

# Town of Windsor



Analyzing Governmental Structure



# Agenda

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## Overview

- Windsor at a Glance...
- Where We Are...
- Where We Are Going...

## Today's Discussion

- Windsor Boards, Commissions, Committees & Authority

## Steps After July Meetings

- Town Board Considers Public Input
- Town Board Recommends Action

# Windsor at a Glance...

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## History

- Established in 1847 (approximately 36 square miles)
- 2013 population estimate was 6,549
- Windsor's land area continues to decrease while the population continues to grow

## Character

- Balanced mix of residential neighborhoods, retail/service-oriented commercial, and productive agricultural land

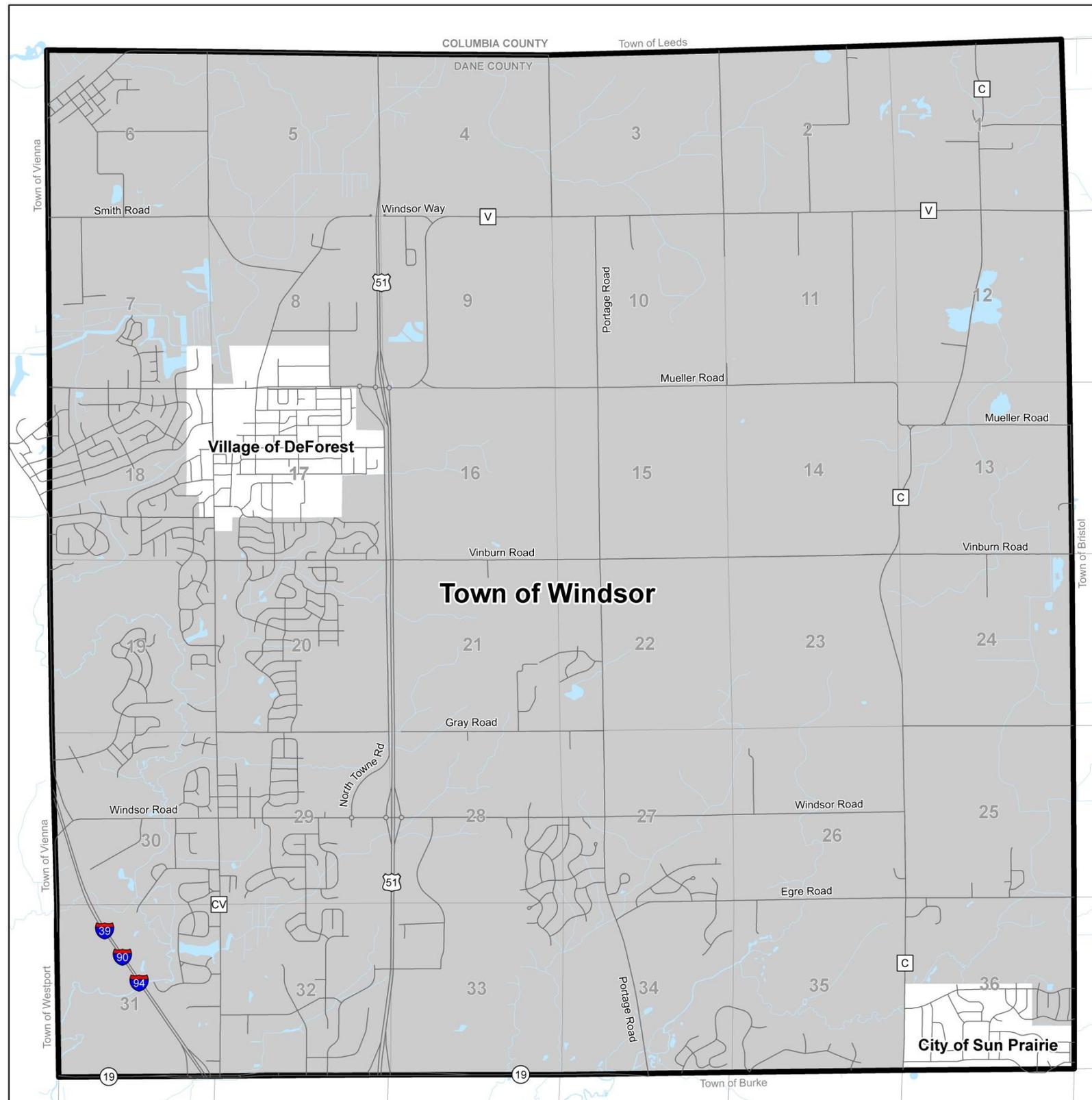
## Philosophy

- Promote sound land use planning (since early 1990's)
- Protect/enhance environmental corridors and conservancy areas
- Preserve agricultural land, farming and agri-business

# Year 1970

## Approximate Land Area

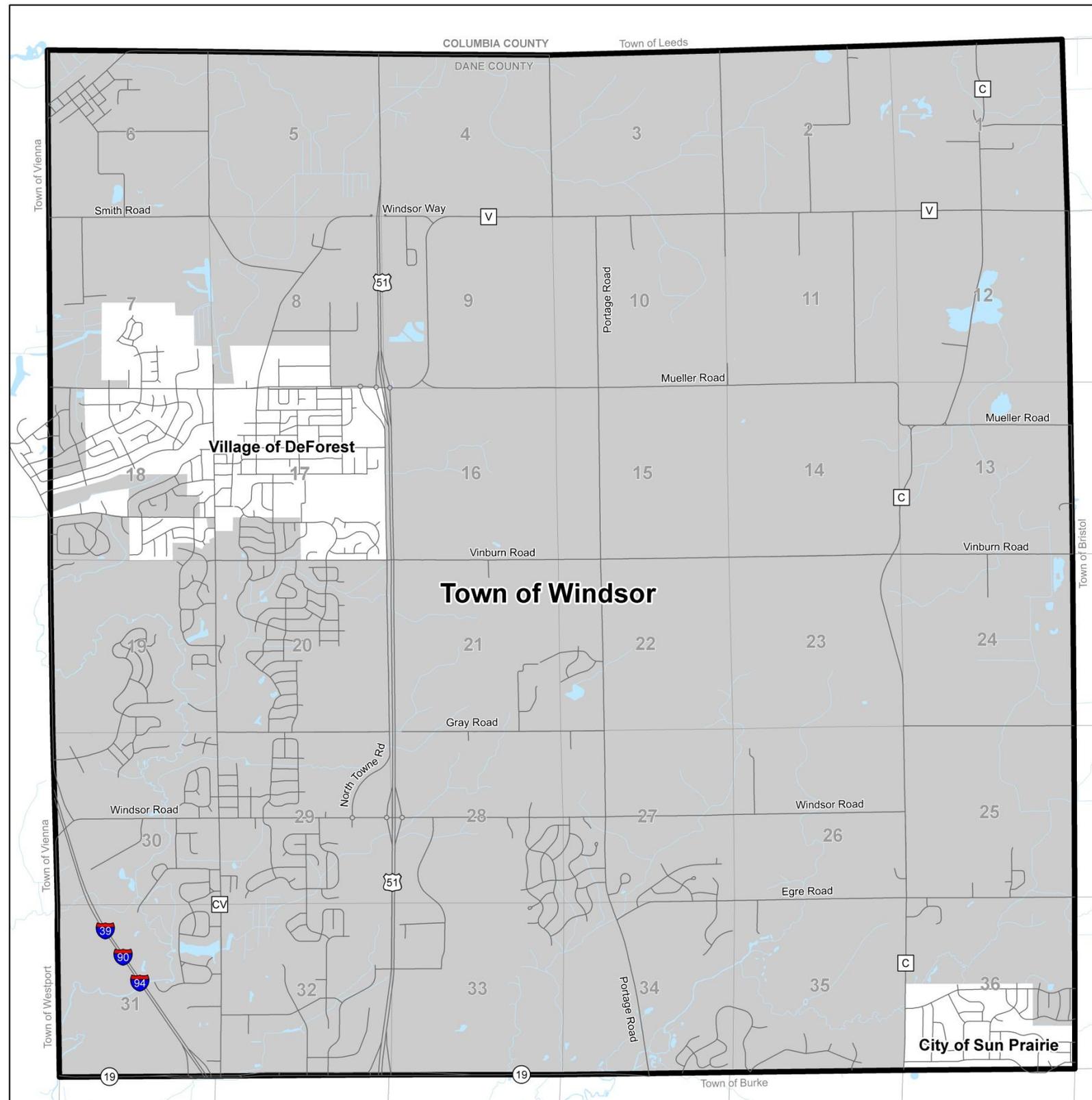
- Windsor – 21,885ac
- DeForest – 609ac
- Sun Prairie – 278ac



