Town of Windsor

Analyzing Governmental Structure

Agenda

Overview

- Windsor at a Glance…
- Where We Are…
- Snapshot of 2014 to Date…

Today's Discussion

- Windsor Residents

Steps After July Meetings

- Town Board Considers Public Input
- Town Board Recommends Action

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Windsor at a Glance…

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

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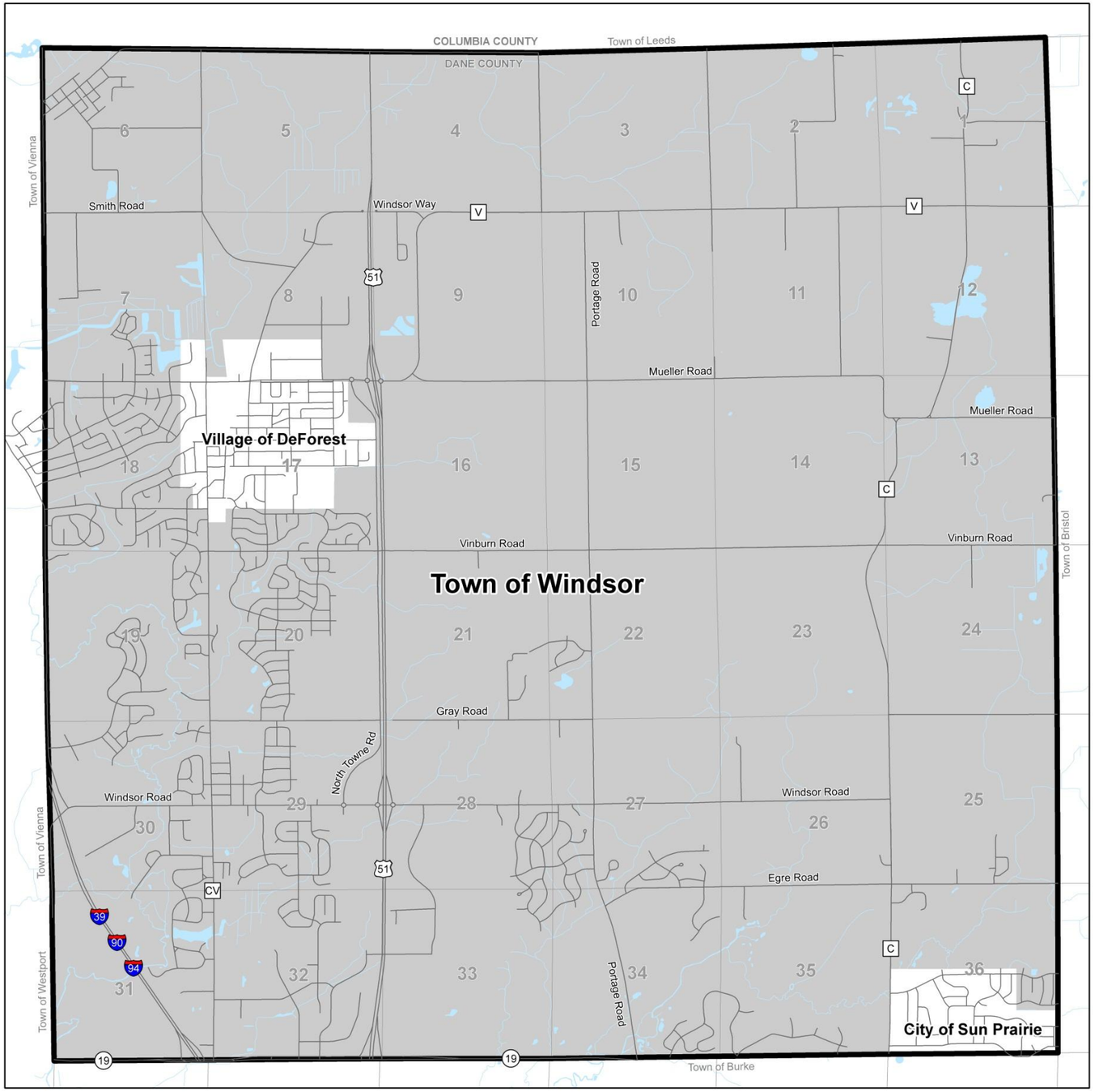

Year 1970

Approximate Land Area

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

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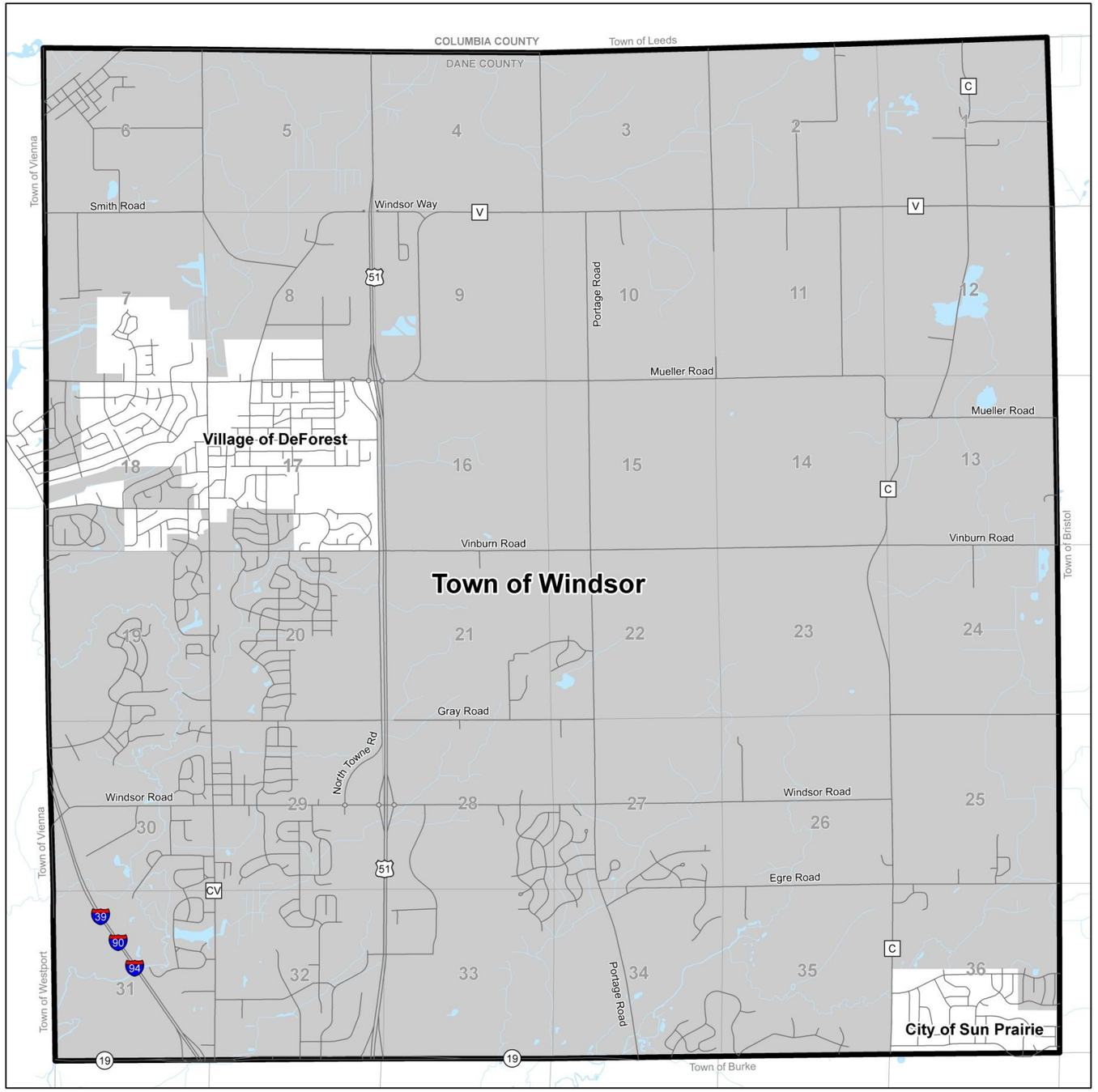

