Zoning 101



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Introduction & History



Zoning is one of the most common methods of land use control used by local governments. Zoning works by defining a community into districts, regulating uses that are allowed within those districts, and prescribing allowable dimensions such as lot sizes, setbacks and building height. Zoning can help a community to achieve goals outlined in a comprehensive plan including:

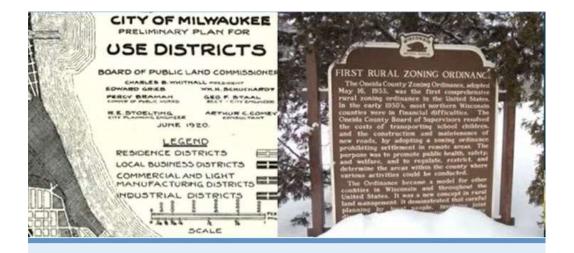
- Protecting public health, safety and general welfare.
- Promoting desirable patterns of development.
- Separating incompatible land uses.
- Maintaining community character and aesthetics.
- Protecting community resources such as farmland, woodlands, groundwater, surface water, and historic and cultural resources.
- Providing public services and infrastructure in an economical and efficient manner.
- Protecting public and private investments.

Additional Forms of Zoning

State statutes require communities to administer certain types of zoning as described below:

- Shoreland zoning
- Shoreland-wetland zoning
- Floodplain zoning

Source: UW- Madison Division of Extension



- 1920 First Wisconsin zoning ordinance created by City of Milwaukee
- 1923 Zoning upheld by the Wisconsin Supreme Court
- 1929 Wisconsin Legislature authorizes zoning to regulate all uses in rural areas
- 1933 Oneida County adopts first comprehensive rural zoning ordinance in the U.S.
- 1966 Wisconsin Legislature adopts the Water Resources Act
- 1968 Local governments required to administer minimum shoreland and floodplain zoning regulations
- 1999 Wisconsin adopts Comprehensive Planning Act and establishes grant program
- 2010 Zoning must be consistent with a local comprehensive plan

Scope of Work & Organization



- 1) **Review of Current Municipal Code** Review, familiarize, analyze, and critique Municipal Code Chapter 113- Subdivisions and Chapter 115- Zoning and any other related codes.
- 2) Review of Comprehensive Plan and other related plans: The consultant will review the plans, goals, objectives, and recommendations of the comprehensive plan and other related plans identified by planning staff and the steering committee to ensure the new code will be consistent with current planning documents.
- 3) **Public Outreach:** The consultant will provide a public participation plan designed to receive input from community stakeholders, staff, and the public as well as educate and inform them on the process.
- 4) **Analysis and Recommendations.** Provide an analysis of the City's existing code, highlighting its strengths and shortcomings based on the consultant's review of existing code, review of current plans, and community and stakeholder input. Include recommended approach for potential revisions that include best practices/example codes as related to low-carbon sustainable development, form base designs, affordable/attainable housing, missing middle housing, mixed housing integration, parking reductions, multi-modal transportation, performance standards for various uses, equity, accessibility, etc.
- 5) **Documents:** The consultant will prepare drafts of the zoning ordinance for review by staff, the steering committee, and the public culminating in a final version to be acted upon by the City Plan Commission and adopted by the Common Council.

Organization of a Zoning Code

Most zoning ordinances are organized in the following manner:

- Title, Authority and Purpose
- General Provisions
- Zoning Districts and Regulations
- Zoning Nonconformities
- Impact Regulations
- Administration and Enforcement

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Schedule

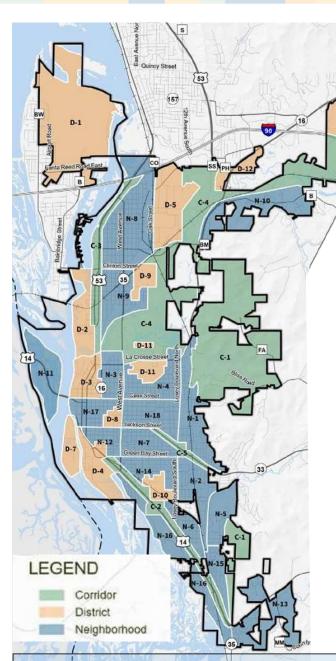


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Common Council											0										
Public Hearing																					

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2040 Comprehensive Plan





The **Comprehensive Plan** sets forth the vision of future land uses within the City of La Crosse. Future land use is based on the "Neighborhood, District and Corridor Framework" (NDC), a system devised by the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU).

