community- driven practice

putting local people first in planning and making choices






CDS Principles of Practice

- **Co-Learning:** Share knowledge and learn together between community members and workers.
- **Collaboration:** Work across different groups and places to share ideas and tools.
- **Community-Driven Practice:** Put local people first in planning and making choices.
- **Community Power:** Trust people to lead, think, and act for themselves.
- **Dignity within Diversity:** Listen well, respect all cultures, and take responsibility for harm.
- **Economic Autonomy:** Build local wealth and keep control of neighborhood resources.
- **Social Justice:** Fight against unfair systems and help groups that have faced bias

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- **Positive Youth Development**



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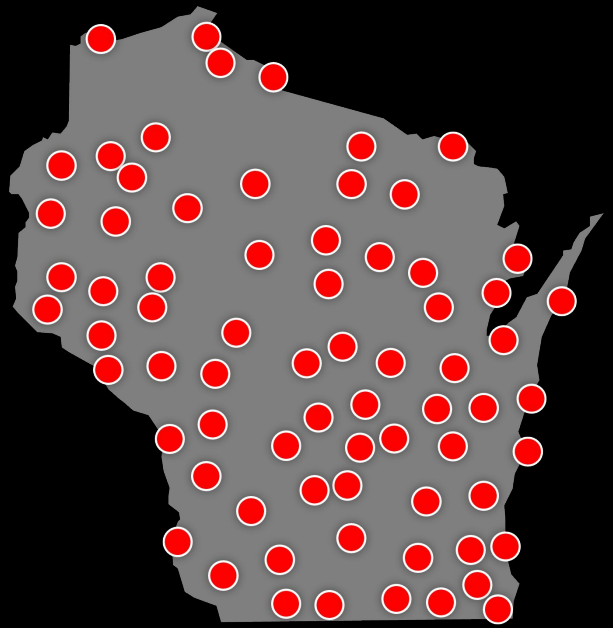
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- Human Development & Relationships
- Health & Well-Being
- Positive Youth Development
- **Community Development**



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- Health & Well-Being
- Positive Youth Development
- Community Development



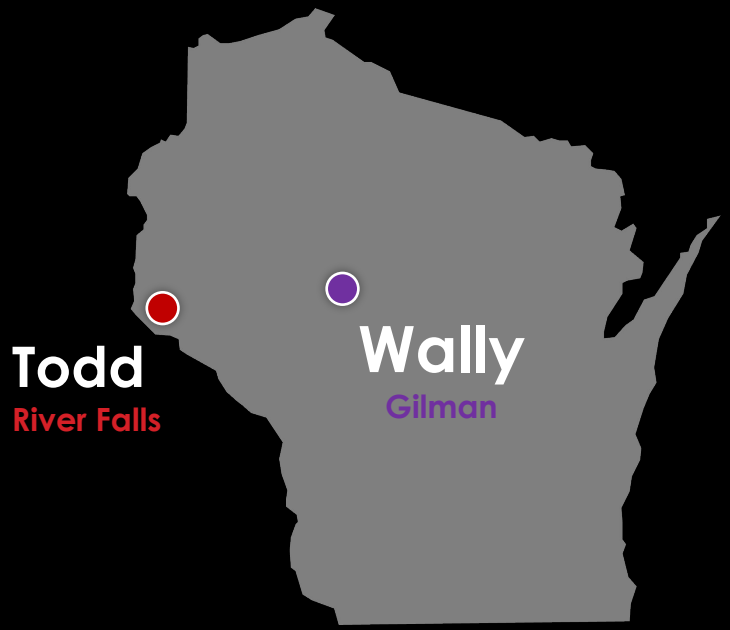
People & Places

- Todd Johnson, UW-Extension, River Falls



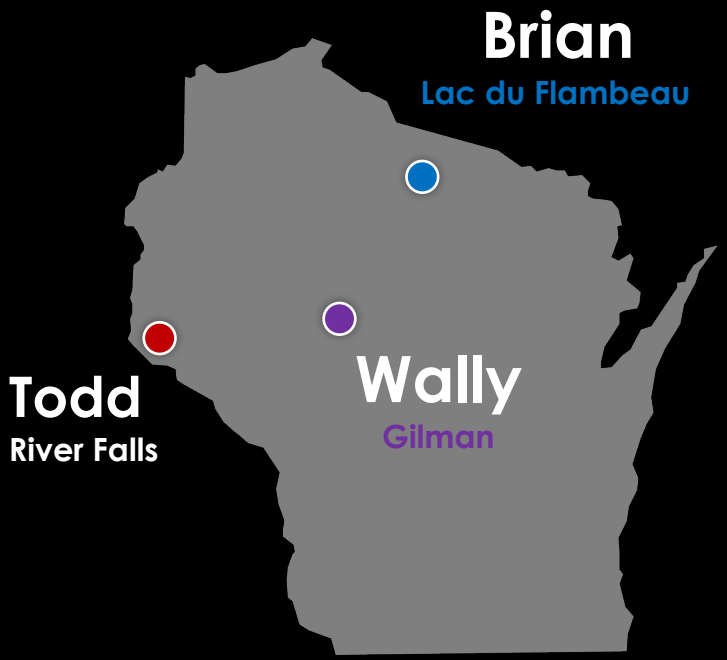
People & Places

- Todd Johnson, UW-Extension, River Falls
- Dr. Wally Leipart, Superintendent, Gilman