Year 1980

Approximate Land Area

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

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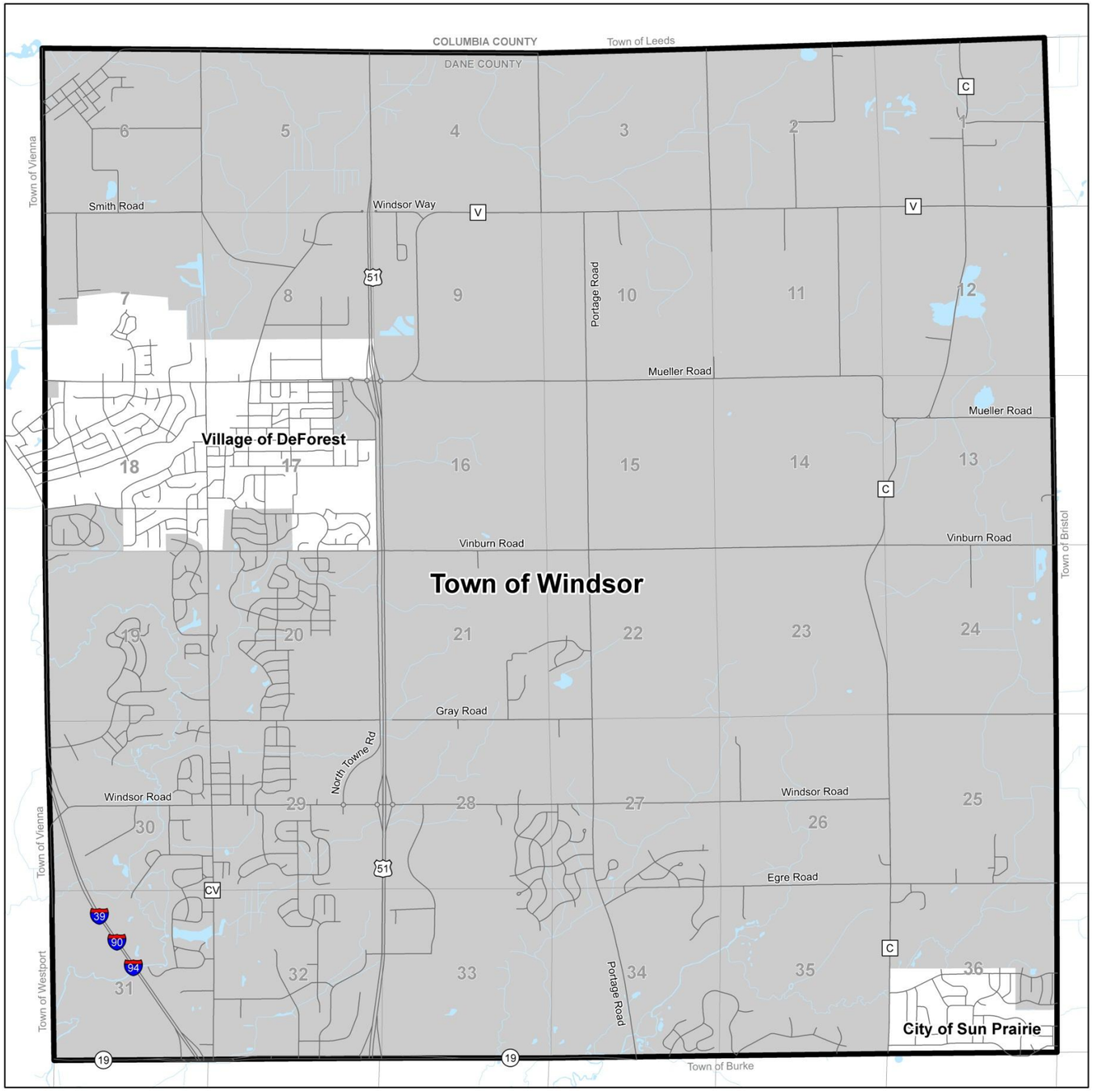