# Year 1980

## Approximate Land Area

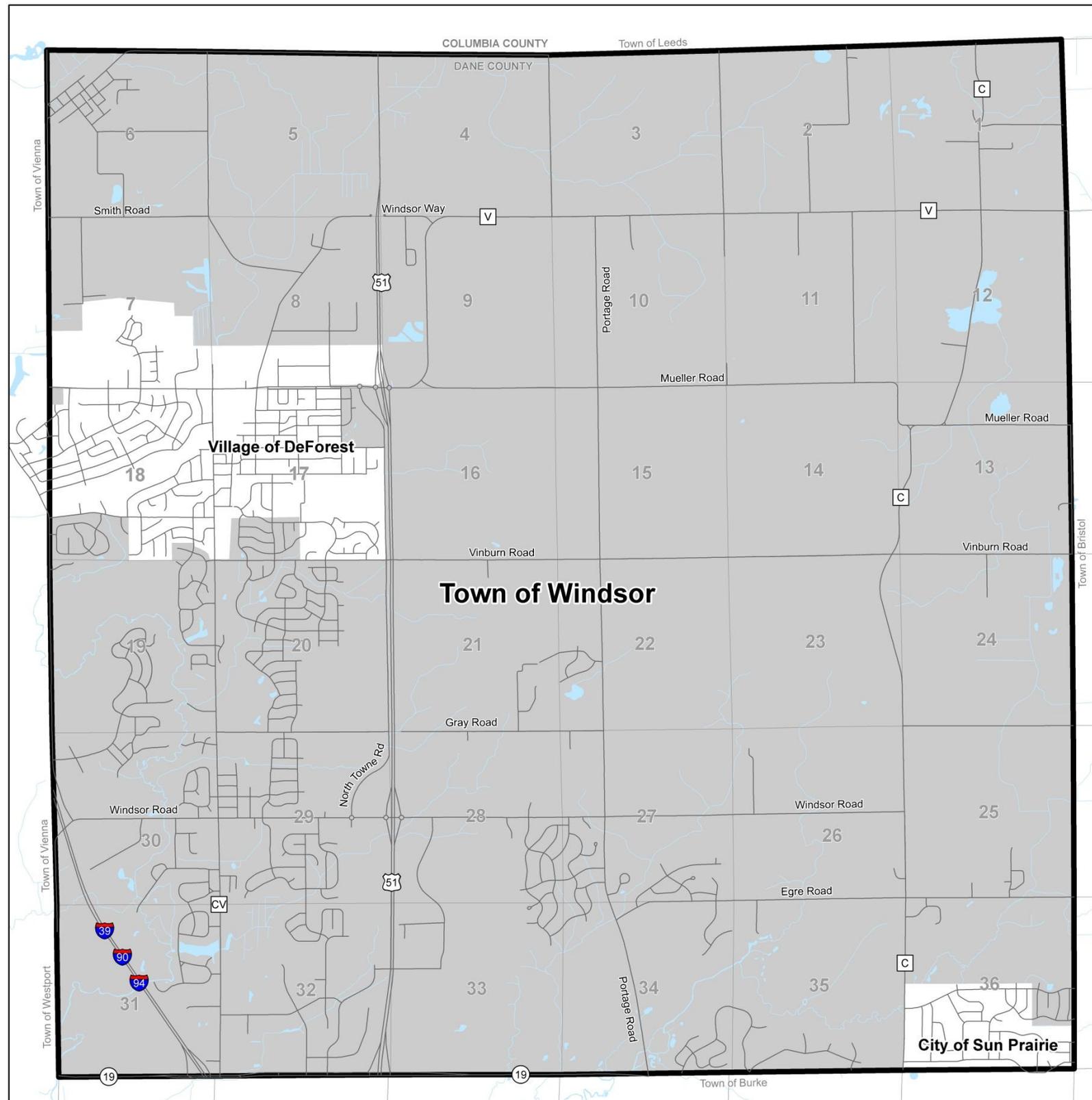
- Windsor – 21,283ac
- DeForest – 1,210ac
- Sun Prairie – 278ac



