6. Appearances
 - Greg Wright – Spark Towns
7. Ordinance
 - Ordinance amending Green Lake County Chapter 187, Article IV Boat Launch User Fees
8. Department Reports
 - Land Conservation
 - Parks
9. Update and possible action regarding camera quotes for Dodge and Sunset parks
10. Update and possible action regarding the vacant Extension Educator position and job description
11. Discussion regarding future county parks
12. Committee Discussion
 - Future Meeting Dates: 09/11/2024 @ 9:00AM
 - Future Agenda items for action & discussion
13. Adjourn

This meeting will be conducted and available through in person attendance or audio/visual communication. Remote access can be obtained through the following link:

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 237 298 504 378

Passcode: C8ymz7

Dial in by phone

[+1 920-515-0745,,553090075#](#) United States, Green Bay

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 553 090 075#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

Please accept at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

[Org help](#) | [Privacy and security](#)

Kindly arrange to be present, if unable to do so, please notify our office.
Elizabeth Otto, County Clerk

Please note: Meeting area is accessible to the physically disabled. Anyone planning to attend who needs visual or audio assistance, should contact the County Clerk’s Office, 294-4005, not later than 3 days before date of the meeting.

**GREEN LAKE COUNTY
LAND, WATER, PARKS & COMMUNITY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 10, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bob Schweder called the meeting of the Land, Water, Parks & Community Committee to order at 9:00am in the Green Lake County Government Center, County Board Room #0902, Green Lake, WI. The requirements of the open meeting law were certified as being met. Public access was available via remote programming as well as in person. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Nita Krenz, Bob Schweder, Bill Boutwell, Mike Skivington

Absent: David Albright, Nancy Hiestand

Also Present: Karissa Rohde, Deputy County Clerk; Todd Morris, County Conservationist; Mike Van Meel, Maintenance Supervisor; Jason Jerome, Interim County Administrator; Stacy Graff, Fair and Office Coordinator; Stefanie Meeker, Real Property Lister/Deputy Treasurer (remote); Matt Vande Kolk, Chief Deputy

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT) - none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion/second (Boutwell/Krenz) to approve the minutes of the 6/12/2025 Land, Water, Parks & Community Committee Meeting. Motion carried with no negative vote.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- **UW-Extension** – Pat Wagner and Adam Hartfiel gave their report found in the packet.
- **Land Conservation** – Morris gave his report found in the packet.
- **Parks** – The Maintenance/Parks department is continuing to work with Chief Vande Kolk on getting security cameras at Sunset and Dodge Park. They are also working with Alliant Energy to get polls for the cameras. Van Meel stated they are working on fixing the kayak launches as they have a few issues. The Maintenance/Parks department is also helping Stacy Graff with the upcoming fair.

RECOMMENDATION OF STEVEN FOUST TO GREEN LAKE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

Discussion held. *Motion/second (Boutwell/Krenz)* recommending Steve Foust to the Judge for the Green Lake County Drainage Board. Motion carried with no negative vote.

2026 UW-EXTENSION BUDGET

Pat Wagner explained the 2026 Extension Budget to the committee. Interim County Administrator, Jason Jerome stated that he is in the process of complying all the budgets. In August, September, and October he will be working on balancing the budget. The final budget will be presented to the Board at the November meeting.

BOAT LAUNCH FEES

Boat launch fees are only at Twin Lake and Spring Lake landings right now. Annual passes will now be good for all landings starting next summer. Corporation Counsel, Jeff Mann will make amendments to the current Ordinance.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CAMERA QUOTES FOR DODGE AND SUNSET PARKS

Chief Vande Kolk and Maintenance Supervisor, Mike Van Meel will continue to work on this project.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE VACANT EXTENSION EDUCATOR POSITION AND JOB DESCRIPTION

Pat Wagner and Sarah Schlosser (remote) spoke regarding the job description. Jerome stated this position is apart of the 2026 proposed budget. *Motion/second (Skivington/Boutwell)* to approve the job description with a .8 to 1.0 EFT. Motion carried with no negative vote.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION


- a. Next meeting date – 8/14/2025 @ 9:00am
- b. Future agenda items for action & discussion

ADJOURN

Chair Schweder adjourned the meeting at 10:07am.

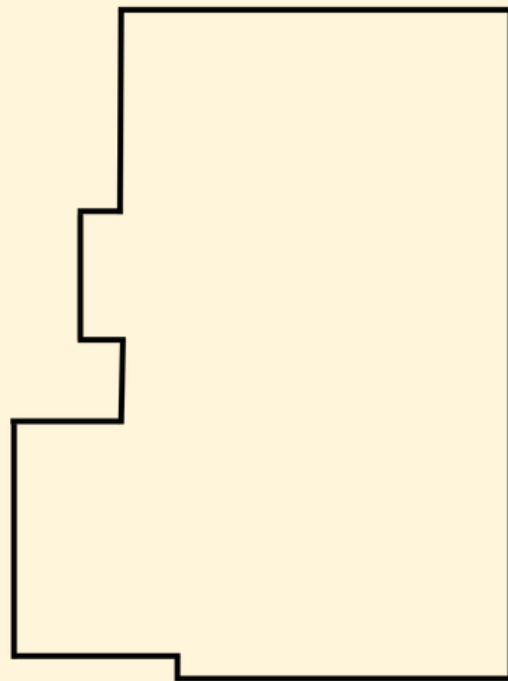
Respectfully submitted,

Karissa Rohde
Deputy County Clerk



GREEN LAKE COUNTY

ECONOMIC ENERGY PLAN



Green Lake County is an incredible place.

It is rich in outdoor attractions and history, with great people building special communities. But like many other historically agricultural and manufacturing small towns, it is a county in need of economic direction.

Three central data points paint the best picture of what is happening. Green Lake County is losing workforce while it is growing in population, a shift accelerated by the pandemic. Simultaneously, the population moving in is increasing the average age and making Green Lake County one of the oldest counties in Wisconsin, a state with its own aging-population struggles. This combination means that the economic base of the county is shrinking while costs and demand for services are growing. It impacts access to housing as properties that would normally support the workforce become second homes and rental properties. The lack of affordable housing makes it even harder to find workers, encouraging businesses outside of the seasonal economy to look at other markets for employees. This cycle keeps feeding itself.

