



## VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Phone: (608) 437-6884 Fax: (608) 437-3190

Email: [mhinfo@mounthorebwi.info](mailto:mhinfo@mounthorebwi.info) Web: [mounthorebwi.info](http://mounthorebwi.info)

### SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Municipal Building Board Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items\*
- 3) Consent Agenda
  - a. Consideration of January 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes
  - b. Green Team Report
- 4) Agenda Items
  - a. Announcement of SolSmart Silver Designation and Press Release
  - b. Review of Landscaping Code Recommendations
  - c. Discussion on Group Buy Solar
  - d. Energy Plan Implementation
  - e. Green Tier Status Update
  - f. Update on Sustainability Plan — UniverCity Alliance Meeting
  - g. Bike Friendly Community Update
  - h. Bird City Designation Update
- 5) Future Agenda Items
- 6) Meeting adjournment.

#### \*Public Comment Policy

Members of the public are invited to speak at meetings of all Mount Horeb Public Bodies. To comment, please complete a Public Comment Form at the Meeting Room entrance and submit it to staff before the meeting begins. Comments are limited to **three minutes**, must be made from the podium, and the speaker must return to the audience after speaking.

- **Non-agenda item comments** are heard at the start of the meeting. Public Body members and staff will not engage in discussion during public comment but may consider topics for future agendas.
- **Agenda item comments** are heard during the relevant item, after the proposers or staff present the item and before Public Body discussion. All public comments on the item will be heard before any discussion by the Public Body.

Members of the public will only be allowed to speak outside these public comment times if they are invited by the meeting chair to share additional information requested by the Public Body. If so invited to speak, the member of the public must do

so from the podium.

Written comments are also welcome. Written comments shall include the name and address of the submitter and should be submitted to the Deputy Treasurer/Governance Coordinator by email at [niki.erickson@mounthorebwi.info](mailto:niki.erickson@mounthorebwi.info) (subject line: *Public Comment Request-Name of Public Body*) or delivered by to the Village at: 138 E Main Street, Mount Horeb WI, 53572, ATTN *Public Comment Request-Name of Public Body*.

UPON REASONABLE NOTICE, EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS THROUGH APPROPRIATE AIDS AND SERVICES. FOR INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST THIS SERVICE, CONTACT ALYSSA GAFFNEY, CLERK, AT 138 E MAIN STREET, MOUNT HOREB, WI (608) 437-9404.



## VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Phone: (608) 437-6884 Fax: (608) 437-3190

Email: [mhinfo@mounthorebwi.info](mailto:mhinfo@mounthorebwi.info) Web: [mounthorebwi.info](http://mounthorebwi.info)

### **SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM**

#### **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

- 1) Call to order  
Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members present: White, Grabe, Best, Saltes, Roethle and Fendrick. Members Absent: Beheler. Also present; Administrator Owen.
- 2) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items\*  
None
- 3) Consent Agenda  
Motion by Saltes to recommend approval of the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Best. Motion carried.
  - a. Consideration of December 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes
  - b. Green Team Update
  - c. Green Tier Legacy Community Update
  - d. Sustainability Plan Update
- 4) Agenda Items
  - a. Bird City Update  
Beheler has submitted the application, but we have not heard back on approval. We know we will achieve recognition but are unsure if we have enough points to achieve High Flyer status. The committee expressed their appreciation for Beheler's work on preparing and submitting the application.
  - b. Review and Approval of Final Energy Plan  
The committee said the Energy Plan was very detailed and provided a great resource for energy efficiency improvements. Motion by Best to recommend approval of the Energy Plan to the Village Board, seconded by Rothle. Motion carried. The plan will go to the Village Board on February 4th for consideration.