Year 1990

Approximate Land Area

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

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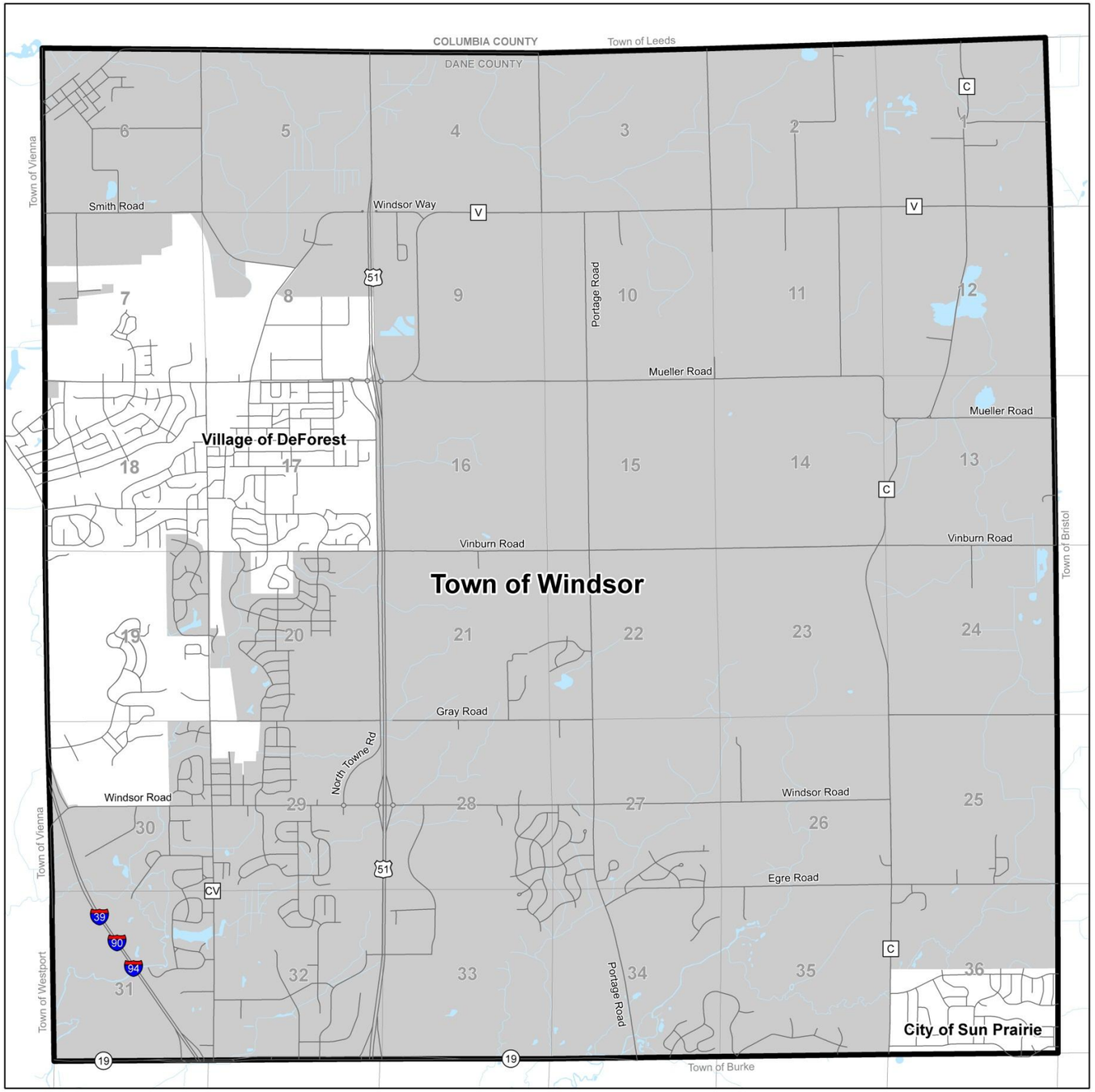

Year 2000

Approximate Land Area

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

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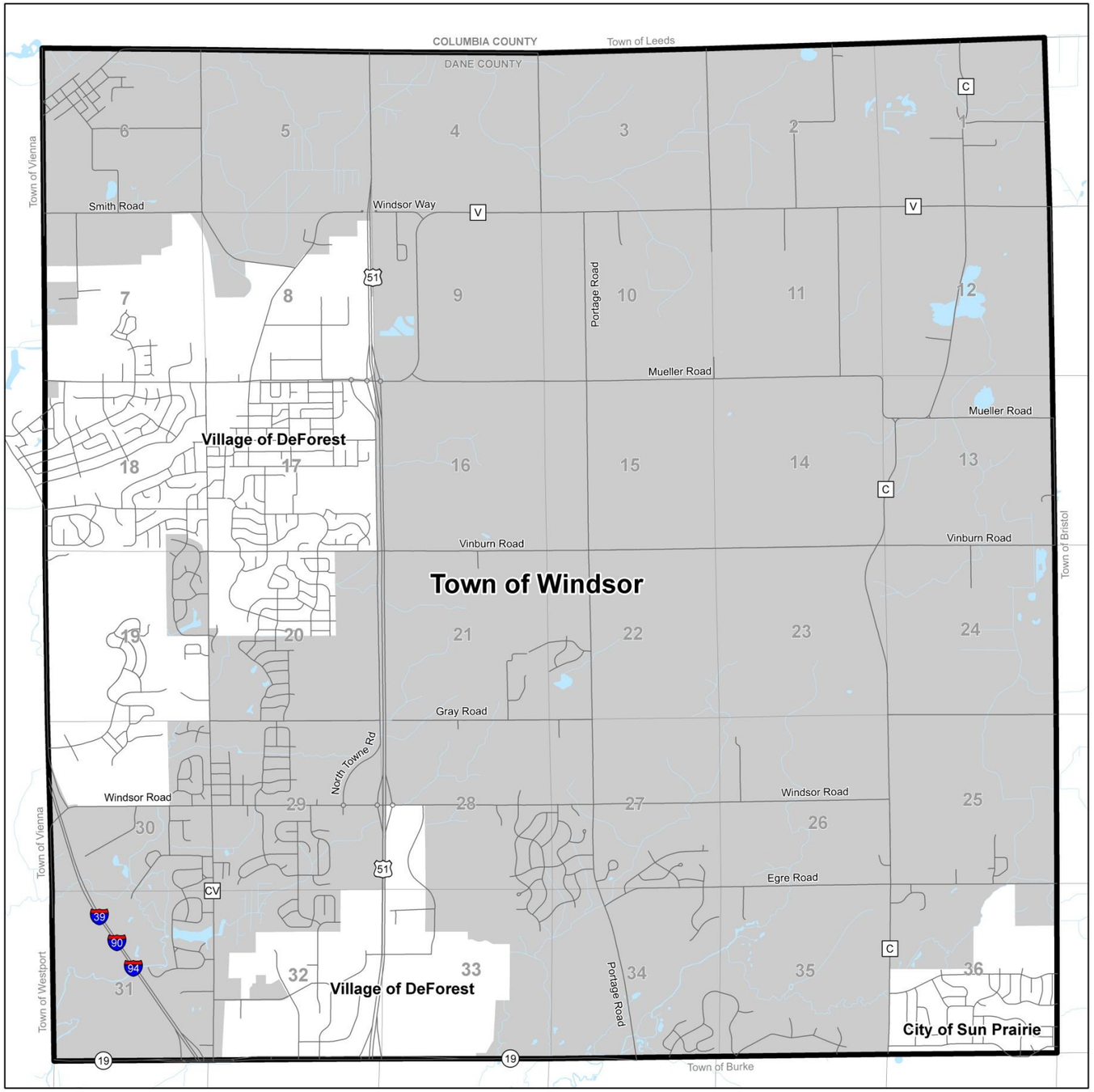