Across Green Lake County, communities and organizations have hired consultants to complete plans in hopes of establishing a new direction. Often times, the reports returned are rich with data and options but fail to articulate clear step-by-step strategies that position the county for success. Moreover, these plans often overlook the organizational structure and ownership required to move key ideas forward.

This report aims to provide straightforward directions and recommendations intended to move Green Lake County beyond planning to a place of long-term vitality.

A SHIFT IN APPROACH

No significant economic development strategy will move forward in Green Lake County without first addressing the organizational structure required to attach key projects to clear ownership and to ensure that ownership is supported with expertise and capacity.

To facilitate this result, we strongly recommend a shift in approach across economic development positions that focuses on hiring experts to work within clear lanes that then serve all communities in the county instead of hiring community-specific positions designed to be overwhelmed by too many job responsibilities.

There is, at times, a sense across Green Lake that its various communities are too different to work collaboratively, but the behavior of residents within the county challenges that premise. Most residents live, work, shop, and play across multiple municipalities. They often treat the various cities more like districts within their community than separate places entirely. Many residents are regularly crossing county lines to round out aspects of their day-to-day lives.

With a total population under 20,000 people, the demand for specific economic development services across all municipalities, especially when leveraging local partners, is often manageable for a single position. Many of the communities don't have enough demand even to justify a position or organization. This approach will expand access while streamlining investments and improving collaborations. Moreover, it will enable a comprehensive look at the best-fit locations for investments, which will have positive impacts on housing, recreation, marketing, and business development.

RESPONSIBILITIES

**POSITIONS BY
COMMUNITY**

Job in Princeton	Job in Markesan	Job in Green Lake	Job in Berlin
Entrepreneurship & Business Support			
Housing & Workforce			
Marketing, Events & Tourism			
Placemaking & Special Projects			

**POSITIONS BY
EXPERTISE**

COMMUNITIES SERVED

Placemaker & Project Manager	Event Coordinator & Marketer	Workforce & Housing Director	Entrepreneur & Business Coach
Berlin			
Green Lake			
Markesan			
Princeton			
GLC Towns			

WHY A NEW ENTITY?

Efforts to move this work forward through a county committee are being hampered by that very structure. In its current format, the EDC struggles to move any work or initiatives forward between meetings, and the formality of its meeting structure makes it difficult to have in-depth conversations about the work. The EDC then has trouble getting beyond an advisory role, but they aren't advising any organization, entity, or position of influence.

WHAT ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY?

This new entity should still include advisory boards made up of local-economy stakeholders from each community. These advisory boards should set the goals and metrics for all employees, and its bylaws should create mechanisms for these boards to flag employees for reevaluation should their work fail to have impact in every community. We also recommend separate bank accounts by community so that community's can raise and invest funds for projects knowing that those funds will be spent on their own projects.

HOW COULD IT BE FUNDED?

Capacity building grants from organizations like the WEDC or WI Fast Forward, past county funding for the EDC, and private sector funding like CRA dollars could support the launch of a robust EDO that serves the county well. We also recommend looking at existing economic development spending/positions (UW-Extension, Chambers, etc.) and expanding room tax into additional municipalities.



**RIGHT
SIZING**



REGION



COUNTY



LAKE DISTRICT

The most immediate challenge to collaborative economic development will be in right-sizing the organization so that it is both set up for success and ready to have the greatest impact. While we recommend a countywide organization, we want to share two other models and our rationales behind them.

REGIONAL

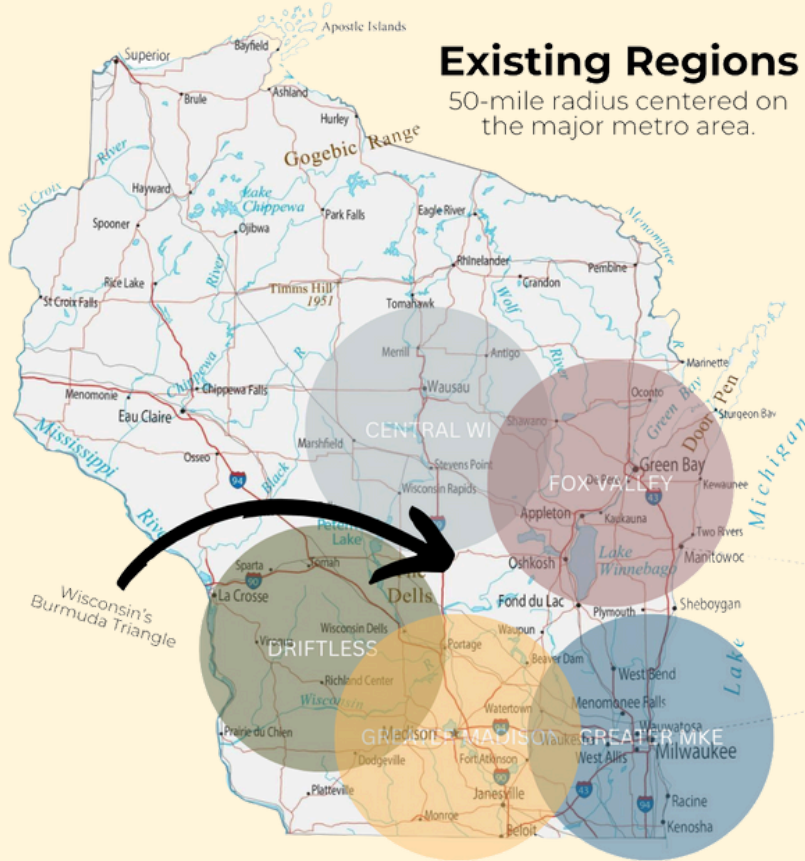
The first looks at broader collaboration through a regional entity. More collaboration will lead to greater impact. It will streamline resources, increase access to high-capacity staff, and grow the reach of marketing and development efforts.