People & Places

- Todd Johnson, UW-Extension, River Falls
- Dr. Wally Leipart, Superintendent, Gilman
- **Brian Gauthier, UW-Extension, Lac du Flambeau**



Program History

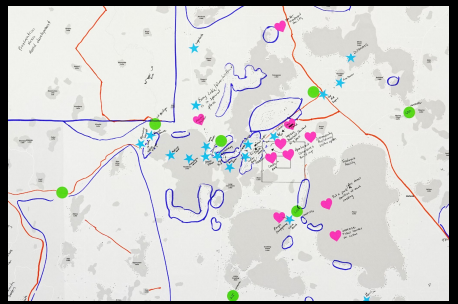
- Community Economic Analysis
- Placemaking & Land Use Planning - Lac du Flambeau
- Design Wisconsin - Gilman



Lac du Flambeau

- Community Economic Analysis
- **Placemaking & Land Use Planning**









Brian

Lac du Flambeau



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Lac du Flambeau

- Community Economic Analysis
- **Placemaking & Land Use Planning**



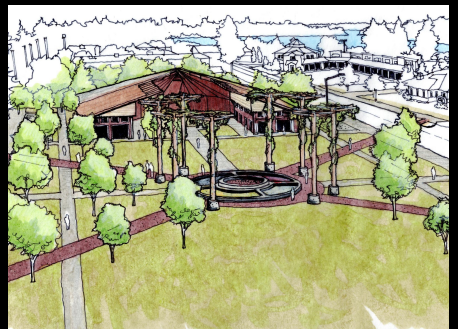
Lac du Flambeau

- Community Economic Analysis
- **Placemaking & Land Use Planning**









Brian

Lac du Flambeau



COMMUNITY DRIVEN PRACTICE IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

An Overview

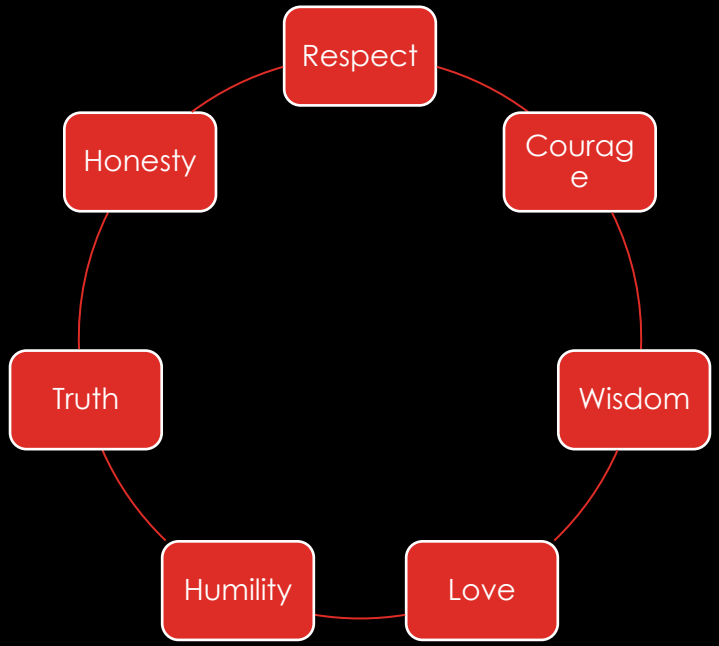
Brian Gauthier LDF Tribal CRD Educator UW Madison Extension



SIX ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS




HONESTY
Better to fail with honesty than succeed by fraud.
TRUTH
It is always easiest to speak the truth.
HUMILITY
To be humble about your accomplishment is to be strong.
LOVE
It is important to care for one another
WISDOM
With hard work and dedication will come knowledge.
COURAGE
Let nothing stand in the way of doing the right thing.
RESPECT
Give it, earn it, receive it.

THOUGHTS

- Think about balance and wellness instead of infrastructure.
- All principles(seven teachings/elements of community development) must be used together in a good way for accountability.
- If done in a good way decision making shifts from top down to consensus driven and sustainable land use models.
- Remember everything in nature is cyclical and because of this our processes have to be adaptable and organic.
- We start where we start and end where we end…..