- c. **Review of Proposed Landscape Standards for Village Zoning Code Rewrite**  
 Grabe presented the suggested recommendations to the native planting section of the landscaping code. There were some preferred native grasses to those listed and a pear tree she would like removed as a preferred species. Slates recommended some additional language encouraging the use of native plants in general and protecting the northwest tributary to the Sugar River watershed. The committee was in favor of the changes. Administrator Owen will submit to Planner Rohr for consideration of inclusion in the new standards.
  - d. **Outdoor Lighting Ordinance Update**  
 The committee reviewed the draft standards and additional comments by Scott Lindd and were in favor of their inclusion in the zoning code rewrite.
  - e. **Discussion/Approval of SNR Article**  
 The committee reviewed the draft article on the Bird City designation and were in favor of submittal for publication. The committee also felt the dates at the end of the article could be submitted separately prior to each event for calendar updates in the paper.
  - f. **Styrofoam Recycling Progress**  
 Grabe reported that the Styrofoam recycling page is now up and running and residents can request a pickup through the website. Administrator Owen will look into the possibility of sharing the information on our website.
  - g. **Food Waste Compost Site Progress**  
 Grabe reported that costs were prohibitive of having the contractor that built the collection structures for the County do one for Mount Horeb. They are looking into alternatives. They have funding for a limited time, but the funding organizations want to see statistics on successful use before providing additional funding.
  - h. **Bike Friendly City Update**  
 Roethle provided a draft bicycle and pedestrian safety plan. He provided draft North/South and East/West Routes and is open to feedback. Questions were raised about the grade of the routes, as that is a big factor in bikability of routes in Mount Horeb. Roethle also added he has reached out and is trying to meet with the Chief of Police for his feedback. Administrator Owen thought it would be a good thing for the Public Safety Committee to discuss as well. The Committee thanked Roethle for his work on the plan.
- 5) **Future Agenda Items**  
 Future Agenda items include: Bike City and Bird City updates, Energy Plan Implementation, Sustainability Plan Update, Green Tier Update, Landscaping Update, and Solar Group Buy Discussion.
  - 6) **Meeting adjournment.**

Motion by Best to adjourn, seconded by Roethle. Motion carried. 8:16 pm.

# Green Team February Meeting 2/9/26 Meeting Notes

9 members attended.

1. Katie's YEY presentation at the high school Interact and Ecology/Green Team clubs. 11 students attended. Some have volunteered to man the farmer's market information table which takes place in May. Others asked Katie if she could present to church groups, and other organizations. More iterations of the logo were passed around and a consensus was reached for designs submitted. Katie is working on a banner for Main Street, and table cloth for information booths.

Suggestion came up to incorporate data collection for the project recording the number and location of plots, and collecting data identifying pollinators using the Wlbee app developed by the University of Wisconsin. Quantifying our impact and incorporating citizen science can be part of this initiative's mission.

Follow up includes **contacting the chamber** for YEY presentation at "Good Morning Mt. Horeb." event closer to spring.

Good morning Mount Horeb event **March 4th** 8 a.m. at Martinson Hall with the Chamber of Commerce. Each section <2 minutes. YEY in May see if we can present and have seed packets. Please submit slides if you cannot be there to present. It's a breakfast event with focus on outreach and networking.

- [Origin story](#) (Liz who will coordinate the slide deck)
- [Yard in Every Yard](#) (Katie)
- Composting project (Kathy)
- Travel Green Wisconsin: business sustainability program. (Jennifer?)
- Bird City designation (Kerry)

2. Energy Study action items from the [Village Energy Study](#): follow up is to add website information for Focus on Energy adding them to the Home Energy Efficiency video. Group solar purchasing for residential solar installations was touched upon lightly, with discussion on how the utility purchases renewable energy at wholesale. Mentioned was a conversation with Kathy Kuntz from Dane County office for Environment and Climate Change about using rooftop renewable energy as a way to eliminate the need for grid expansion to power data centers.
3. April is going to be a busy month as several projects will be launching media campaigns at the same time. This includes the village composting program (for residents) announcing bird city events, the Yard in Every Yard, and dark skies.

4. Other items discussed:

**Brix Trivia night 2/11** starts at 6 pm. Come out and invite your friends! 10% of proceeds will be donated. The food is great, and it's fun. There will be prize drawings and/or award to the winning team. Need some hands on deck to help out with the event

Village Bike friendly designation: some discussion about establishing designated bike routes without relying on the DNR's military ridge trail.

Composting article, Kathy is waiting to hear back from the county about her grant. Spring Garden will provide space for the drop off area. Possible April 1st start date. Brad suggested reaching out to vendors at the farmer's market, community grant deadline 8/31. Some discussion about local businesses.

Recycling styrofoam program. Nick is picking up styrofoam. To **schedule** a pick up go to this [link](#).

Seed packaging at Katie's March 7th.