LAKE DISTRICT

The second looks at a smaller lake district entity. It acknowledges historic challenges to collaborate across the different communities and economies in this county but starts the collaboration process by pulling together the municipalities that are experiencing the most similar economies.

The highest number of participating communities will have the greatest impact. That said, collaboration won't work if the participating communities aren't ready to work together. This effort will succeed when it finds the most communities and entities that are excited to shift to this approach, when it support those groups in defining clear policies and procedures for participation, and when it leaves the door wide open for others to join the collaborative process when they are ready.

50-mile radius centered on
the major metro area.

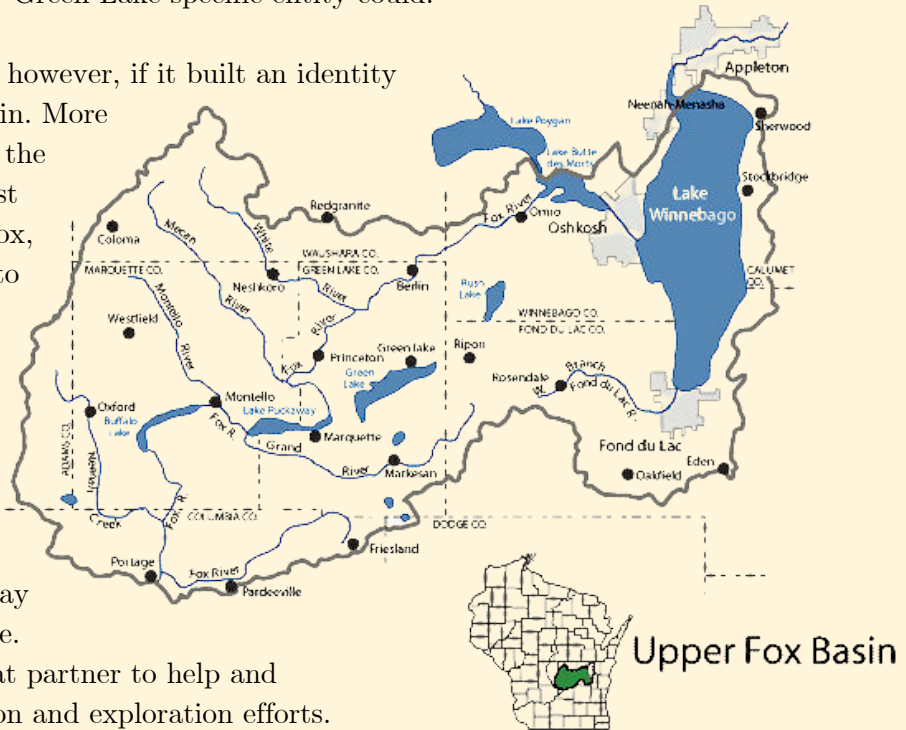


Green Lake County often feels removed from attention and resources. This map helps to explain why. Green Lake County communities are, at best, on the outer periphery of these regions with population sizes that are unlikely to draw much attention from economic development professionals typically posted at regional centers.

The existing regions map gives cause for considering a new identity that would create an autonomous rural region, pulling together other small communities on the peripheries of these larger metro areas. Stakeholders talked often about the Driftless Region and Door County as economic development peers, but those regions bring together far more communities than any Green-Lake specific entity could.

A similar approach could exist for this region, however, if it built an identity around the towns of the Upper Fox River Basin. More than a dozen towns are in similar positions to the communities in Green Lake County. They exist on bodies of water that feed into the Upper Fox, they were established initially in relationship to that waterway, and they are now navigating the same transition from manufacturing and agriculture to tourism and entrepreneurship.

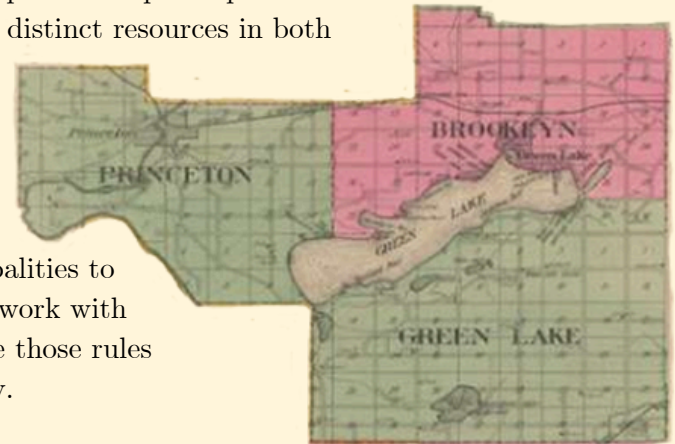
To be clear, the relationships likely don't exist yet to pull this off, but there is value in having this target on the horizon and in using this effort to initiate the conversations that may eventually make regional collaboration possible. The Office of Rural Prosperity could be a great partner to help and would support a summit and/or other initiation and exploration efforts.



In full disclosure, our interviews revealed some concerns about whether the relationships and trust exist even for a successful countywide economic development organization yet. We heard valid concerns that any collaborative effort would likely focus too much on the lake and its communities or would fail to recognize the distinct challenges facing each local economy, especially those less reliant on tourism.

It may be smart, then, in recognizing the validity of that critique, to leverage it as an opportunity. The easiest path to greater collaboration may be in forming a Lake District economic development organization. In practice, this would likely start by pulling together the cities of Green Lake, Markesan, and Princeton, and the towns of Brooklyn, Green Lake, and Princeton into a single economic development entity. As with any structure, the door would remain open for other municipalities to participate from the beginning or at a later date. This approach would keep distinct resources in both Berlin and the Lake District, which could work together when it makes sense and build trust over time. This could lead to further alignment that supports a single countywide entity eventually.

The big thing: not everyone has to be on board for municipalities to start collaborating. Start by figuring out who is ready and work with each other to establish the right goals and guidelines. Share those rules of engagement broadly and let others join as they are ready.