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT

- A positive for an individual is not necessarily a positive for the community, but a positive for the community is a positive for an individual



Gilman

- Community Economic Analysis
- **Design Wisconsin**



Gilman

- Community Economic Analysis
- **Design Wisconsin**









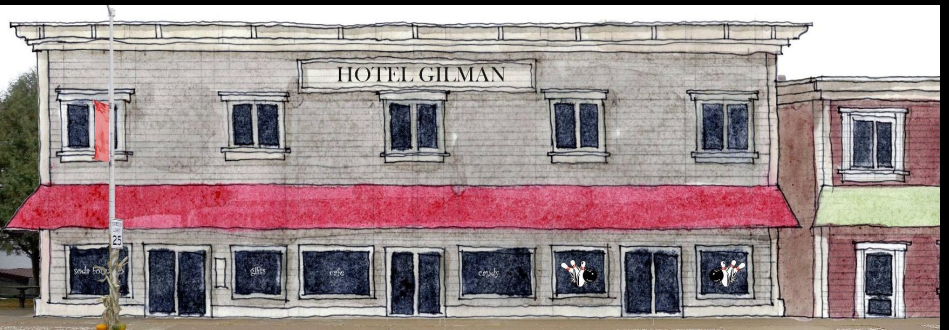


Gilman

- Community Economic Analysis
- **Design Wisconsin**









Gilman School District
Home of the Pirates

Empowered to Make Anything Possible

Design Gilman

How a Village and Its Students are Unlocking Wisconsin's Rural Future



Wally Leipart Ph.D., Superintendent

Lynn Rosemeyer, School Board Member

Miia Vick, Art Teacher and Student Council Advisor

Candice Grunseth, Village of Gilman Clerk

Addy Vick and Mylie Stevens,

Student Council Representatives

Michelle Grimm, UW-Madison Extension

Todd Johnson, UW-Madison Extension



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About Us and Our Journey

















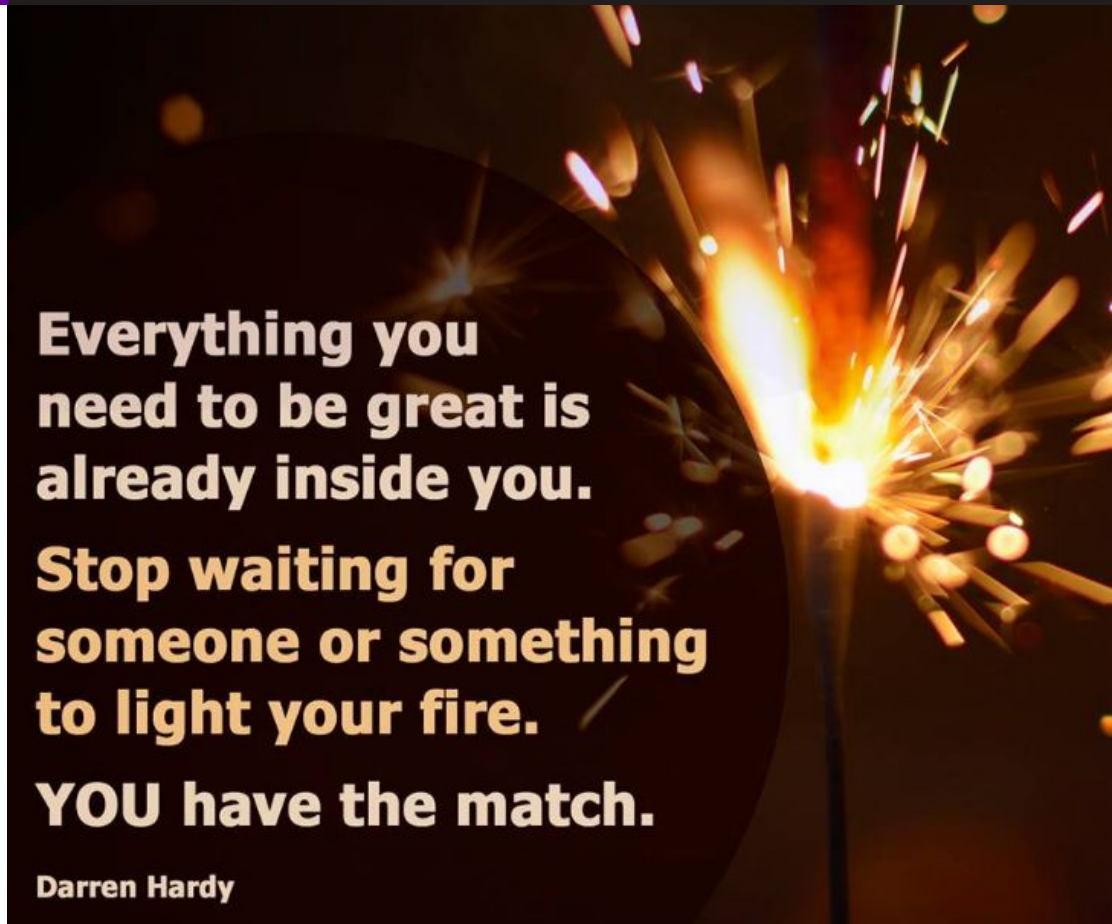




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Empowered to Make Anything Possible

- Creating a Positive Climate and Culture
- Following Our Passion
- Showcasing Our Talents and Strength
- Reaching Out to Our Community to Develop a Vision of Hope and Opportunity