Year 2010

Approximate Land Area

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

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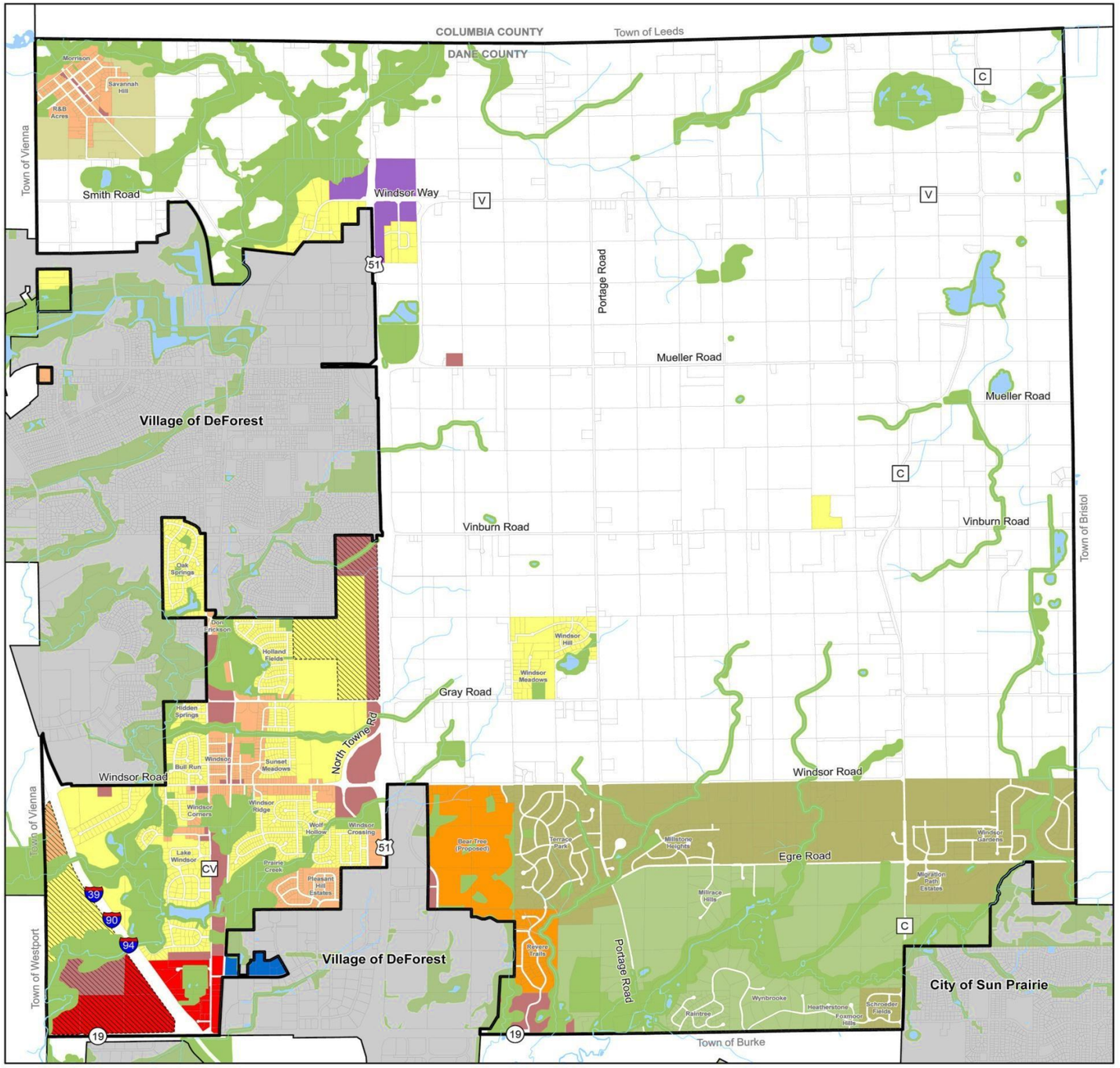

Year 2014 Future Land Use

Approximate Land Area

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

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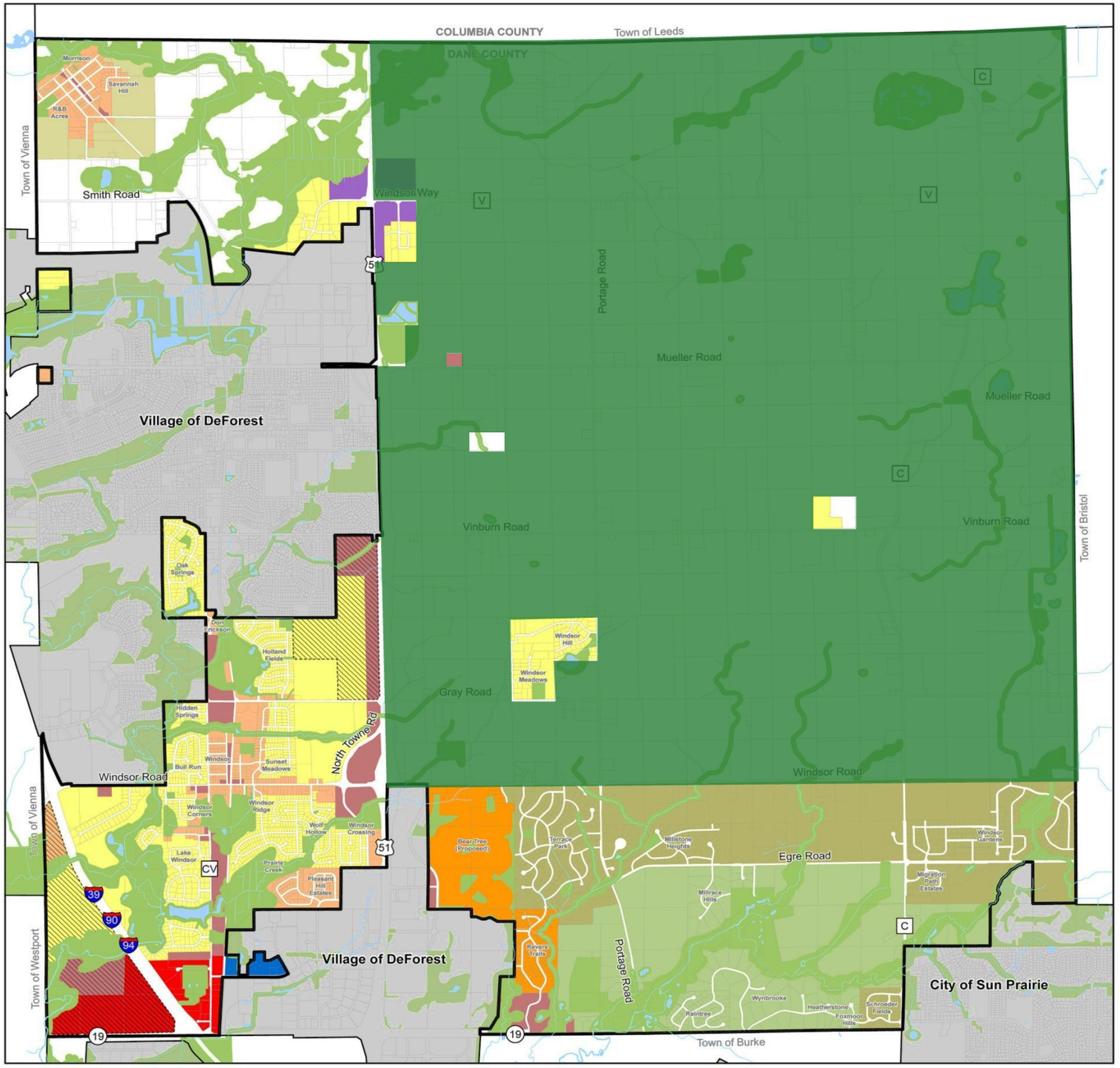