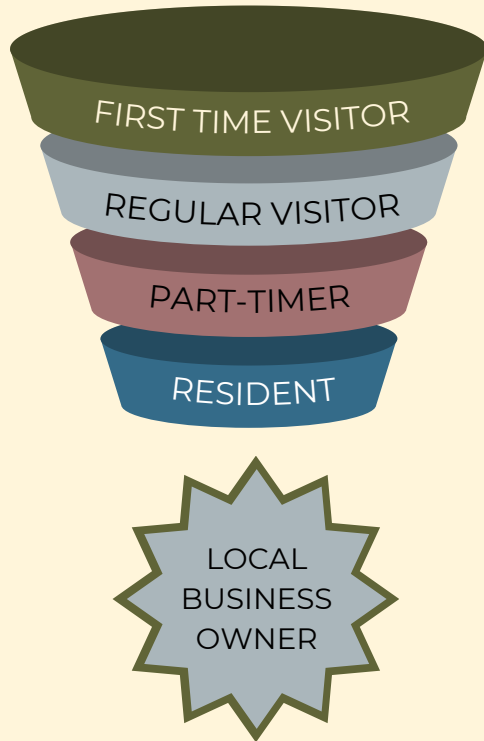
TO BE CLEAR, WE RECOMMEND A COUNTYWIDE ORGANIZATION.

These other models offer alternative paths based on readiness, but we recommend a countywide organization. However, we also see the best path to success in moving forward with the coalition that is ready to collaborate, leaving the doors open for others to join over time.



**GREEN LAKE COUNTY HAS ALL THE ASSETS NEEDED
TO EVOLVE FROM A TOURISM ECONOMY INTO A
THRIVING ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM.**

TOURIST CONVERSION FUNNEL



Contemporary economic development is a team sport. Communities that thrive aren't just aware of the players on the field. They are also investing in the right coaching staff to proactively improve that team of players.

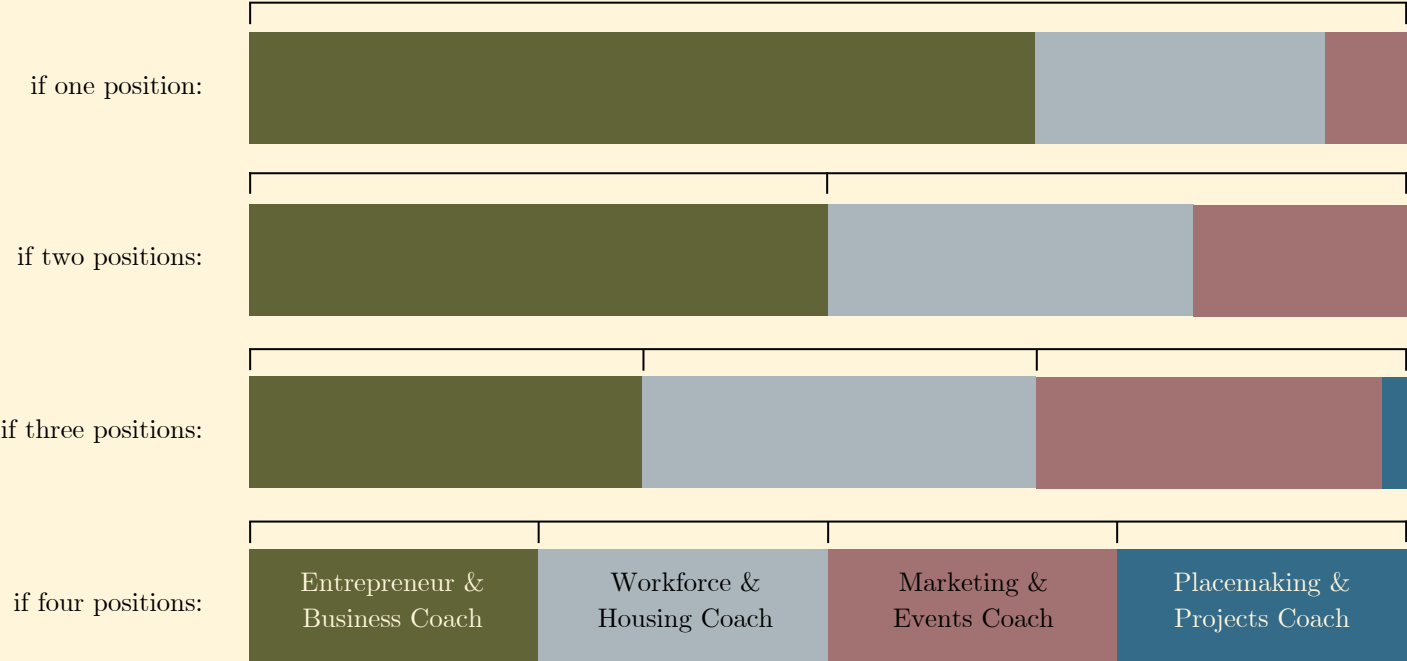
This is a fairly obvious missed opportunity in Green Lake County. While the demographic shift here is challenging, it is also bringing exceptional experience and opportunities into the county. So many entrepreneurs, business owners, and remote workers are vacationing and retiring here. Those people have ideas and resources that are the heart of robust entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The Brookings Institution talks about quality of life as the key determinant to small town economic development. Green Lake County has quality of life in spades, but the economic development mindset still sees these human resources as visitors and tourists only, not as potential residents with businesses to start or move. In the digital economy, people don't need to wait to retire here, but they need that coaching staff to invite and support them if they are going to make that leap.

THIS PLAN FOCUSES ON PUTTING TOGETHER THAT IDEAL COACHING STAFF (IN ORDER) AND IDENTIFIES PLAYS AND SCORECARDS EACH SHOULD FOCUS ON TO GROW THE GLC TEAM.

STAFFING PRIORITIES

Given the unknowns regarding funding and participation, this plan lays out rough priorities to inform hiring decisions as this future entity takes shape. The following pages describe these priorities in greater detail.



FIRST COACH: ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

In recent years, the chief economic development focus through the Green Lake County EDC has been on marketing and tourism. While those are undoubtedly important ingredients, we recommend considering a different prioritization that sees your highest return in entrepreneurship and business development.