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Community Strategic Plan Purpose

- Strengthen Relationship
- Attract and Retain People
- Increase Housing Options
- Increase Retail Options
- Increase Employment Opportunities



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WISCONSIN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Economic Analysis Program

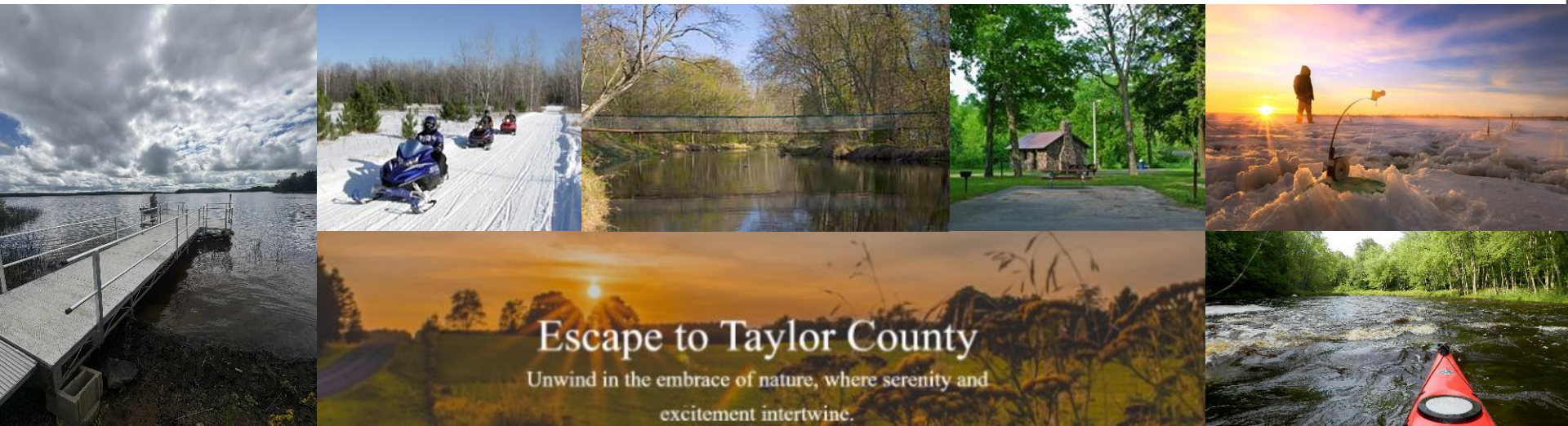
Structured Community Economic Development
Strategic Planning for
Rural Wisconsin Communities



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WISCONSIN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Leveraging Resources to Engage in Comprehensive Community Economic Development Planning



Extension
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WISCONSIN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Pre-planning: Organize for launch with project leadership team

Session 1: Data presentation and discussion on local economy

Session 2: Community Capitals Framework & environmental scan

Session 3: Clarify and prioritize strategic issues

Session 4: Draft Community Economic Development Action and Implementation plan

Post-planning Support: Extension and community partners support the connection between goals and resources.



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Community Strategic Plan Goals

Goal 1
Develop a Vibrant Main Street and Community



Goal 2
Increase Volunteerism and Engagement



Goal 3
Embrace a Quality of Life that is Possible in a Rural Community



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Reimagining Spaces

Before:
An Empty Space
Local Bank









Now:
A Vibrant Space
Vault Village





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Reimagining Spaces





Vault Village

A Place to Shop and Hang Out



A Place Where Students Contribute











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Reimagining Spaces

Before:
An Empty Space
Grocery Store



Now:
A Vibrant Space
Celebrations Hall



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Reimagining Spaces













Celebrations Hall

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Restoring Spaces

Before: An Empty Space Laundromat



Engaging the Community



Now: A Ready for Lease Office/Retail Space



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Revitalizing Spaces

Before:
Inefficient Housing
Trailer Court



Now:
Energy Efficient Housing
Trailer Court



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Transforming Spaces

Non-operational Care Center Transformed Into a 17 Unit Apartment Complex







Gilman Christmas Lights Festival







Presented by Community Betterment Association and Gilman Lions Club
Volunteering: Gilman High School Students

Gilman Christmas Lights Festival











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Volunteerism and Engagement

- Largest parade crowd in decades
- Return of the Pirate Marching Band after a 6-year absence
- A community built on service to one another





SCHOOL DISTRICT OF GILMAN
Portrait of a Graduate

School District of Gilman - Redefining Ready Report Card

COLLEGE READINESS STANDARDS

College Ready: A student who meets the ACT Metric and/or meets the "GPA of 2.8 or Higher" metric and 1 or more of the other Non-Standardized Test Metrics in the College Ready Indicators section.