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Agricultural Enterprise Area

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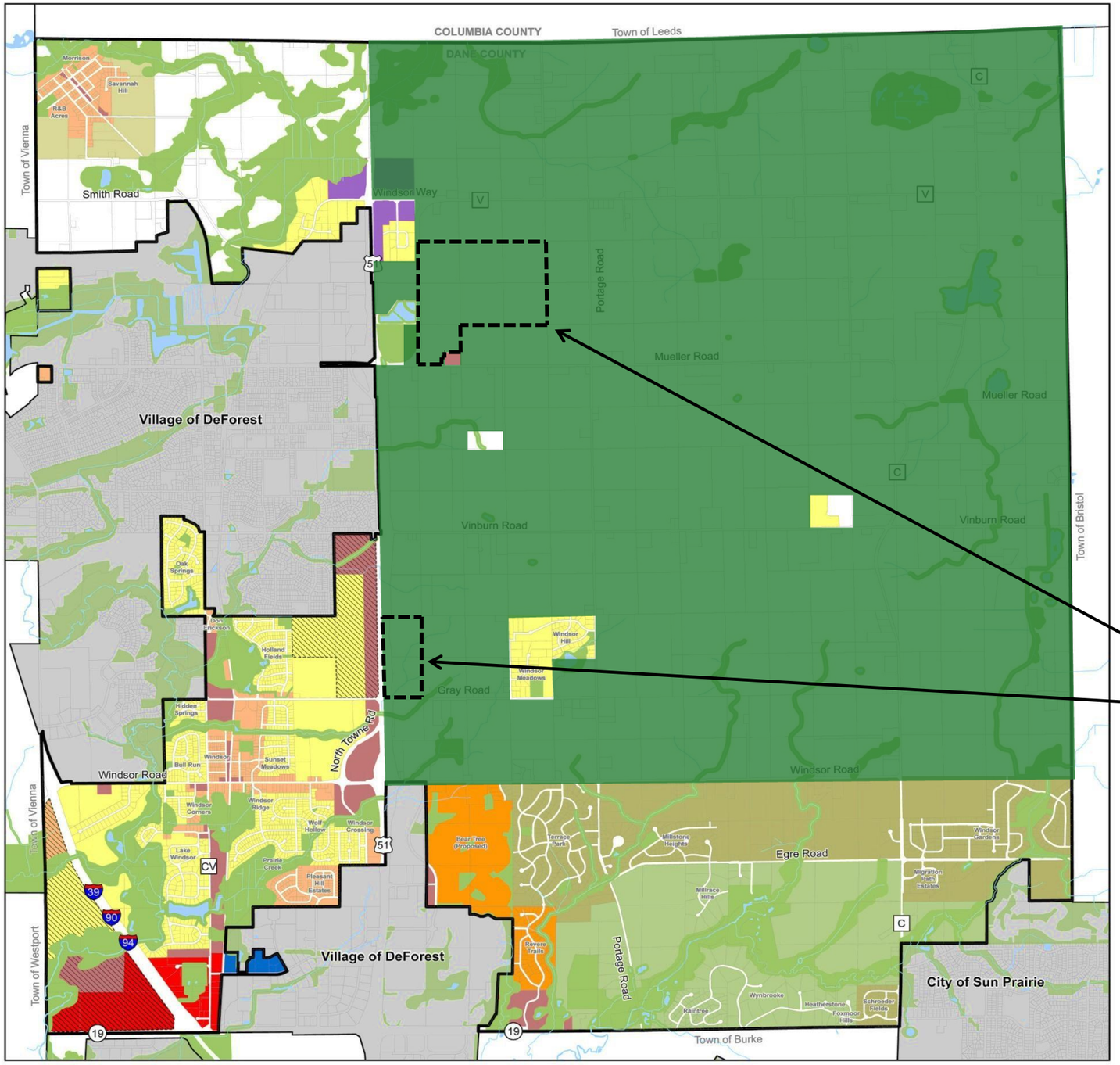

Year 2014 Future Land Use

Approximate Land Area

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Agricultural Enterprise Area