# Year 1990

## Approximate Land Area

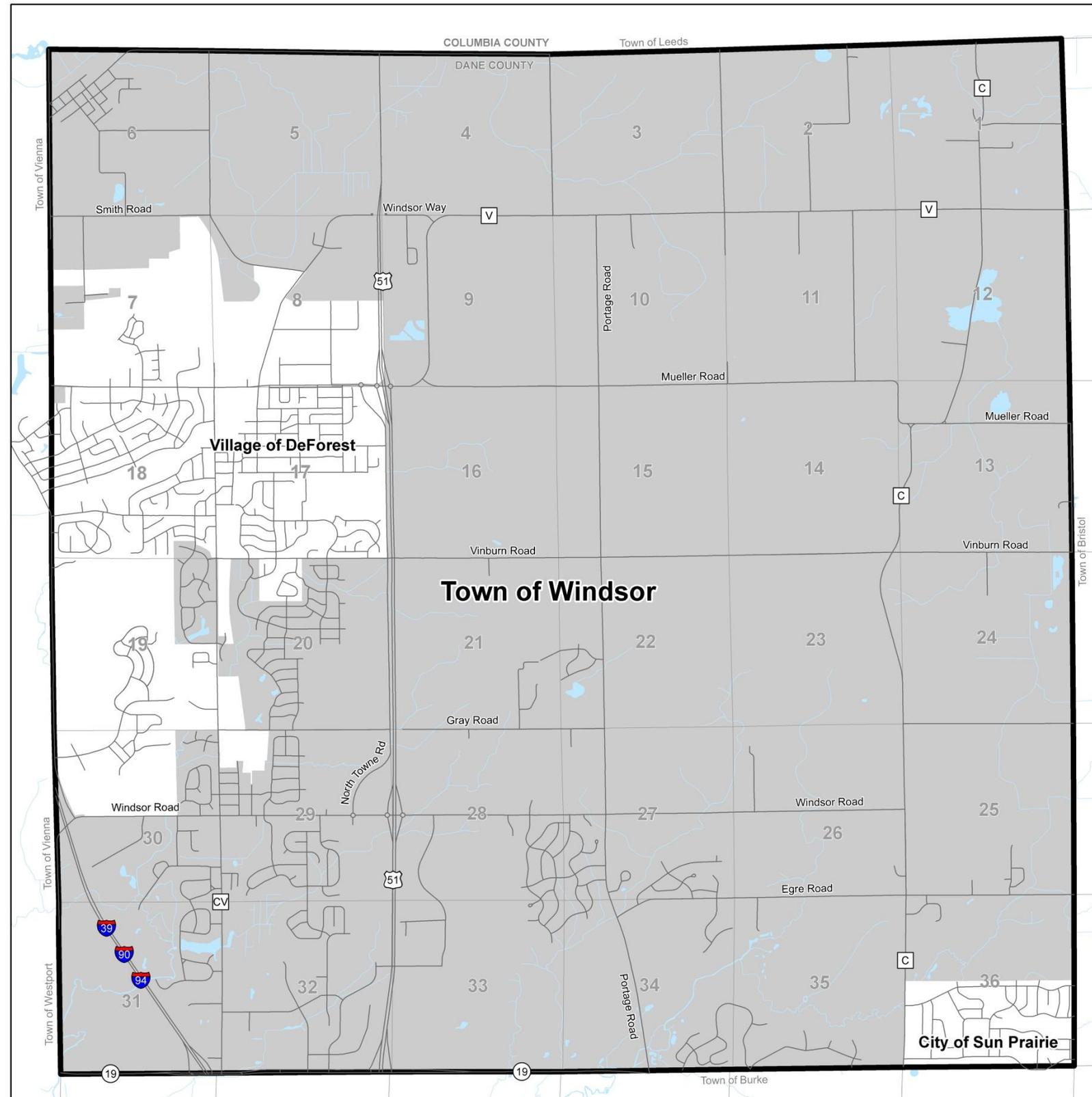
- Windsor – 21,030ac
- DeForest – 1,464ac
- Sun Prairie – 278ac



# Year 2000

## Approximate Land Area

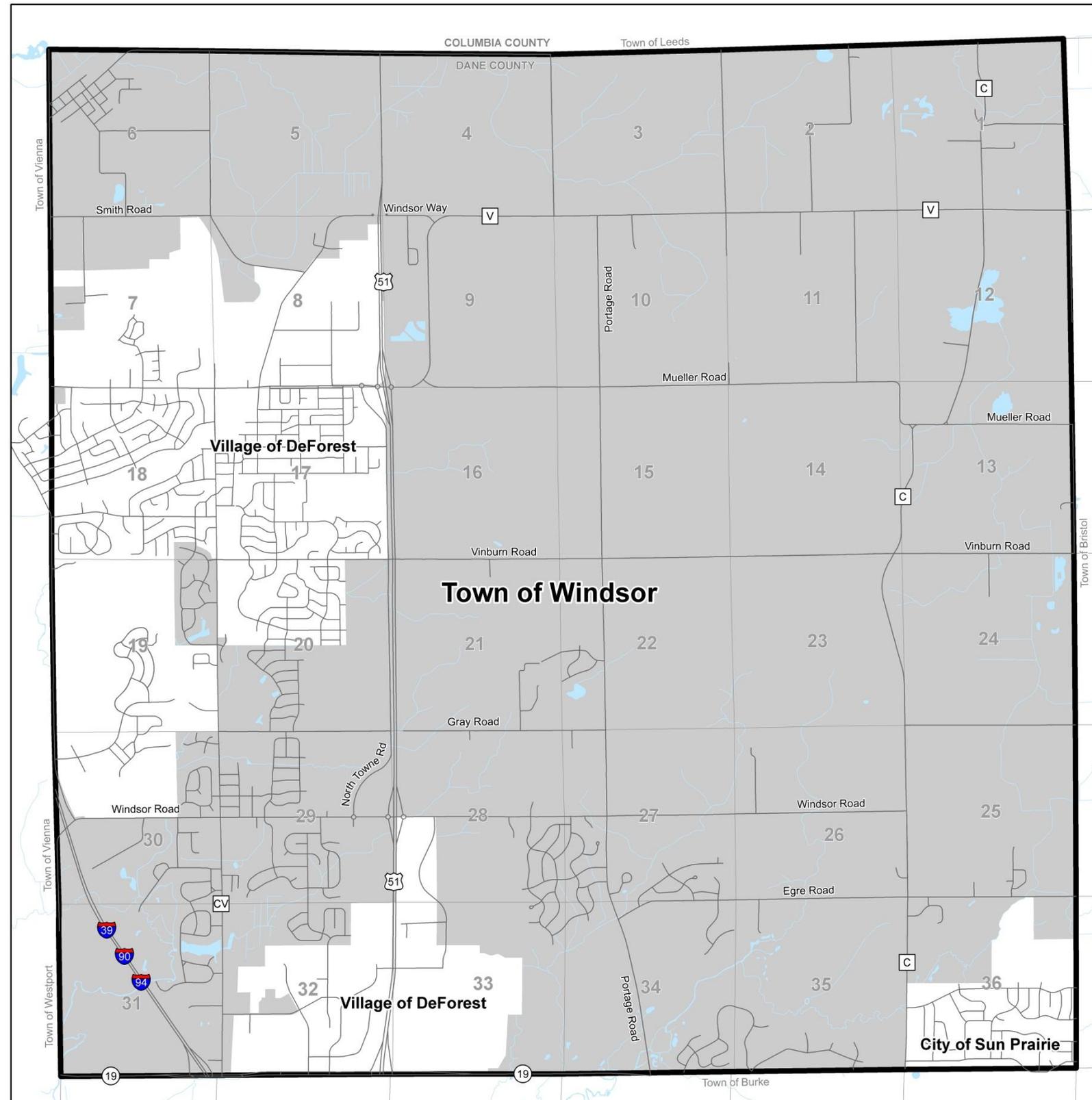
- Windsor – 19,547ac
- DeForest – 2,907ac
- Sun Prairie – 318ac