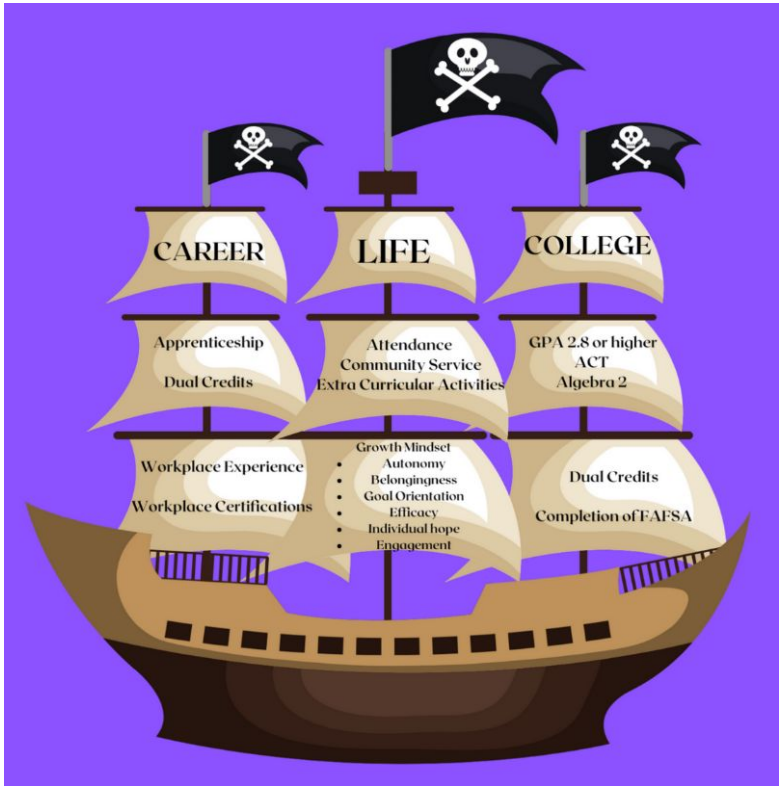
		2021	2022	2023	2024
ACT	**ACT Score:** The ACT's minimum benchmark scores that predict college-level success in the four content areas - English: 18, Math: 22, Reading: 22, Science: 23.	%	%		
100%	**Students earning 2.8 GPA:** According to the National College and Career Readiness Indicators, GPA is the strongest predictor of student success in college and correlates to both adult income and adult health and wellness.	%	%		
	Algebra 2: Success in Algebra II in high school is linked to both college enrollment and bachelor's attainment.	%	%		
	Dual Credit: Dual enrollment students are statistically significantly more likely to: 1. persist in college to a second semester; 2. earn higher post-secondary GPA one year and two years after high school graduation;	%	%		
	GPA of 2.8 or Above: High School Grade Point Average is consistently the strongest predictor of 4 year college outcomes for all academic disciplines, campuses and freshman cohorts.				

LIFE READINESS STANDARDS

		2021	2022	2023	2024
	Attendance Rate Freshman Year: Percentage of students attending more than 90% of days during Freshman year.	%	%		
	Community Service Hours: *2-4-6-8 who do we appreciate the Ginger campaign? Or how many events per year?				
	Student Involvement in Activities: Participants in extracurricular activities were more likely to aspire to higher education and complete at least a bachelor's degree. How many would we prefer?				
	Growth Mindset: Autonomy, Belongingness, Goal Orientation, Efficacy, Individual Hope, Engagement				

CAREER READINESS STANDARDS

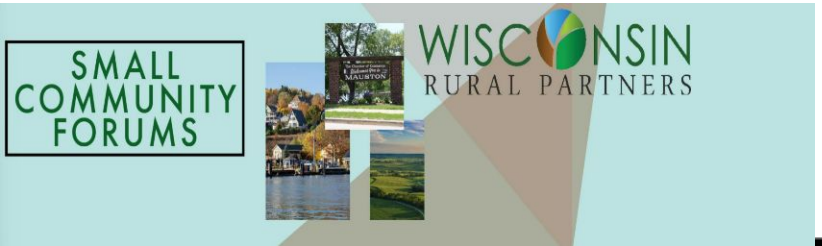
		2021	2022	2023	2024
	Work Based Learning: Students participating in a DPI approved Work Based Learning Experience. • Youth Apprenticeships • School Based Enterprise				
	Industry Recognized Certification Programs: Industry Recognized Credentials Developed between DPI and DWD • Commercial Drivers License • Certified Nursing Assistant				
	Dual Credit: Dual Credit Career pathway courses				



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Design Gilman Event





The Gilman Charrette

The Design Team arrived on the evening of Thursday, October 10 to meet with the Local Planning Team to prepare for the 2-day charrette.

Thursday, October 10

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Reception at the school gym

Friday, October 11

8:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Community presentations at the school gym.
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Focus group lunches at the school.
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Walking and bus tours.
3:15 PM – 4:30 PM	Design Team meeting at the school.
4:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Community meal & workshop at the Celebration Hall.

Saturday, October 12

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Design Team breakfast with community members.
8:30 AM – 7:00 PM	Planning & design studio.
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Final presentation at the school cafeteria.