Vern & Vicki Treinen PDR

Jim & Anita Treinen PDR

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Where We Are…

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

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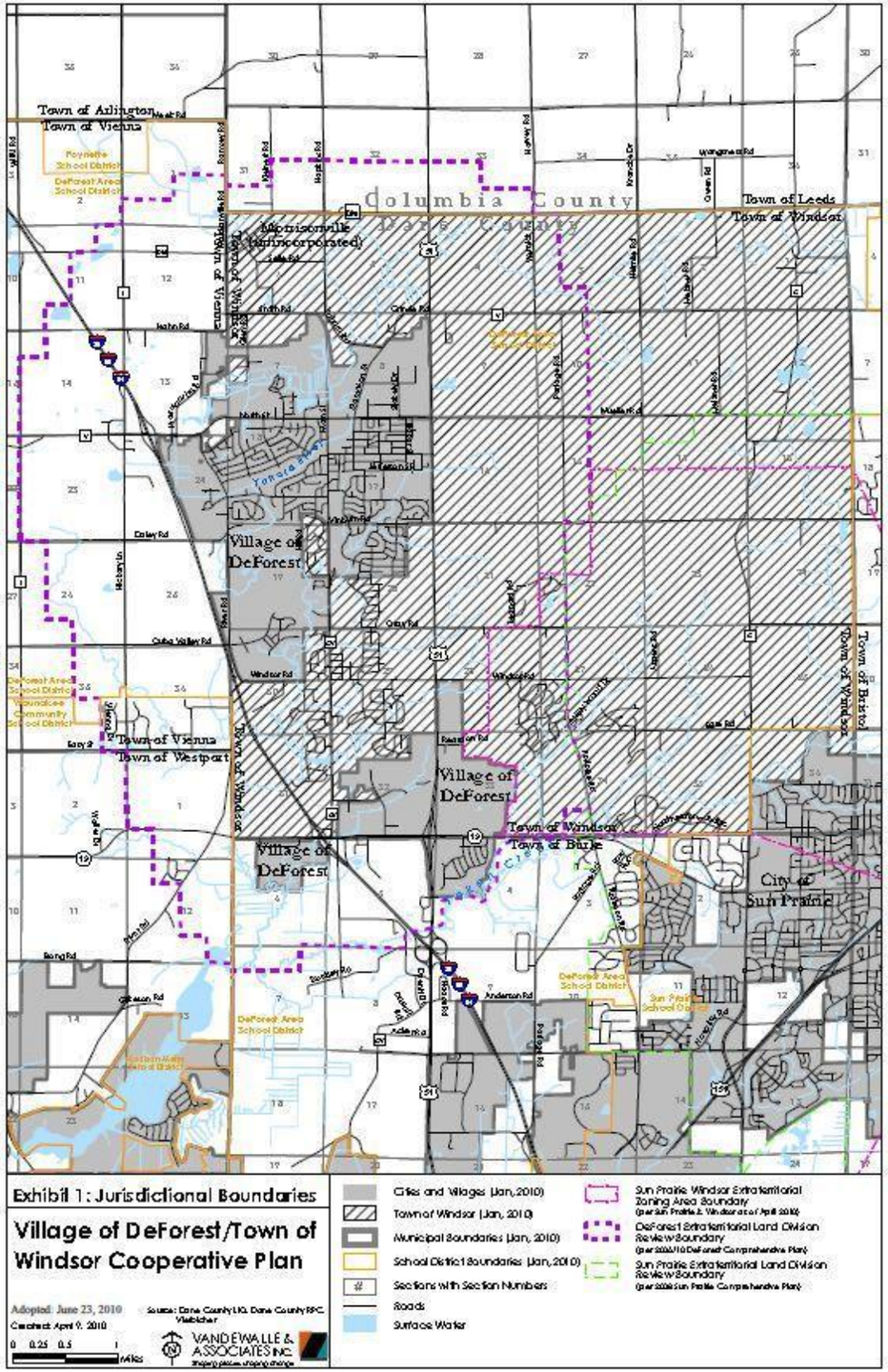
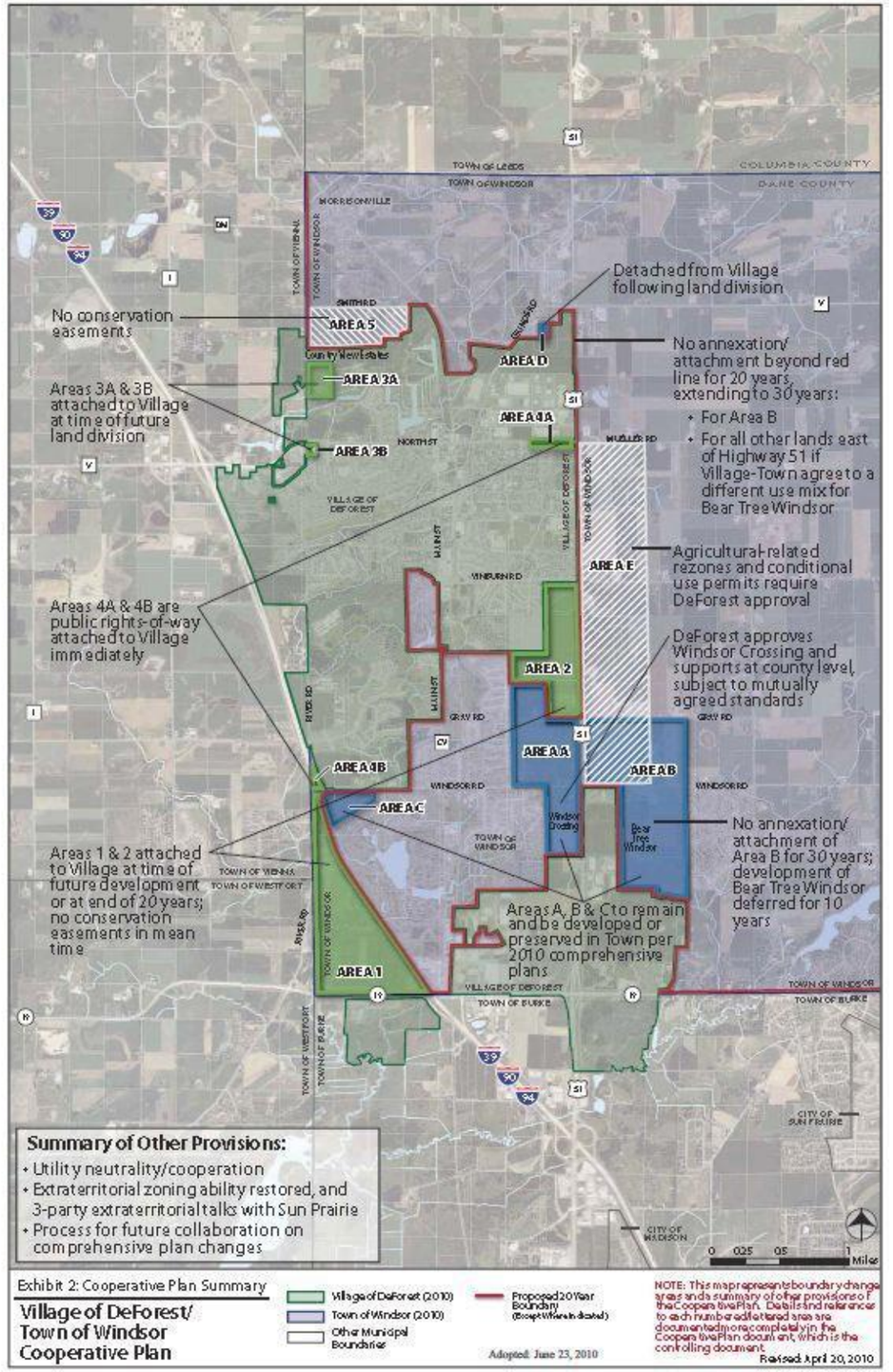
DeForest-Windsor Cooperative Plan