How does NDC Work? The intent of the NDC model is to encourage walkable, compact communities that are rich with amenities and celebrate the history of the built environment and the preservation of natural features, all while respecting the fabric of communities. NDC proposes three fundamental classifications that organize La Crosse into a mix of uses rather than isolated land uses.

Neighborhoods:

La Crosse neighborhoods have distinct identities, housing characteristics, unique history, and geographic features. They are typically compact, pedestrian-friendly, and mixed-use. Neighborhoods may contain a number of supporting uses and activities that serve residents, such as parks, schools, libraries, small-scale retail, and other services. Neighborhood associations were consulted during the creation of this comprehensive plan to help identify the vision and land uses within La Crosse's neighborhoods.

Districts:

Districts are larger areas where the City, property owners, developers, and investors should concentrate business, commercial, and industrial activity and expansion over the next twenty years. Districts may emphasize a special single use or purpose, but may contain a variety of other uses and activities. For example, a shopping district may have primarily commercial uses with a few small-scale industrial uses mixed in. La Crosse's districts are based on types of dominant uses, include overlapping neighborhoods, and have generally larger geographic extents.

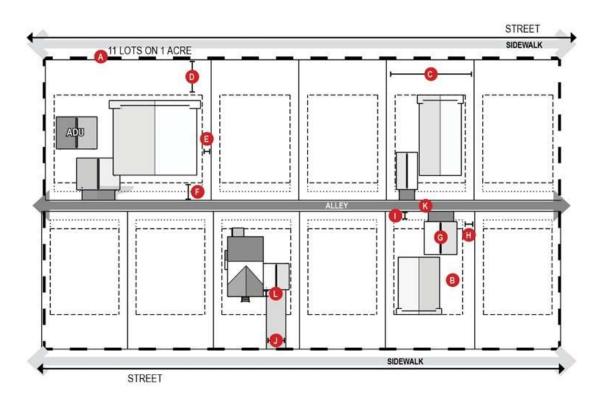
Corridors:

Corridors are linear areas that provide connectivity between the neighborhoods and districts. Corridors can accommodate a variety of land uses, including natural, recreational, and cultural uses. They can range from boulevards and rail lines to rivers and parkways. La Crosse has several major corridors identified based on transportation and environmental features.

Refer to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan: https://www.cityoflacrosse.org/home/showpublisheddocument/7655/638345999839030000

Typical Urban Standards





Typical Lot Regulations

A: Lot area

B: Buildable area

C: Lot width

D : Front yard/setback

E: Side yard/setback

F: Rear yard/setback

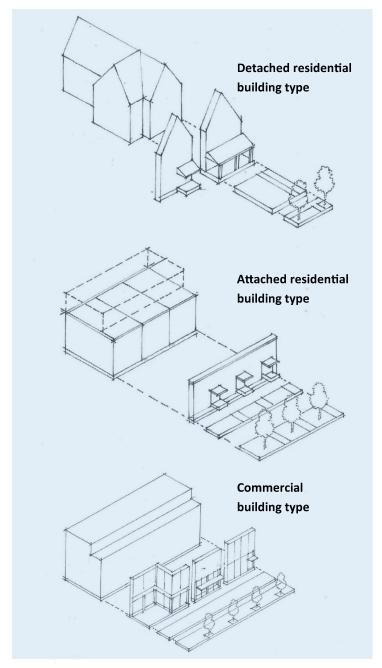
G : Accessory building

H/I: Parking setback

J: Driveway width

K: Alley width

L: Garage stepback from main house



Possible Housing Types



HOUSE HACKS

Encrepreneurial adaptations to an existing home that diversify housing options or generate an income.













ATTACHED ADU

DETACHED ADU

SHARED HOUSE

GUEST SUITE

GUEST HOUSE

HOUSE ON WHEELS

FLEX SHED

COMMERCIAL INCUBATION

Low-cost ways to grow and validate an earlystage business.















HOME OFFICE / WORKSHOP

MARKET TENT

PUSH CART

TRAILER

TRUCK

TEMPORARY EVENT

POP-UF SHOP









SKINNY HOUSE





SEMI-DETACHED



ROWHOUSE

APT HOUSE (NEW)

LIVE/WORK



TOWNHOUSE

KIOSK

MIDDLE HOUSING

Multi-unit residential buildings that blend well with detached homes.