# Year 2010

## Approximate Land Area

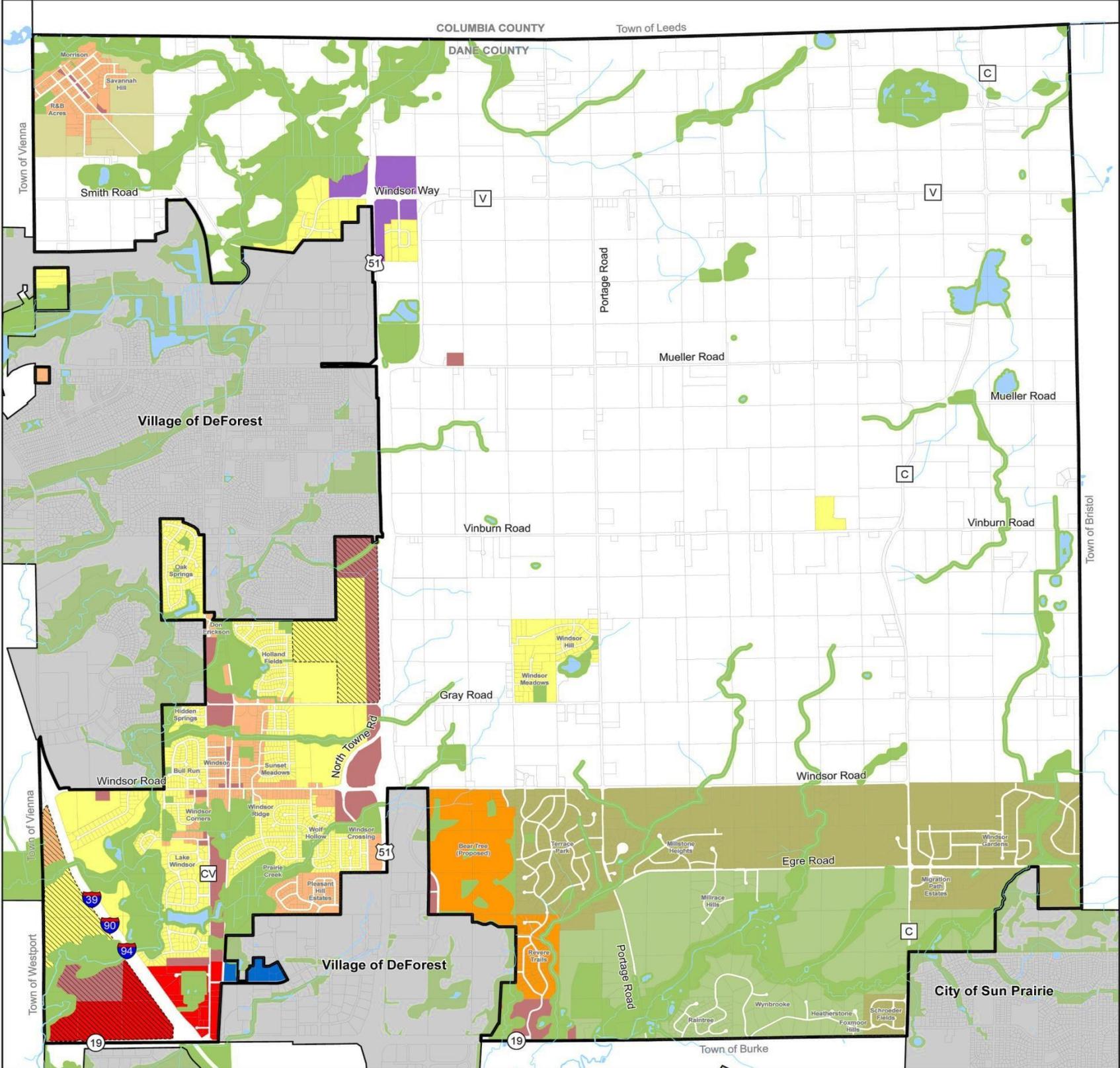
- Windsor – 18,333ac
- DeForest – 4,015ac
- Sun Prairie – 424ac