Community Presentations

The Design Wisconsin process begins with a morning of public presentations given by 10 community members for 10 minutes each. The purpose of the presentations is to provide Design Team members with background information that provides context for the remainder of the weekend. The Local Planning Team selected the following topics to present:

School District & Childcare Survey
Government
Development
Teens
History
Natural Resources
Transplants & Boomerangs
Gilman Cheese
Farming Community
Community Engagement

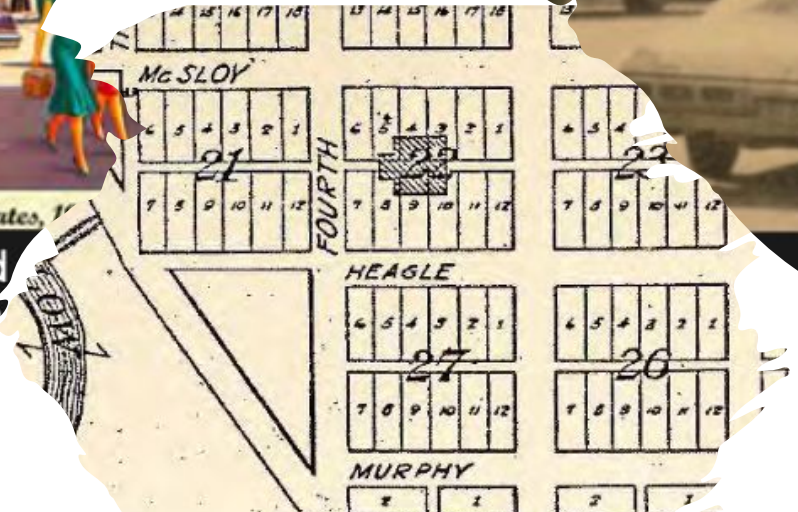
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Honoring our Past



Above: "Retro" A.I. generated
postcard reflecting on Gilman
recognized as the 2nd "Mos
tiful Downtown in the Unti
behind Honolulu, Haw





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Engaging Everyone in the Design











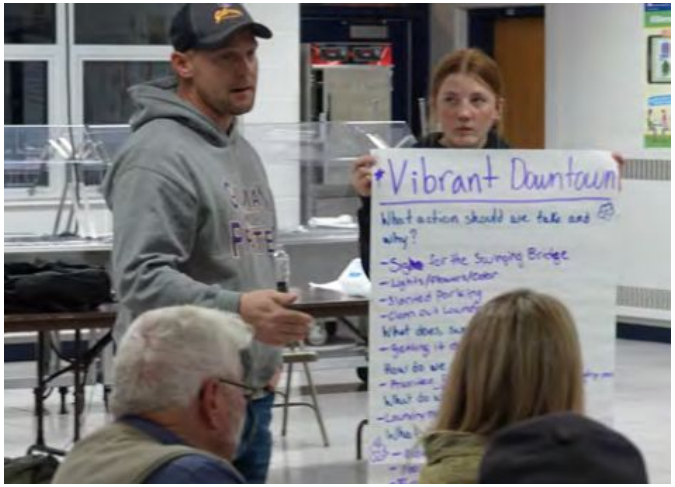
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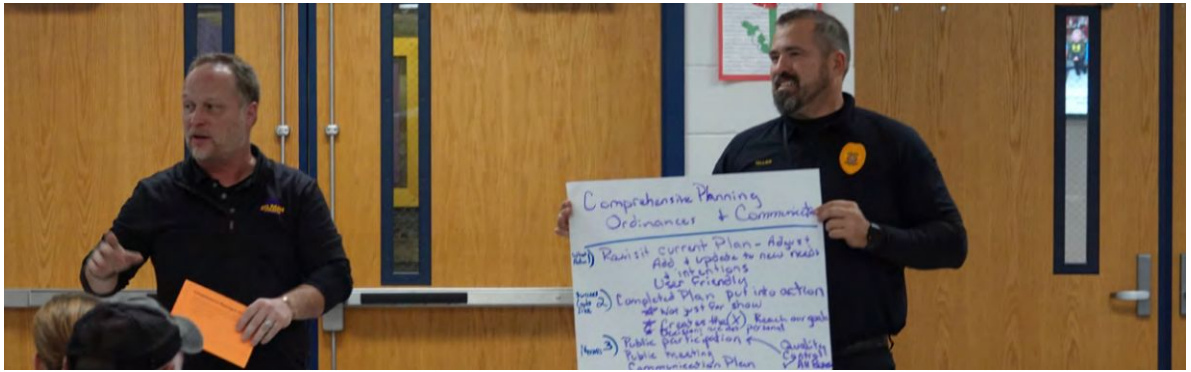
Ensuring Everyone Has a Voice