Green Lake County will always attract visitors. The natural resources here do that work for you. If anything, what is challenging even the tourism industry is a shortage of local businesses adding to both the visitor and resident experience. Too much of a focus on tourism can reinforce the very economic trends that are challenging long-term vibrancy in Green Lake County.

Green Lake County needs an “opportunity broker” that feels responsible for the entrepreneurship ecosystem. In our research phase, we ran into tech-sector businesses flying under the radar, small business owners looking to relocate to the county, remote workers open to home-basing here, and existing businesses with ideas for expansion. All of that economic potential already exists in this county. It is just waiting for the right infrastructure and invitation to help it integrate into the Green Lake County economy.

With the resources it attracts in expertise and investment potential alone, Green Lake County could be a model for rural entrepreneurship and innovation. More 21st Century businesses will mean more year-round job opportunities and less strain on natural resources, both of which will further support tourism businesses as well. A point person responsible for launching and growing businesses would have immediate impact.

ENTREPRENUERSHIP PLAYBOOK

- Complete an asset inventory and gap analysis to map out entrepreneurship resources.
- Run a summer pitch competition that is open both to residents and visitors.
- Develop accelerators, revolving loans, and other entrepreneurship supporting programs.
- Build a mentor library that leverages expertise in retired or late-career professionals.
- Support investor pairing to match local entrepreneurs with high-wealth locals and visitors.
- Keep a single portfolio of countywide real estate locations with target business types identified.
- Connect with and understand the remote worker ecosystem and work to increase their time in community.
- Support cooperative resources like the community butcher shop or makerspaces.
- Map out and grow other co-working and innovation center resources across the county.
- Provide business development support through a unified chamber for the county.

SCORECARD

Advisory boards should be tracking the registration rates of new businesses and the occupancy levels of key commercial districts as key data points to evaluate someone in this position. The staff person should be able to report on their touch points with local business owners and entrepreneurs, breaking down that recorded information by location to ensure that services are reaching all participating municipalities.

SECOND COACH: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

Green Lake County has agricultural and manufacturing sectors that out perform national averages. While it is valuable to invest in new businesses and entrepreneurship, it is equally important to understand where the economy is already strong in order to support and grow those existing businesses.

We heard repeatedly from manufacturers that have concerns about the future of the workforce. From companies moving jobs to other parts of the country to others that would expand if they could find workers to meet increased demand, the need for workforce development was top of mind for many of the bigger businesses in Green Lake County.

An employee tasked with this work would centralize key communication necessary to develop the right initiatives. They would serve as a liaison between businesses reporting out their experiences and local educational entities (school districts, tech and four-year colleges, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc.) looking to grow new curricula, apprenticeships, internships, and other training programs to respond to workforce needs.

In addition, advocating for and identifying right locations for affordable workforce housing would address a significant gap impeding workforce attraction and retention. With growing demand for rental and retirement homes even off-lake, potential workers interested in moving to the region are often unable to find housing. A countywide housing study and a scatter plot development project could help to address this shortage and inject new energy into less tourism-focused parts of the county.

WORKFORCE PLAYBOOK

Establish a central point of contact for workforce development.

Meet with major employers in agriculture and manufacturing to understand workforce challenges.

Meet with education providers to understand their capacity for workforce training.

Identify highest need training gaps and work across groups to design and pilot new programs.

Ensure that high-need job openings align with training and education at county schools.

Work with the state agencies to secure grants (e.g. Fast Forward) in support of these programs.

Ensure regional higher ed programs reach Green Lake County especially with internship placements.

Evaluate housing stock and available land for affordable workforce housing developments.

Communicate with potential developers to understand barriers to building affordable homes.

Work with WHEDA on a scatter-site workforce housing project to address shortages.

SCORECARD

Advisory boards should be tracking employment levels to ensure that they surpass participation in the workforce from prior to COVID. If successful, we should see more people working in Green Lake County and fewer residents leaving the county for work. Data should also show the average resident age start to drop.

THIRD COACH: MARKETING & EVENTS

Green Lake County is and should be a tourism economy. In that sense, it may seem strange to put events and marketing third on the priority list. While this work is vital to the region, these investments have less opportunity for big economic return than launching and growing local businesses supported by a strong workforce (also living here). Moreover, the work of marketing and events can often be supported through volunteers or partnerships that elevate local businesses in the region.

On that second point, we have seen real estate firms and other businesses benefit from an “in-the-know” reputation. They often become great community marketers and have resources and capacity to put out great content. Similarly, events hosted in or by restaurants, bars, and other establishments help drive customers to those businesses. Events take a lot of time. The return on an event for the county will always be less than the return from a new business, resident, or piece of infrastructure. The return for a specific business that hosts events, however, can be huge!

That said, this county would benefit from a high-capacity marketing professional working with and across all communities. The across part is the investment of highest value. For a small area, Green Lake County is producing too many unique marketing materials, putting a strain on local businesses asked to pay to advertise in each of them. A single countywide visitors guide would serve the county (and its visitors) more effectively. This marketing coach, then, could focus on collateral that helps people move across communities and find the wealth of things to do here: like trail maps, shopping guides, weekend itineraries are more!

MARKETING PLAYBOOK

This position should likely run the countywide chamber. In that position they should coordinate and support events and marketing efforts. They could also...

- Develop a strong brand for the county or region that includes strong brands for each downtown.
- Run social media for the county and its communities.
- Work on a single and comprehensive visitors guide for all of Green Lake County.
- Promote the various recreation areas, campsites, trail systems, and more!
- Pull together partners to participate in higher cost marketing investments like Discover Wisconsin.
- Put together packages and itineraries that help people move across towns and spend more time here.

Note: This is a retail destination. Retail, like ag and manufacturing, out performs national averages. The more visitors know they can bounce from community to community to fill out shopping weekends, the more time they will spend here and the more all communities will benefit. This could lead to the growth of related businesses and manufacturing.