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Sun Prairie-Windsor Cooperative Plan

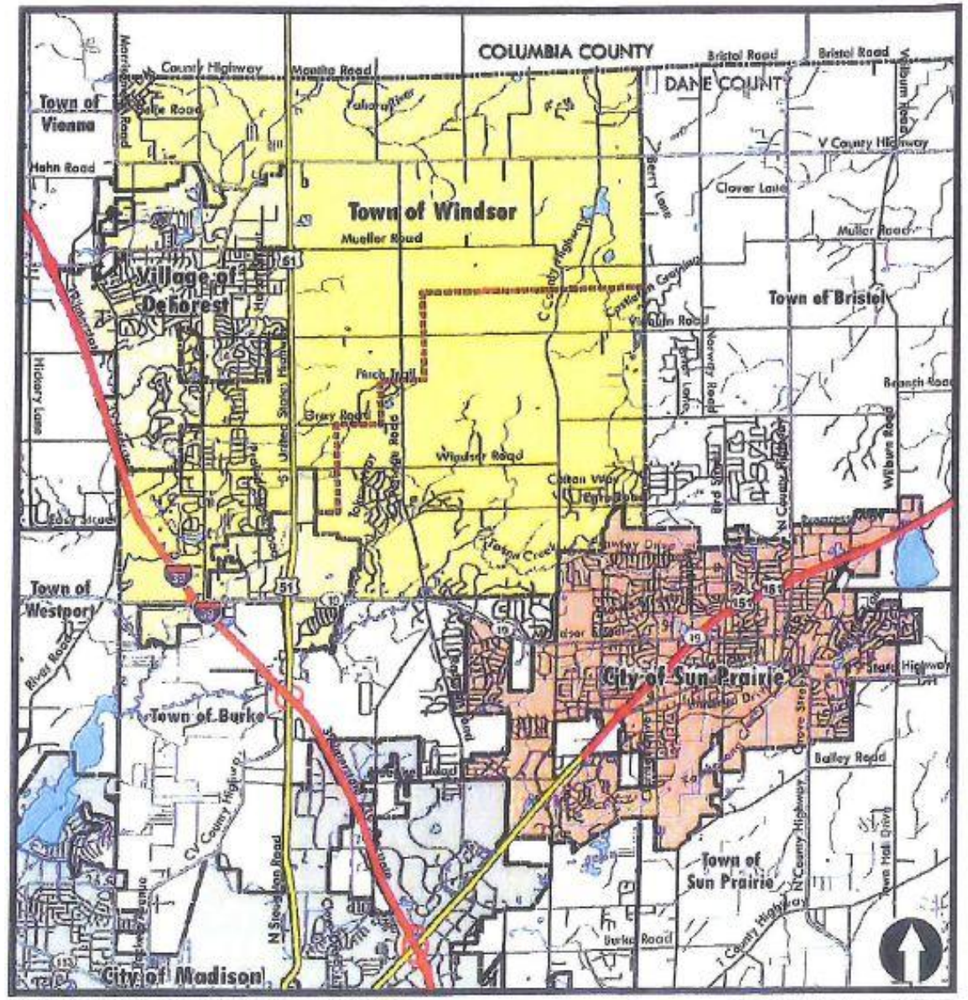

Exhibit 1: Municipal Boundaries

January 5, 2012

Source: Dane County LIO; GRAEF

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

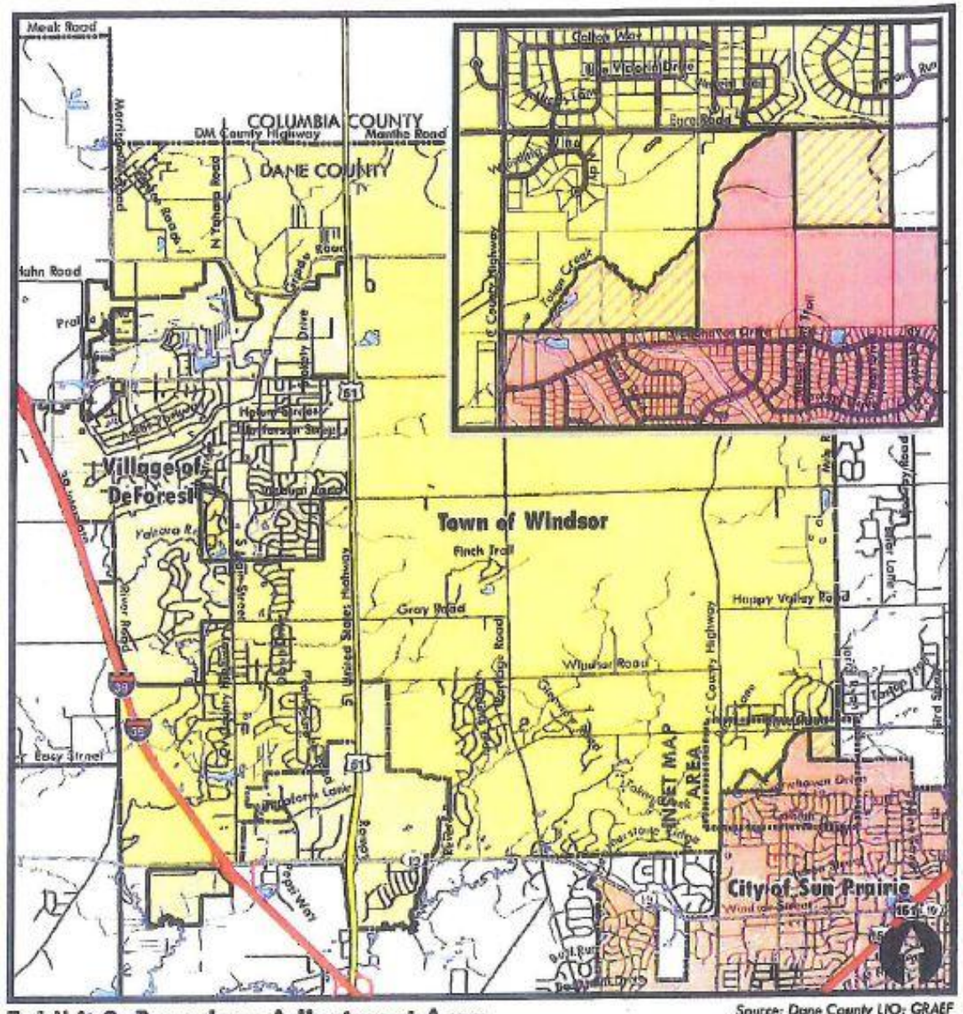

Exhibit 2: Boundary Adjustment Area

January 5, 2012

Source: Dane County LIO; GRAEF

Miles 0 0.5 1 2

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

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Snapshot of 2014 to Date

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 16th, 2014, the Town of Windsor issued a press release
- Town sees 3 options and places initial focus on incorporation