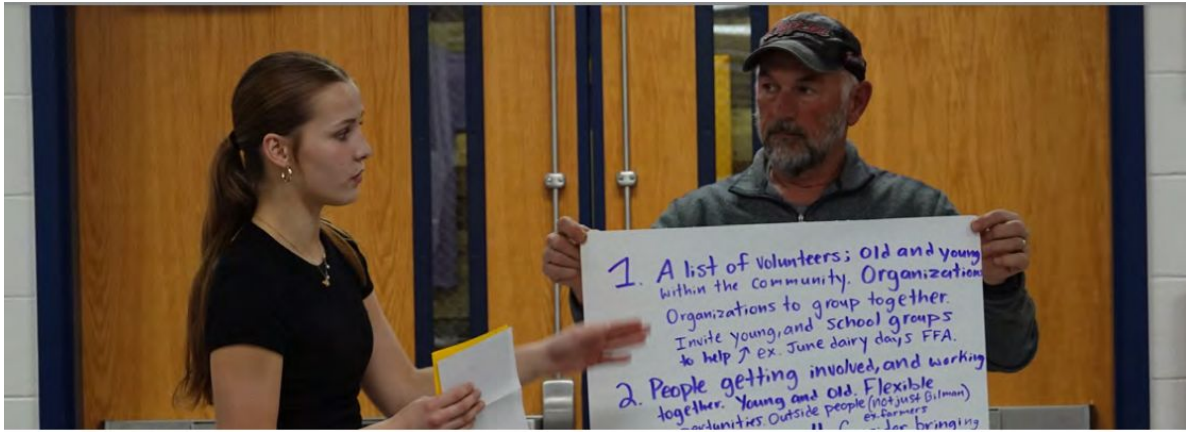


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Sharing Community Ideas







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Identifying Themes







Left: Neighborhood Plan

1. Mixed-Use/Townhomes
2. Central Park
3. Riverwalk Trail
4. Swing Bridge Plaza
5. Flexible Outdoor Space
6. Public Parking
7. Pedestrian Connection

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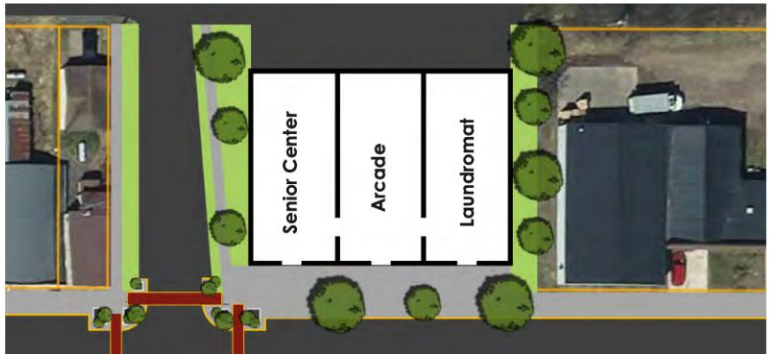
Presenting Possibilities



Above: Simulation of a new mixed-use development on the corner of Main Street and 3rd Avenue North.

Downtown Mixed-Use Development

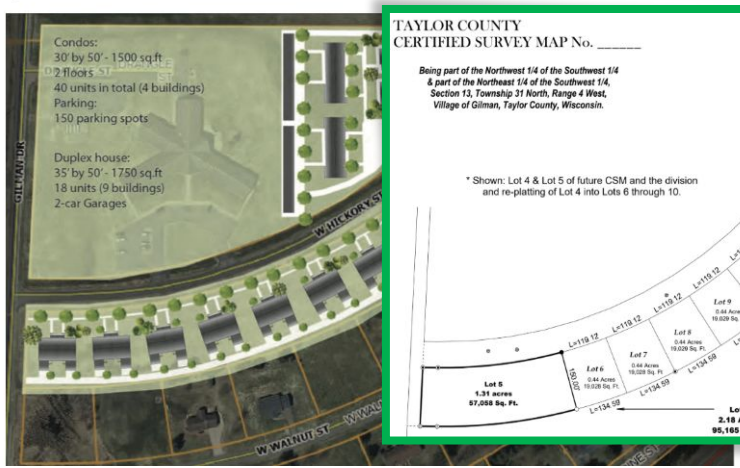
Downtowns are more vibrant places when there are a variety of things to do and a variety of land uses. This includes housing. Providing affordable housing above shops and stores allows the main level to contribute to the mix of businesses while increasing residential densities nearest to the city core. The lot on the corner of Main Street and 3rd Avenue North is strategically located in the downtown and slopes from the residential neighborhood to the north down towards Main Street. This change in topography may be enough to help offset the cost of building a two-story mixed-use building in which apartments could be accessed via the rear without the need for a staircase. The concept illustration features balconies for those units that provide a covered entry and outdoor seating for storefronts below. In this example, a laundromat, arcade, and senior center with access to one another encourages a multi-generational multi-use facility.





West End Housing Development

Gilman has several opportunities to develop a variety of housing options within the Village limits. This makes it more cost effective to maintain services while providing convenience access to community amenities, and businesses. The properties along the west end of town are the most "ripe" for development and able to provide much needed higher-density/more affordable housing. This conceptual plan features duplexes along the south side of Hickory Street with higher density apartments to the north.