SCORECARD

Advisory boards should be tracking tourism spending as a whole as well as room tax (if collected) by municipality. They should also be looking at vacancy levels in key commercial districts and visitor numbers at hotels, campgrounds, and other attractions identified by each community.

FOURTH COACH: PLACEMAKING & SPECIAL PROJECTS

If the resources exist for additional staff, this entity would benefit from someone focused on placemaking and special projects. While we see residents moving across the full county to meet their needs, the communities they interact with are still distinct places with their own identities and offerings. Each community in Green Lake County will thrive best when their commercial districts have their own developed brand and identity that integrates into the cohesive marketing approach.

For instance, Berlin's downtown would do well as a maker district, Green Lake benefits from its resort-town charm, Markesan can lean into its Amish connections, and Water Street in Princeton makes sense as the arts district. Each of these identities has connections both to rich history and current businesses in those communities. Signage, public art, complementary businesses, community spaces, and other placemaking investments will help to strengthen these identities.

There are also a number of special projects that would expand tourism and recreational infrastructure in the county and deepen the overall sense of place. Often these projects work across or tie together multiple communities and would benefit from project management that can also span boundaries. The Fox River, vast nature areas, bike trails, and other outdoor recreation would give residents and visitors even more to do when they visit, making it easier to extend their length of time in the county.

PLACEMAKING PLAYBOOK

Beyond general placemaking efforts like public art, signage, and other place-based branding, some of the unique projects that came out during interview include:

- More recreational use of the Fox River
- Trails and boardwalks in Berlin's new conservation land
- Greenways bike trails, especially the old railroad bed running from Ripon to Neshkoro
- More ATV trails and a countywide trail map (added onto apps as well)
- Berlin City Pool
- Princeton Riverwalk
- The Future of the Fairgrounds
- Foxhead Regenerative Agriculture Project

SCORECARD

A position like this could easily be contracted out on a project-by-project basis or tied to grant funding to support planning and execution of such projects. Success would be tied directly to the completion of these projects.

LEVERAGE CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

Green Lake County has a transient population. People move into and out of the county for stretches of their lives, often bringing in valuable skills. Too often, the county is building around these high-value individuals permanent infrastructure that then exists for years after they have left town. Green Lake Country is a great example of that phenomenon. The entity has struggled to have impact ever since its founder moved away from the county.

Contract work that has specific parameters and deliverables can help to focus efforts. It will reduce long-term costs and prevent unnecessary infrastructure that continues to tax the county for years after its peak impact. In many ways, one central organizing employee, a strong board, and effective use of project-specific contractors could produce the greatest results for the county given its human resources.

Under this model, board members would work with staff to identify research or projects that would have specific time frames and outcomes. They would then pay experts to take on those specific tasks. This approach would keep the work task- and outcome-focused and would be more cost-effective than salaried employees. This model could also respond to unique talent as it moves into and out of Green Lake County.



COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

If this strategy is deemed valuable, it could also inform the economic development sections of the comprehensive plan. It would translate to goals that focus on:

- strengthening Green Lake County's capacity to support and scale entrepreneurship,
- investing in strategies that ensure a strong workforce for existing ag & manufacturing sectors,
- understanding and supporting the needs of a growing remote worker population,
- developing a marketing strategy and projects that emphasize countywide tourism,
- supporting key projects that add recreational infrastructure and strengthen community identity, and
- improving collaboration across municipalities to provide more efficient economic development services that reach all parts of the county.



This plan was developed for the Economic Development Corporation of Green Lake County by Spark Towns.



SPARK TOWNS

ORDINANCE NO. -2025

Ordinance amending Green Lake County Chapter 187, Article IV Boat Launch
User Fees

The County Board of Supervisors of Green Lake County, Green Lake Wisconsin, duly assembled at its regular meeting begun on the _____ day of _____, 2025, does ordain as follows:

1 **WHEREAS**, numerous boat launch and boat launch facilities exist within Green Lake
2 County; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, it is beneficial to clarify which facilities contain actual, physical boat
5 launches, especially so that funds generated from the sale of launch fee permits may be
6 utilized in maintaining and improving said facilities.

7
8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, that Green Lake County § 187-11, Permit
9 Required to Use Boat Launch shall be amended as follows:

Roll Call on Resolution No. -2025

Submitted by Land, Water, Parks &
Community Committee:

Ayes , Nays , Absent , Abstain 0

Passed and Enacted/Rejected this
_____day of _____, 2025.

Bob Schweder, Chair

Bill Boutwell

County Board Chairman

Mike Skivington

ATTEST: County Clerk
Approve as to Form:

Nancy Hiestand

Corporation Counsel

Nita Krenz

David Albright

No person shall use any County of Green Lake County-owned or -operated boat launch facility for launching purposes without an annual or daily launching permit. **Green Lake County boat launch facilities include any and all located at: Dodge Memorial; Sunset Park; Spring Valley; Twin Lakes; Kingston & Lake Maria.** The annual permit **(valid for any Green Lake County-owned or -operated boat launch facility)** shall be valid from April 1 of the year of issuance to March 31 of the next year. The daily permit **(available only for Margaret Dodge Memorial and Sunset Park)** shall only be valid during the day of purchase **and will be sold at the self-registration kiosks at each of those respective boat launch sites.** Annual permits will be sold at the County Clerk's office and all establishments approved by the Parks Commission. ~~Boat launch sites include Margaret Dodge Memorial Park and Sunset Park.~~

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that Green Lake County § 187-12, Fees; display of permit shall be amended as follows:

A. The annual permit fee shall be \$30 for residents and \$40 for nonresidents. "Resident" for the purpose of this article shall mean a resident of the County.