# Year 2014 Future Land Use

## Approximate Land Area

- Windsor – 18,333ac
- DeForest – 4,015ac
- Sun Prairie – 424ac

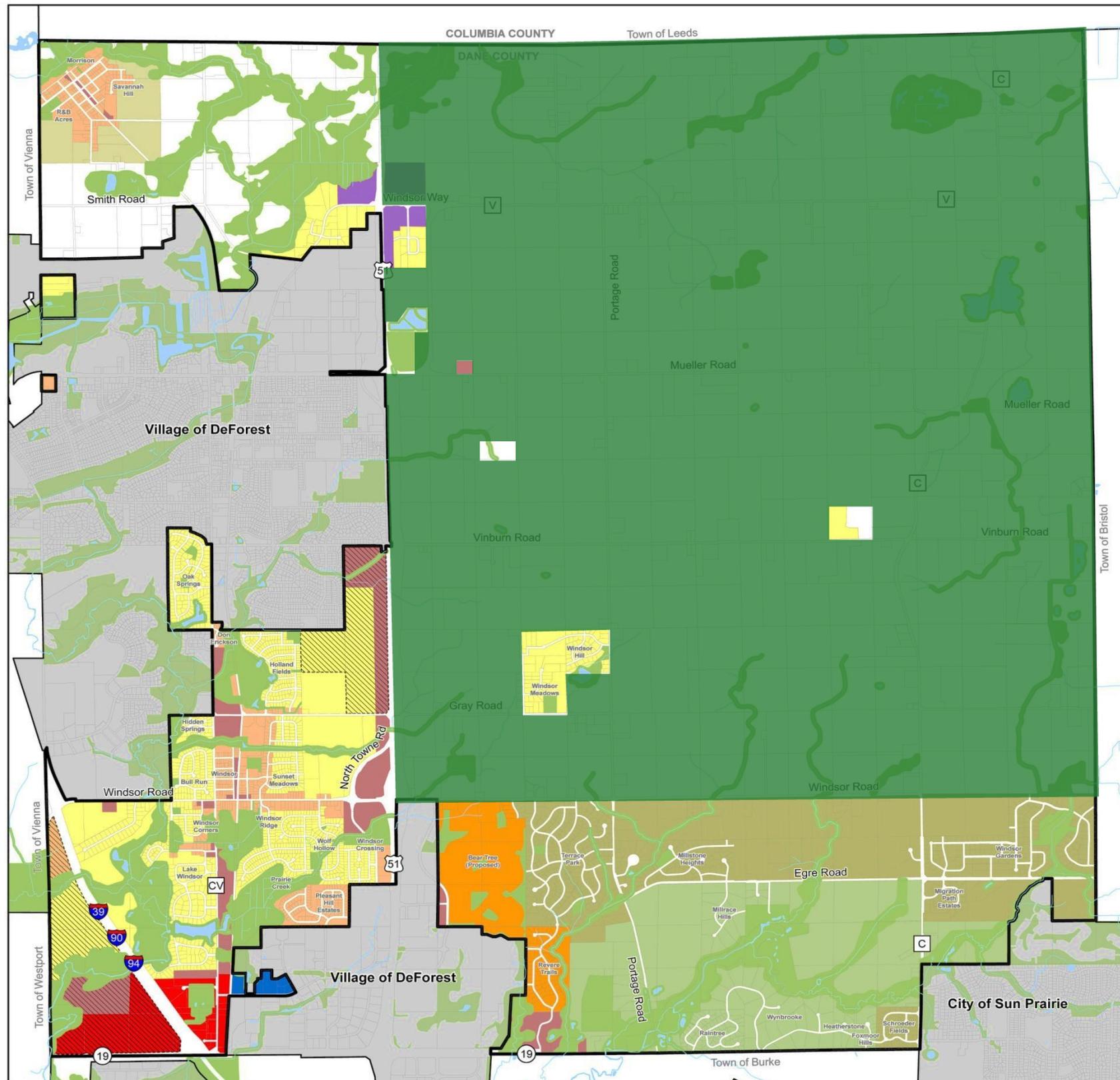


# Year 2014 Future Land Use

Approximate Land Area

- Windsor – 18,333ac
- DeForest – 4,015ac
- Sun Prairie – 424ac

Agricultural Enterprise Area



# Year 2014 Future Land Use

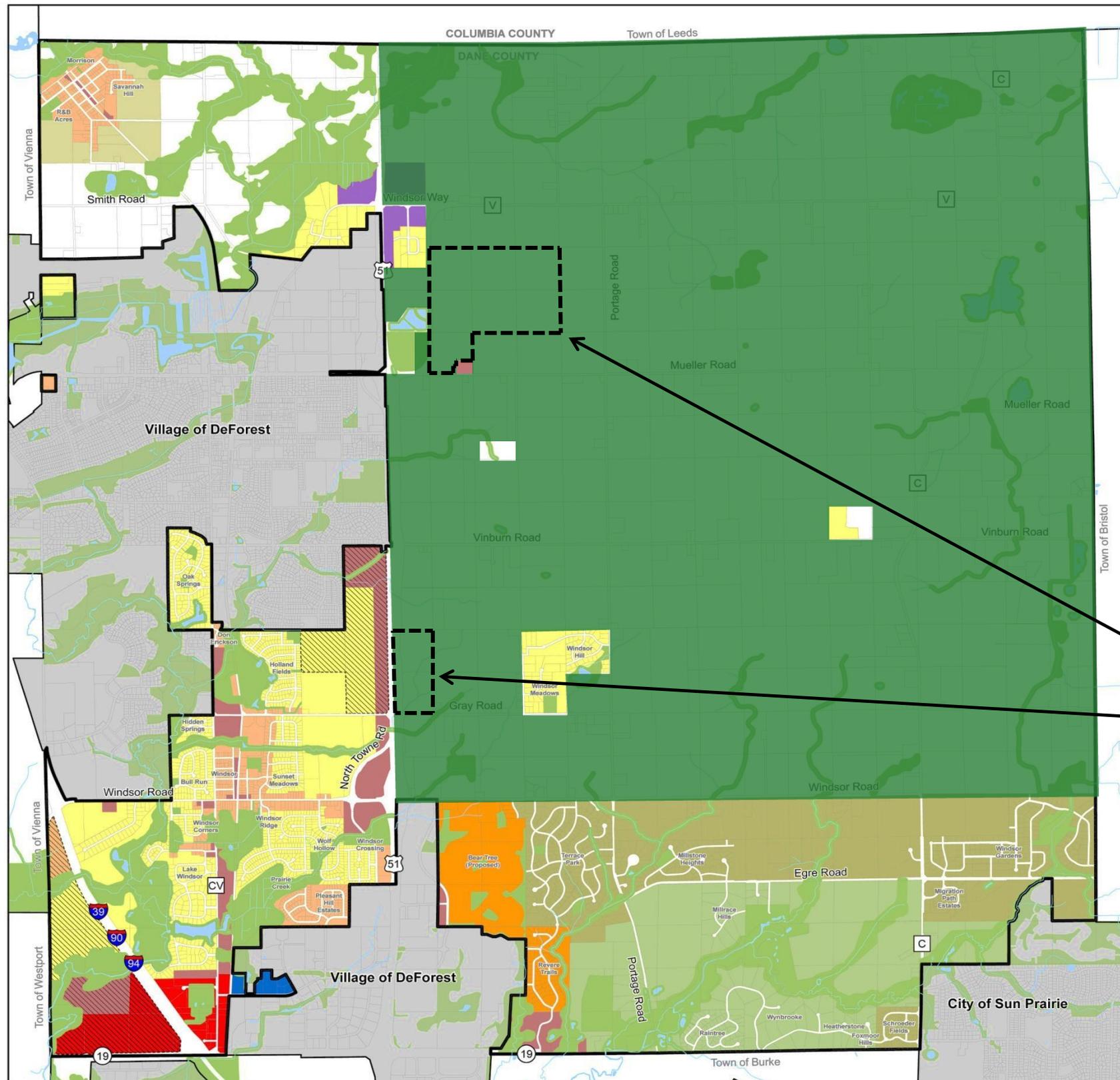
Approximate Land Area

- Windsor – 18,333ac
- DeForest – 4,015ac
- Sun Prairie – 424ac

Agricultural Enterprise Area

Vern & Vicki Treinen PDR

Jim & Anita Treinen PDR



# Where We Are...

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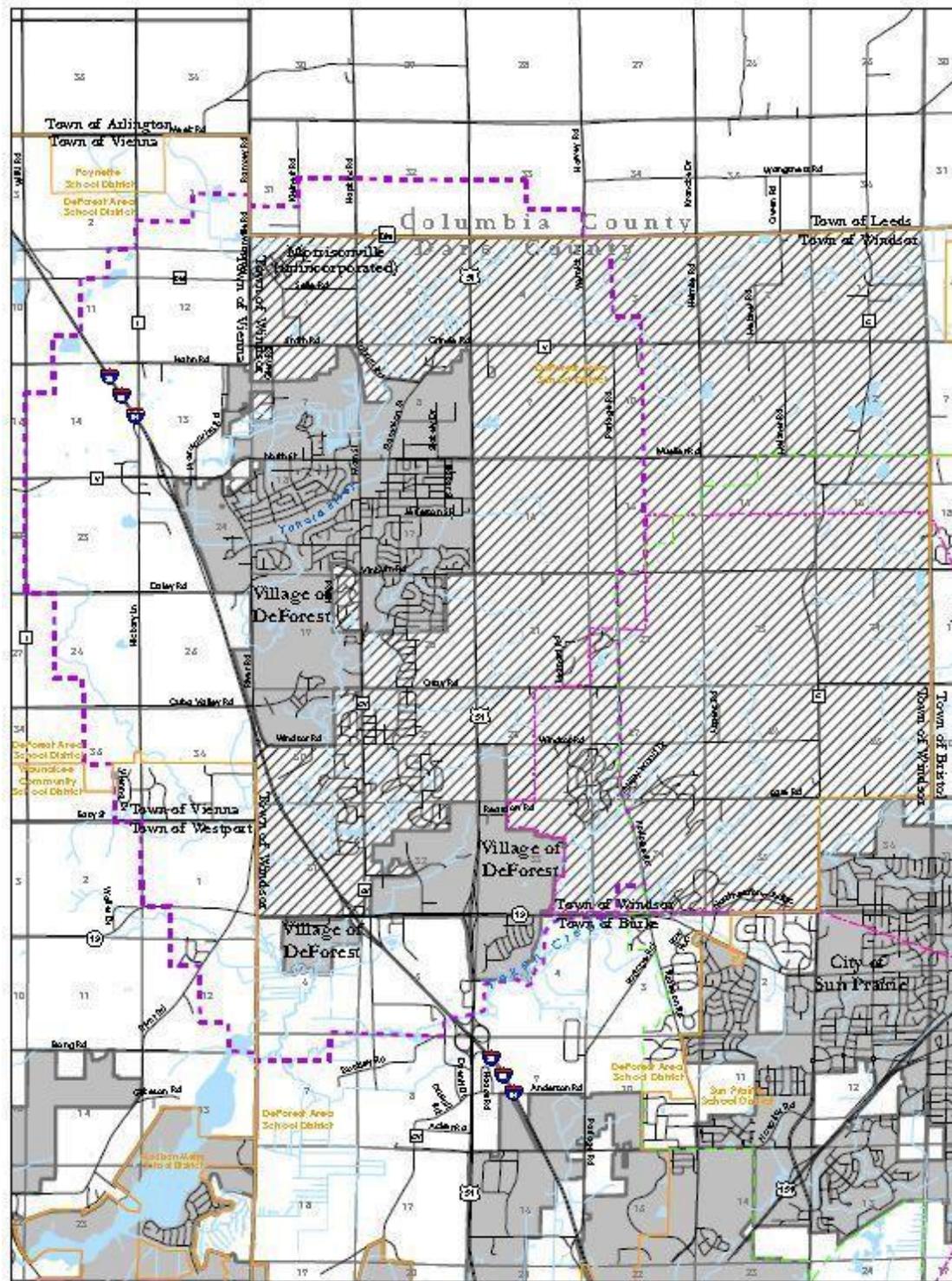