APT HOUSE (RENO)









WALK-UP APT

STACKED DUPLEX





ALLEY TOWNHOUSES

FRONT-BACK DUPLEX



NEIGHBORHOOD NODE Walkable neighborhood destinations like corner



HOME CONVERSION





SMALL APT

STACKED FLATS

COURTYARD APT



stores and workspaces. 1-3 storeys, mixed-use or

SHOPHOUSE (GRANDFATHERED)



MAINSTREET (GRANDFATHERED)



MULTI-TENANT COMMERCIAL



SMALL MAINSTREET MIXED LARGE MAINSTREET MIXED

COMBO Creative tactics or building combinations that solve for a common development scenario.





BOOTLEG SHOPHOUSE













PARKING LOT MARKET



BOOTLEG TRIPLEX

DETACHED TRIPLEX

GUEST VILLAGE

DOUBLE DUPLEX

DUPLEX COURT

COTTAGE SQUARE

COTTAGE COURT

Subdivision of Land



Much of the form and character of a community is determined by the design of subdivisions and the standards by which they are built. State statutes regulate the technical and procedural aspects of dividing land for development and provide minimum standards for subdivisions related to sanitation, street access and layout. Among its many purposes, land division regulations can help a community to:

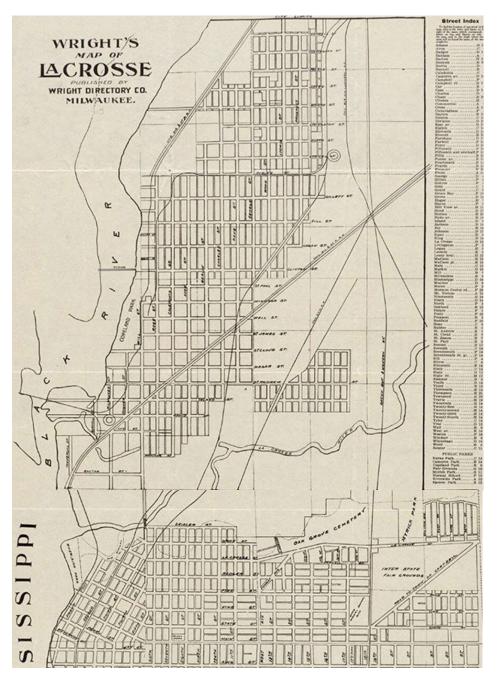
- Address health and safety issues such as stormwater runoff and emergency access.
- Ensure new development is adequately served by public facilities such as roads and parks.
- Provide for the efficient placement and delivery of public services and facilities.
- Promote neighborhood designs that meet the needs of residents.
- Ensure accurate legal descriptions of properties.
- Avoid disputes regarding the sale, transfer or subdivision of land.
- Protect other community interests outlined in a comprehensive plan or local ordinance.

State Defined "Subdivision" – a division of a lot, parcel or tract of land by the same owner that creates 5 or more parcels or building sites of 1½ acre or less, <u>or</u> successive divisions of land by the same owner within a five year period that result in 5 or more parcels of 1½ acre or less.

Wis. Stat. § 236.02(12)

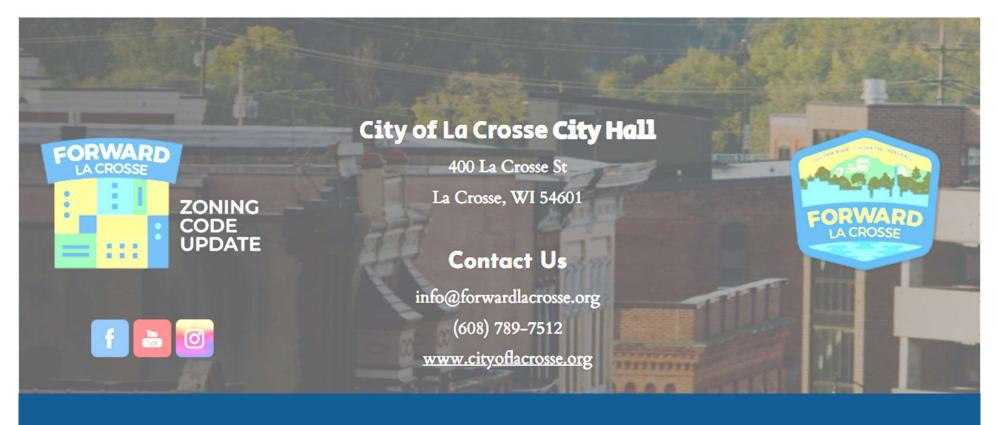
Local "Land Division" – local ordinances may be more restrictive than the state definition with regard to the number or size of lots regulated. This publication will generally use the term "land division" to refer to all such developments.

Wis. Stat. § 236.45



Contact Information







Housing Week Pop-ups



Community
Survey #1



Project Website



Workshops