B. The daily permit fee shall be \$7.

C. A "boat launch" is defined as the use of the launch facility for the placement of ~~one~~ **boats** into the water and for the retrieval of **boats** from the water to a trailer or device used to remove **boats** from the water. **A "boat launch" may also include the use of the launch facility for the placement and retrieval of kayaks and canoes into and from the water carried on a motor vehicle.**

D. All annual **and daily** permits shall be prominently placed and displayed on the interior of the driver's side windshield of the vehicle used to transport the boat to the launching area.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that Green Lake County § 187-14, Affixing of Permit shall be amended as follows:

Vehicles with boat trailers or other vehicles used to transport watercraft launched at any County-owned or -operated boat launch facility shall have affixed an annual launching permit as described in § 187-12 above when parking in the ~~Margaret Dodge Memorial Park parking areas and the Sunset Park parking area.~~ **at any County-owned or operated boat launch facility/site.**

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall become effective on **April 1, 2026.**

Land, Water, Parks, and Community Committee
Land & Water Conservation Dept. August 14, 2025 Report

July 2025 Projects

- Inspect open erosion control permits and review new permit applications for erosion control and stormwater management.
- Continue to work with Estates of Lawsonia completing maintenance work for Outlots 1-3 that contain stormwater ponds and other structures.

- Deliver and calibrate No Till drill to landowners throughout county
- Farmland Preservation Program – farm walkovers for 30 landowners.
- Complete designs for 3 Water and Sediment Control Basins in Town of Mackford.
- Signed agreements with landowners in Town of Manchester for cover crop seeding, MDV funding.
- Work on design for feed pad collection/heavy use protection in Town of St. Marie.
- Work on fence design in Town of Green Lake
- Met with Village of Marquette to discuss possible waterway project.
- Waterway design in Town of Seneca.
- Stake out water and sediment control basin in Town of Brooklyn.

- Presentation UW-Discovery Farm team to review sites for Phosphorous research project.
- Completed Farmland Preservation Program spot checks – 13 landowners
- Setup booth at Green Lake County Fair.
- Registrations for Clean Sweep – 162 as of 8/4/25
- Youth Education on water quality with UW Extension and Boys and Girls Club.
- Watershed planning for Little Green Lake – Grand River Multi-Discharger Variance project area.
- Planning for buckwheat field day.
- Rain Garden cleanup
- Staff attended forage and cover crop field day at Arlington Research Station.
- Attended Wisconsin Agroforestry Demonstration Field Network farm tour – Good Trouble Grove, Green Lake
- Attended Wetland Delineator Training, both online and in-person.

August 2025 Planned Projects

- Finalize Watershed Plan for utilizing 2025 Multi-Discharger Variance funding.
- Conduct spot-checks on grade stabilization structures that have perpetual easements with Sanitary District
- Send out public survey for County Stewardship Program
- Buckwheat Benefits Field Day - planning
- Host Manure Spill Response Demonstration Field Day

Lake and River Report

Puckaway – Addressed call on water level fluctuations and plant growth. On water assessment – condition of breakwater.

Twin Lakes – Working with Lake consultant to complete a lake management plan.

Spring Lake (Kingston) – No update

Spring Lake (Green Lake) – Working on County Conservation Aids grant for boat launch repair.

Little Green – Adaptive Management Committee is finalizing owner/user survey for use in updated lake plan.

Green Lake – Discussions ongoing for addressing Internal Loading issue in Silver Creek Estuary – attended meeting. Ongoing discussions regarding County K Marsh. Request for Proposal being developed for “Restoration of County K Marsh.” There has been a Blu-Green Algae Boom in County K marsh, mid July.

Grand Lake – No update

Other – Collected stream samples for monthly DNR stream monitoring program (Belle Fountain Creek, White River, & Grand River).

Golden Sands AIS Update

AIS Program – Lake Management Planning Network reporting and 2026 planning. Setup AIS display at County Fair.

CWIP (Central Wisconsin Invasive Partnership) - Inventoried Zobel Park and Seward Preserve for Invasive Species – part of grant that Golden Sands received. Putting together maps and summary of sites. Will be in touch when done to talk about control work.

Upcoming Events:

Manure Spill Response Demonstration – Date TBD

August 8, 2025 – Clean Sweep, Fairgrounds

August 21, 2025 – Coffee & Conversations – On-line (9:30 – 11:00 am) County Role in Renewable Energy Siting

September 9, 2025 – Buckwheat Benefits Field Day – Green Lake

September 19, 2025 – Lake Winnebago Land and Water Conservation Area Assoc. meeting – Waushara Cty.







October 15 -16, 2025 – County Conservationist Meeting – Stevens Point

November 20, 2025 – Golden Sands RC&D Board Meeting – Stevens Point

Notice: The Jobs at UW website is currently being updated, and you may notice changes. Thank you for your patience during this time.



Community Development Educator

-  Requisition number: JR10001447
-  Location: Green Lake, Wisconsin
-  Category: Outreach and Community Engagement
-  Time type: Full time
-  Application period opens: Jul. 31, 2025
-  Apply by: Aug. 31, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. CDT

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Current Employees: If you are currently employed at any of the Universities of Wisconsin, [log in to Jobs Hub to apply](#) through the internal application process.

Job category:

Academic Staff

Employment type:

Regular

Job profile:

Outreach Specialist

Job duties:

The Community Development Extension Educator will serve Green Lake County, WI, and surrounding communities by supporting local efforts to address complex and interconnected challenges—such as housing, affordable childcare, and transportation—by strengthening community leadership, civic engagement, and organizational capacity. In collaboration with local agencies, partners, and residents, the Educator will facilitate community asset mapping, coalition and network development, and collaborative processes that enable communities to work more effectively together. These efforts will support the planning, implementation, and evaluation of policy, systems, and community-based change initiatives that contribute to healthy, vibrant, and resilient communities.

This position has an FTE range of 80-100%.

Program Affiliation:

As part of the Organizational and Leadership Development Program within the Community Development Institute, this Educator will work with local governments, nonprofits, and other community-serving organizations to provide programming in leadership development,

organizational development, strategic planning, and community engagement.

Statewide Contributions:

Educators are expected to contribute to statewide efforts aligned with their programmatic focus. These contributions benefit local partners by ensuring the Educator remains connected to current research, best practices, and peer networks. This statewide engagement enhances the relevance and effectiveness of local programming.