## Windsor-DeForest Consolidation/Merger Study

- Conducted approximately 14 years ago
- Issues included farmland preservation, financial and tax impacts, land use, government structure, community name, public safety, and utility/public works
- Town of Windsor Board did not proceed

## Cooperative Plans

- DeForest-Windsor
  - January 2010 to January 2030
  - January 2010 to January 2040 for lands within Area B
- Sun Prairie-Windsor
  - October 2010 to December 2037

# DeForest-Windsor Cooperative Plan



**Exhibit 1: Jurisdictional Boundaries**

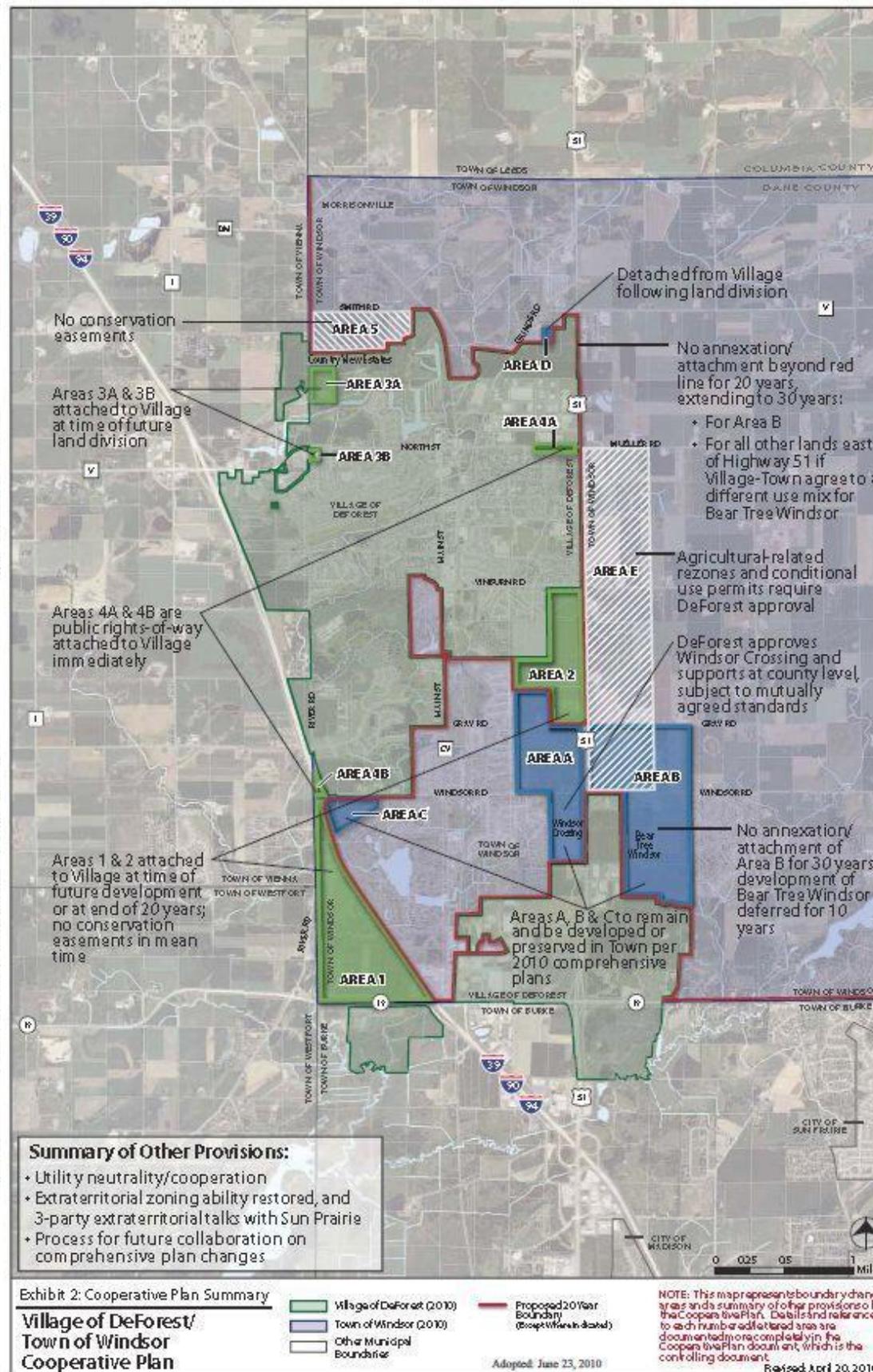
**Village of DeForest/Town of Windsor Cooperative Plan**