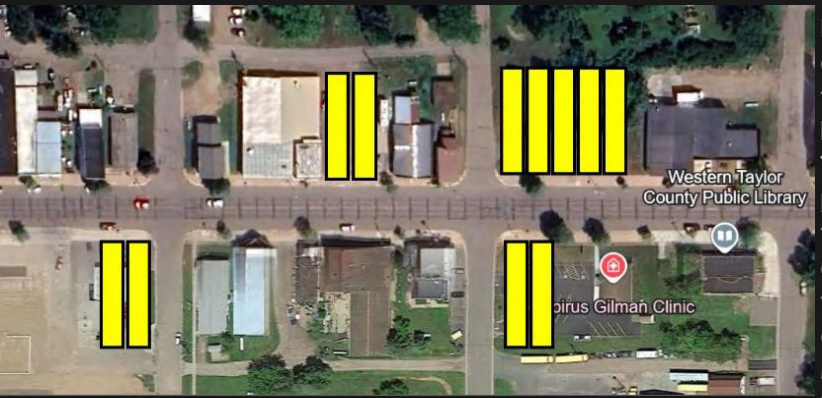


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Identifying Opportunities



Above: Simulation of a new mixed-use development on the corner of Main Street and 3rd Avenue North.



unities for infill define the "street wall" and strengthens the vibrancy of Main Street.

Right: Concept illustration of new deli and hotel at the current site of the old landromat and bowling. The design places hotel parking in the back of the lot acced via the alley. A trail between the deli and theater directs pedestrians from Main Street towards the Swinging Bridge.



Addressing Needs



Above: Concept for a new hotel at the bowling alley site. Next door, the landromat building is transformed into a deli with second story apartments added above.

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Embracing a New Idea



Above: Simulation of LED string lights directing residents and visitors towards the Swinging Bridge. A mural with images from Gilman's past provides education while providing visual interest.

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Providing Access to Resources

Gilman Trail System

Gilman has valuable outdoor recreational opportunities on land as well. Taylor County as a whole has more mileage of the designated ice age trail than any other county in the state, and it was recently designated as a national scenic trail by the U.S. National Parks Service. Currently, the trail ends on state route 64, but there could be an opportunity to extend it across Beaver Creek to end in Gilman instead. This would bring in more visitors who may stay in Gilman, purchase food in Gilman, or take a break and enjoy different recreational activities in Gilman. This extension would be known as the school trail and could also be used by students for sports practice, gym class, or just hanging out. These trails could also connect to the swinging bridge, a key attraction in Gilman. Overall, these trail improvements would create a more interconnected, multi-use regional trail system for hiking, biking and other activities.



Downtown Trail



School Trail



Swinging Bridge Trail



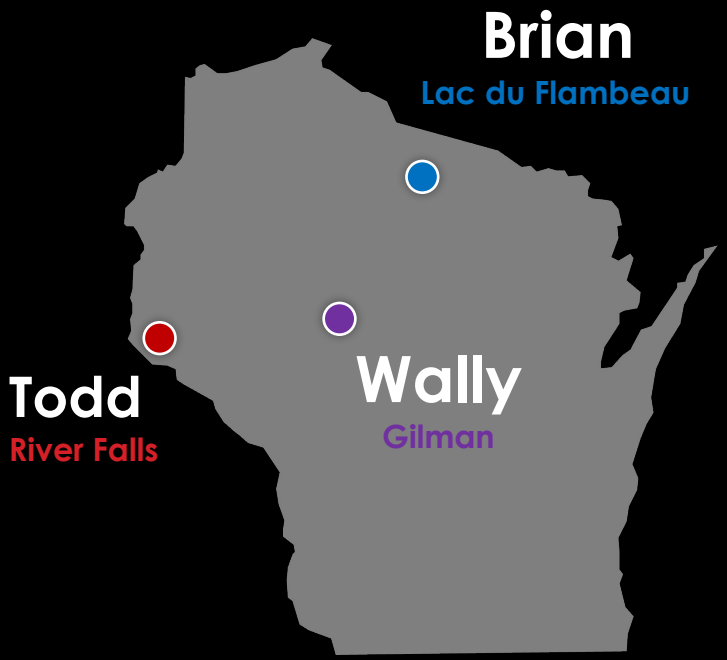
Gilman School District
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An Empowered Community



Community-driven practice

- Community Economic Analysis
- Design Wisconsin in Gilman
- Placemaking & Land Use Planning in Lac du Flambeau





Todd W. Johnson, MURP

Land Use & Community Development Outreach Program Manager

The University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension

twjohnson6@wisc.edu

Local Communities in the Age of Data Centers and AI

December 2, 2026, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM Eastern

Host

Dr. Bo Beaulieu, Professor Emeritus, Purdue University

Speakers

"Data Centers 101: What Community Leaders Need to Know"

Dr. Roberto Gallardo, Vice President of Engagement & Associate Professor
Purdue University

"People's Views of AI: Trust, Bias and What Comes Next?"

Catharine Montgomery, MBA, Founder and CEO
Better Together Agency