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Due Diligence Review in July 2014

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

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Incorporation – ALL of Windsor

Procedural Options for Incorporation

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

Complex Processes

Many Hurdles to Cross to Incorporate

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Today's Discussion

Windsor Residents

- What happens if the Town takes no action? (Example: Town of Burke)
- Factors for Town residents to consider
- Villages have greater legal authority
- There are benefits to becoming a Village
- Similar governance structure in Village
- Services Villages Provide

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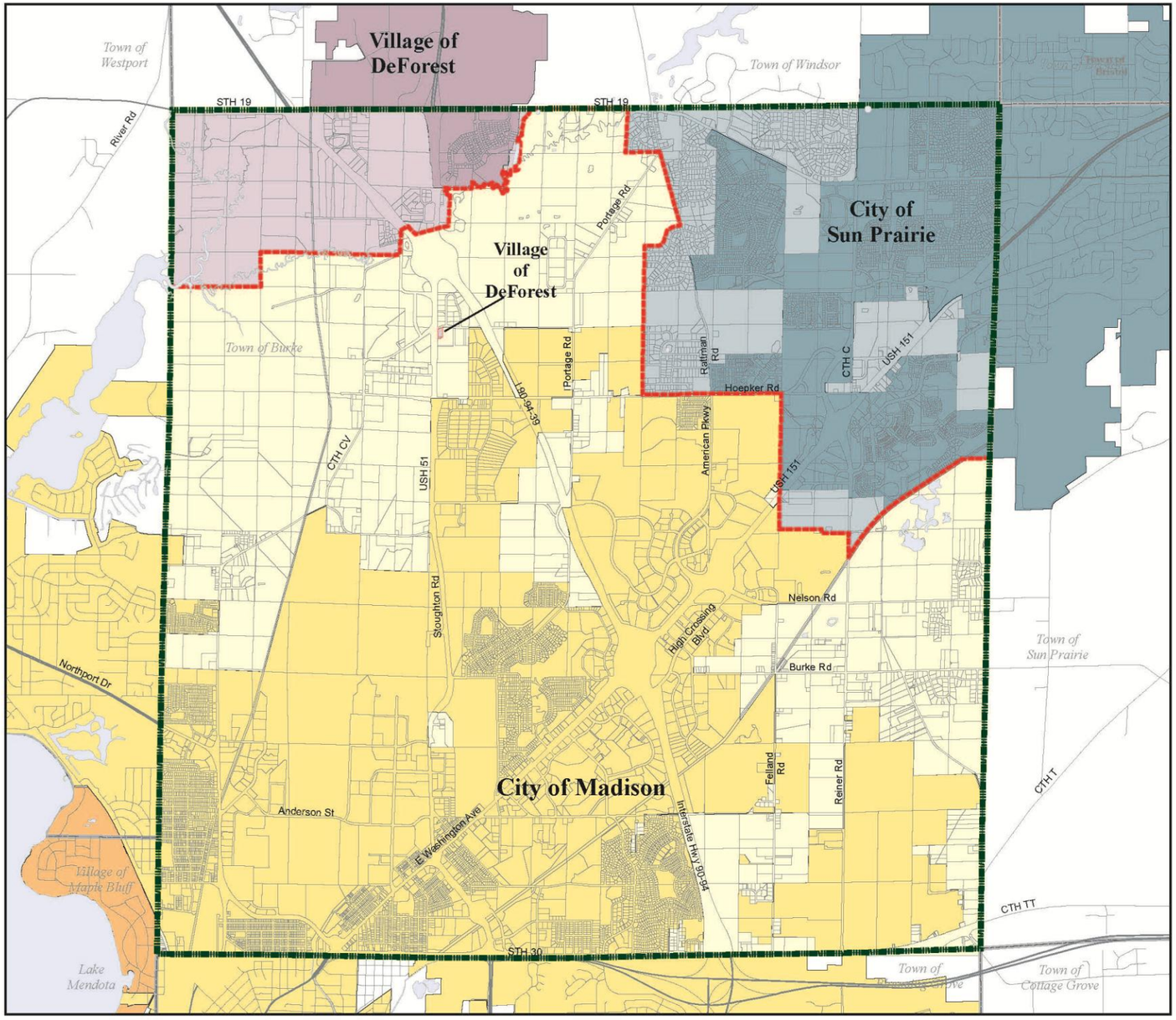

Exhibit 3

Final Boundary Adjustment Areas for DeForest, Sun Prairie and Madison

Town of Burke
Village of DeForest
City of Sun Prairie and
City of Madison
Cooperative Plan
December 2006

- Town of Burke Boundary
- Final Boundary Line
- City of Madison
- Boundary Adjustment Area - Madison (BAA-M)
- Village of DeForest
- Boundary Adjustment Area - DeForest (BAA-D)
- City of Sun Prairie
- Boundary Adjustment Area - Sun Prairie (BAA-S)
- Village of Maple Bluff

Data Source:
City of Madison Department of Planning and Development, Planning Unit

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Miles

N

Madison, DeForest, Sun Prairie, Burke Cooperative Plan

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Factors to Consider

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

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Villages Have Greater Legal Authority

- 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

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Benefits to Becoming a Village

- 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

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How Does Windsor Stay the Same?

A lot of things stay the same for Windsor

- Town electors already granted Village powers to the Town Board
- Similar Operational Needs & Government Functions
  - Public Services – Road Work; Snow Plow; Parks
  - Elections
  - Financial, Development & Construction Management
- Similar Town Staff & Public Works Needs
- Similar In-House Professionals & Consultants

  (Engineer, Attorney, Planner, Inspector)

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Village Governance Structure

Village Board

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

Plan Commission

- 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

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Services Villages Provide

Village Handles Zoning & Permits

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

Police Protection

- If population is > 5,000
- Villages can have own department or contract w DCSO

Fire & EMS Protection

- DeForest/Windsor Fire & EMS District continues per intergovernmental agreement

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Services Villages Provide

Sanitary Sewer & Water

- Windsor Utility Commission with Utility District 1 & 2
- Ordinances can allow for private well & septic

Garbage & Recycling

- Allowed to provide garbage pickup as special charge
- Allowed to continue recycling and transfer site

Public Works

- Snow Removal
- Road Work
- Parks & Grounds Maintenance

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Questions, Comments & Concerns

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