Adopted: June 23, 2010  
Created: April 9, 2010

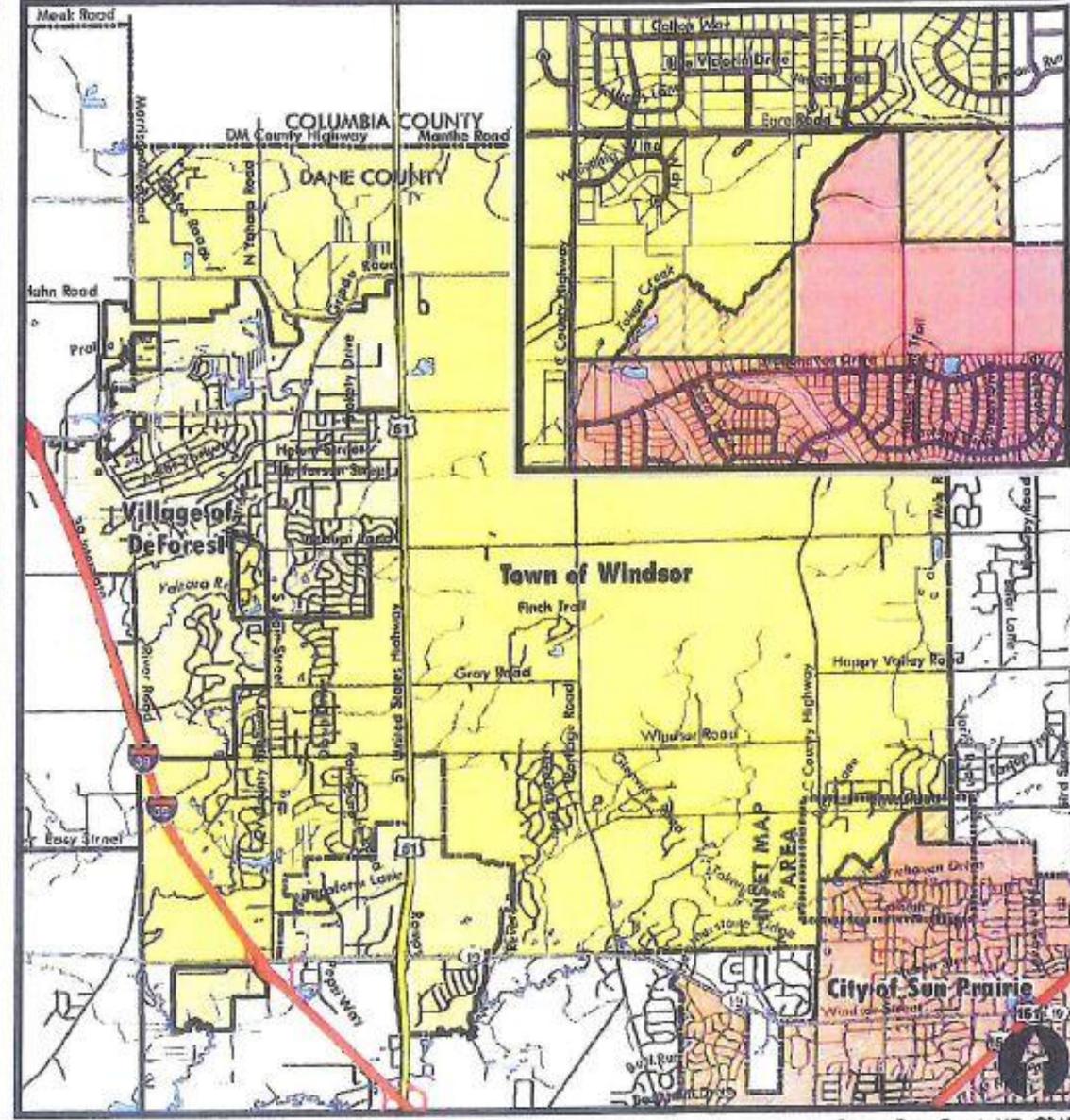
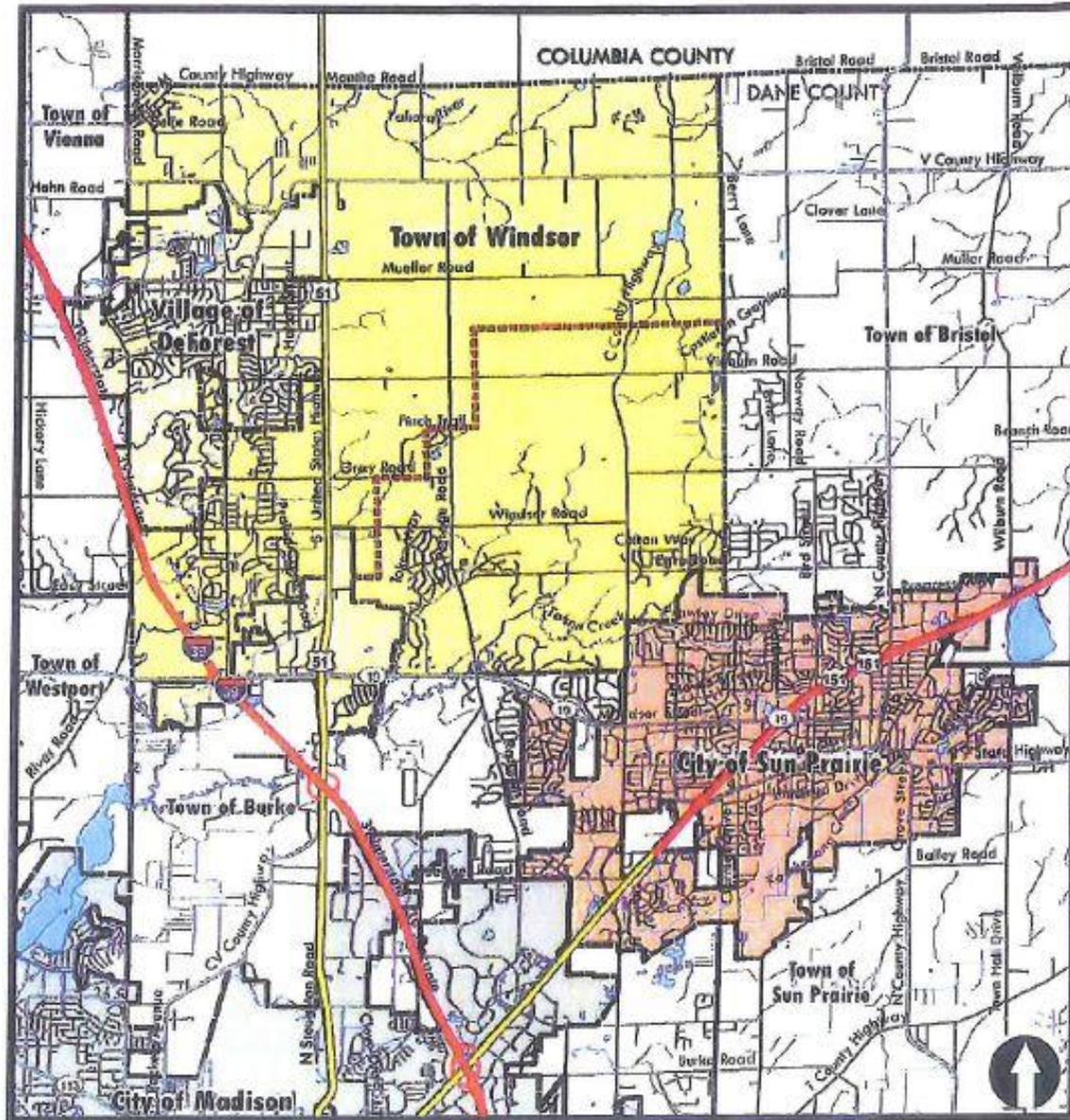
Source: Dane County IIA, Dane County BPC, Vialichar