Connection to Statewide Resources:

The Educator will connect Green Lake County to the broader resources of the Community Development Institute and Extension. The Institute's educational and research efforts focus on building vibrant communities through creative strategies and informed decision-making. Available resources include:

- Expert guidance to help local government officials govern more effectively
- Education and tools to strengthen local food systems, supporting both farmers and consumers
- Research, training, and technical assistance to support vibrant and resilient local economies.
- Planning and capacity-building support for nonprofit and community-based organizations
- Education and resources to grow local businesses through cooperative models

County location

The main office for this position is located in Green Lake, WI and the primary programming focus is Green Lake County; however, some programming may also be conducted over a broader geographical area.

In person

It is anticipated this position requires work be performed in-person, onsite, at a designated campus work location.

Evening/weekend work

This position may be required to work occasional nights and weekends to meet the program needs and priorities of the communities served.

Travel expectations

It is expected that employees will make individual arrangements for transportation adequate to meet position responsibilities and essential job functions. [Read more about UW-Madison Driver Authorization.](#)

Applicants are required to: Have a valid drivers license and a reliable source of independent transportation for periodic in-state work travel, and/or comply with requirements for UW-Madison vehicle use authorization.

Key job responsibilities:

Communicate plans, activities, and achievements to Area Extension Director, Program Managers, partners, and relevant stakeholders

- Delivers outreach program content and materials to community members
- Researches, develops, and facilitates outreach program content and materials
- Identifies, promotes, and maintains external partnerships to support the outreach program
- Develops and evaluates curriculum and programs and provides recommendations for improvement
- May assist with the monitoring of outreach program budget spending
- Schedules and secures resources and communicates logistics in support of an outreach program

Department:

About extension

UW-Madison's Division of Extension serves the people and communities of Wisconsin by addressing local, statewide and national issues, improving lives through research-based education, fostering partnerships and action, and facilitating positive impacts.

About the institute

The Extension Institute of Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their fullest potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. We educate in leadership development, organizational development, food systems, community economic development, local government education and much more. In short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.

Compensation:

Minimum posted salary

The minimum annual (12 months) starting salary for the position is \$57,867 but is negotiable based on experience and qualifications

Benefits

Employees in this position can expect to receive benefits such as generous vacation, holidays, and paid time off; competitive insurances and savings accounts; retirement benefits. Benefits information can be found at (<https://hr.wisc.edu/benefits/>)

Additional compensation details

The position is 80% FTE but potentially could become 100% based on funding availability. Depending on the starting FTE, the salary for this

position may be pro-rated. For example, at 80% FTE, the person hired can expect to receive 80% of the advertised salary.

Required qualifications:

- Relevant experience (professional, life, volunteer) in areas related to the programmatic responsibilities of the position.
- Demonstrated experience developing effective partnerships or coalitions with community partners and local governments.
- Demonstrated ability to use problem-solving skills to successfully address complex issues.
- Experience managing multiple tasks, timelines, and schedules while maintaining high-quality work.
- Ability to carry or move up to 25 lbs. of educational equipment.

Preferred qualifications:

- Demonstrated skills in developing, implementing, and evaluating direct education programs and policy, systems, and environmental change interventions.
- Experience facilitating and guiding people from different backgrounds towards a common goal.
- Demonstrated skills in interpreting, utilizing, and applying evidence-based information and research findings.
- Demonstrated relevant content knowledge of community development, leadership development, or related field.

Education:

Required education

Bachelor's Degree in a field relevant to the programmatic responsibilities of the position

Preferred education

Master's Degree in a field relevant to the programmatic responsibilities of the position

How to apply:

We are eager to learn more about how your experience and passion may align with this position. To begin the application process, click the "apply now" button. You will be prompted to upload the following documents:

- Resume
- Letter of Qualifications (cover letter)
- Writing Sample

Please submit a cover letter referring to your work experience and a resume detailing your educational and professional background as it relates to this position. Your cover letter should communicate your interest in the position and how your skillset aligns with the role.

An Extension County Educator often writes articles on current topics impacting their community. Articles are submitted to news outlets, posted to social media sites, and shared on Extension websites. In addition to your resume and cover letter, please submit a writing sample (approximately 500-1,200 words). Your writing should utilize research-based information to address an issue or topic you believe local community organizations face today. The application reviewers will be relying on the above listed, written application materials to determine who may advance to preliminary interviews.

For additional guidance and resources on how to tailor your application materials to the job posting, please click <https://extension.wisc.edu/careers/>.

Please note that successful applicants are responsible for ensuring their eligibility to work in the United States (i.e. a citizen or national of the

United States, a lawful permanent resident, a foreign national authorized to work in the United States without need of employer sponsorship) on or before the effective date of appointment.

Contact information:

Pat Wagner

pat.wagner@wisc.edu

(608) 516-5540

Institutional statement on diversity:

Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world.

For more information on diversity and inclusion on campus, please visit: [Diversity and Inclusion](#)

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to, including but not limited to, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, pregnancy, disability, or status as a protected veteran and other bases as defined by federal regulations and UW System policies. We promote excellence by acknowledging skills and expertise from all backgrounds and encourage all qualified individuals to apply. For more information regarding applicant and employee rights and to view federal and state required postings, click [here](#).

To [request a disability or pregnancy-related accommodation](#) for any step in the hiring process (e.g., application, interview, pre-employment

testing, etc.), please contact the [Divisional Disability Representative \(DDR\)](#) in the division you are applying to. Please make your request as soon as possible to help the university respond most effectively to you.

Employment may require a criminal background check. It may also require your references to answer questions regarding misconduct, including sexual violence and sexual harassment.

The University of Wisconsin System will not reveal the identities of applicants who request confidentiality in writing, except that the identity of the successful candidate will be released. See Wis. Stat. sec. 19.36(7).

The [Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#) contains current campus safety and disciplinary policies, crime statistics for the previous 3 calendar years, and on-campus student housing fire safety policies and fire statistics for the previous 3 calendar years. UW-Madison will provide a paper copy upon request; please contact the [University of Wisconsin Police Department](#).

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University of Wisconsin–Madison
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Madison, WI 53715-1218

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