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www.wandwalle.com

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cities and Villages (Jan, 2010)</li> <li>Town of Windsor (Jan, 2010)</li> <li>Municipal Boundaries (Jan, 2010)</li> <li>School District Boundaries (Jan, 2010)</li> <li>Sections With Section Numbers</li> <li>Roads</li> <li>Surface Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sun Prairie, Windsor Extra Territorial Zoning Area Boundary (per Sun Prairie &amp; Windsor as of April 2010)</li> <li>DeForest Extra Territorial Land Division Review Boundary (per 2002/10 DeForest Comprehensive Plan)</li> <li>Sun Prairie Extra Territorial Land Division Review Boundary (per 2006 Sun Prairie Comprehensive Plan)</li> </ul>
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# Sun Prairie- Windsor Cooperative Plan



**Exhibit 1: Municipal Boundaries**

Source: Dane County LIO; GRAEF

**Exhibit 2: Boundary Adjustment Area**

Source: Dane County LIO; GRAEF

January 5, 2012

January 5, 2012

- City of Sun Prairie
- Town of Windsor
- Village of DeForest
- City of Madison
- Current Sun Prairie/Windsor ETZ Boundary

- City of Sun Prairie
- Town of Windsor
- Village of DeForest
- Boundary Adjustment Area



**Windsor**

Growing Forward

# Snapshot of 2014 to Date

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## DAWN/BDG and Village of DeForest

- DAWN (DeForest and Windsor Now) and BDG (Business Development Group) asked the Town to examine the benefits, impacts and issues of reconfiguring the Town of Windsor and Village of DeForest to form a stronger united entity
- Village of DeForest has asked the Town of Windsor to consider merger

## Economy Begins to Turn Around

## Town Contacts Neighboring Communities

- The Town of Windsor has contacted all neighboring communities to discuss the Town's intent to proceed with a due diligence study of its options

## Press Release

- On May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Town of Windsor issued a press release
- Town sees 3 options and places initial focus on incorporation

# Due Diligence Review in July 2014

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## Consider 3 Options

1. Remain as a town, no major governmental structural changes
2. Create a new governmental entity with DeForest through merger or consolidation
3. Incorporate and change government from town to village

## Public Meetings / Focused Open Discussion

- July 9<sup>th</sup> – Windsor Utilities
- July 16<sup>th</sup> – Windsor Boards, Commissions & Committees
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Windsor Residents
- July 30<sup>th</sup> – Windsor Agricultural Community

# Incorporation – ALL of Windsor

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## Procedural Options for Incorporation

- Wisconsin Department of Administration
- Legislative (2015 Budget Bill)

## Complex Processes

Many Hurdles to Cross to Incorporate



# Factors to Consider

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## How would incorporating impact Town Residents....

- Change in property taxes  
(**\*No fiscal analysis has been conducted as of this date\***)
- Effect on Schools
- Impact on sanitary districts
- Changes to comprehensive land use plan
- Creation of additional economic development opportunities
- Impact on cooperative plans
- Consideration to neighboring communities
- Changes to internal Town operations



# Benefits to Becoming a Village

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- Maintain community identity
- Secure town boundaries (rather than being assimilated like the Towns of Burke, Blooming Grove, and Madison)
- Control local zoning and land use
- Use economic resources to strengthen area business (rather than fighting legal battles with our neighbors)
- Protect agricultural land and agri-business
- Continue governance with Windsor representatives at helm



# Today's Discussion

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## Boards, Commissions, Committees

- How are we organized today?
- What happens if we incorporate?

## Legal Authority

- How does our legal authority change?



# What Happens in a Village

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A lot of things stay the same for Windsor

- Town electors already granted Village powers to the Town Board
- Similar Operational Needs & Government Functions
- Similar Town Staff & Public Works Needs
- Similar In-House Professionals & Consultants (Engineer, Attorney, Planner, Inspector)

The County's role changes

- Plan Commission rather than County ZLR
- Zoning and Building Permits by Village, not County



# Village Governance Structure

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## Village Board

- Village President & Trustees
- Elected at-large or by district
- Staggered 2-year terms

## Plan Commission

- No change in composition necessary
- Appointed by Village President & confirmed by Village Board
- Zoning decisions go to Village Plan Commission; County role is limited
- Need a separate Zoning Board of Appeals in the Village

## Committees

- Standing Committees – established by ordinance
- Ad Hoc Committees – established as needed

# Legal Authority

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- Historical context
- Villages are incorporated municipalities and have additional statutory powers
- A village's borders are secure: cities and villages **cannot annex** other villages
- Cities and villages can annex towns and unincorporated areas
- Villages can cooperate with other villages and cities and towns
- Villages can enter intergovernmental agreements with each other on even more areas of mutual interest using 66.0301 and other statutes
- Villages can choose to merge with one another



# Questions, Comments & Concerns