Bird Migration Day, Plant Sale, possible bike awareness event (May 9)

The Info table at Farmer's Market (May) **action item** is to fill out the [application needs to be submitted](#). High school students volunteered to man the tent.

6. Dark skies discussion. The village zoning changes lower the temperature, measures taken to reduce the amount of light, type of fixtures to reduce light pollution. During March the new guidelines will roll out.

Lorena brought up reducing light during migration. There is a need for education materials for dark skies.

Meeting adjourned 8:14 PM



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

February 24, 2026

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.a

Announcement of SolSmart Silver Designation and Press Release

### BACKGROUND

We are happy to report that with a feverish push at the end of January we were able to submit the final materials to SolSmart to achieve their Silver recognition status. The plaque arrived late last week, and the committee will take a picture for inclusion in the paper with the press release. The draft press release is included in your packet for review. Congratulations to the Committee for your hard work to make this designation possible!

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Solsmart Silver Press Release 022526

**FOR RELEASE:** February 25, 2026

**CONTACT:** Nicholas Owen, Village Administrator, [nic.owen@mounthorebwi.info](mailto:nic.owen@mounthorebwi.info), 608-437-9409

### **Village of Mount Horeb Recognized for Energy Leadership**

The Village of Mount Horeb received a silver designation from the Energy Ready Program, a national initiative supporting local governments that take proactive steps to support new energy technologies, including solar, electric vehicles, and energy storage.

With energy prices surging across the country and demand for new energy generation growing due to data centers and AI, local governments are taking action to improve local planning and permitting for energy projects and ensure residents have a broader range of options.

- “For Mount Horeb, we want to make sure residents that want to install solar on their own home or business, can do so efficiently and that our town regulations weren’t creating any additional barriers to these projects” explained Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee Chair and Village Trustee Tim White

The [Energy Ready program](#), led by the [Interstate Renewable Energy Council \(IREC\)](#) and the [International City/County Management Association \(ICMA\)](#) provided free technical assistance to the Village of Mount Horeb helping to review local plans and ordinances, train staff, create educational resources and identify strategies to educate and engage residents.

According to Deb Perry, ICMA’s Clean Energy Program Director, hundreds of communities have turned to the Energy Ready Program to help them take action to stabilize energy costs and give residents more access to clean energy options: “In recent years solar energy has proven to be one of the most cost-effective ways to build new power generation – it can be built quickly compared to sources like natural gas and nuclear, and it generates no emissions. Local governments are making solar more affordable for residents by streamlining permitting and many local governments have been able to stabilize their own electricity costs by installing solar panels on public buildings, schools and properties.”

Unfortunately, the future of the Energy Ready Program is uncertain, and funding cuts from the US Department of Energy have impacted the program. While there are currently over 200 requests for technical assistance from local governments, the program cannot enroll new communities until additional funding is secured.

###



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

February 24, 2026

### PREPARED BY

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.b

Review of Landscaping Code Recommendations

### BACKGROUND

Following the last meeting, I provided the list of recommendations to Village planner Rohr. The proposed code, including those recommendations, can be found here: [Proposed Zoning Code](#). The proposed code will go to a public hearing at Wednesday night's Plan Commission meeting and the Commission will make a recommendation to the Village Board for consideration at their March 4th meeting.

The Landscaping Standards can be found in Section 17.08.01 starting on page 179 (for page numbers I'm using the page number on the right-hand side of the screen above the total page number of 262). At the bottom of page 189 you will find the footnote referring to native plantings receiving 1.5 landscaping points and preserving existing trees count as 2x points. The table detailing commonly used plantings begins on page 191. The far right column designates whether the plant is native or not. On page 191, the list of ornamental grasses begins, including the newly added Little Bluestem and Big Bluestem. On the same page, it also lists perennial plantings and perennial pollinators, and page 192 lists plants for a rain garden mix. Lastly, on page 196 it provides standards for rain gardens and bioswales.

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

None



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

February 24, 2026

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.d

Energy Plan Implementation

### BACKGROUND

[Energy Plan](#)

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

None



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

February 24, 2026

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.e

Green Tier Status Update

### BACKGROUND

I'm happy to report that at their February meeting the Village Board approved the resolution joining the WI DNR Green Tier Legacy Community Program. I have submitted the resolution to Green Tier staff but have not yet made the initial contact for orientation, due to my job change. I will have a conversation with them about the best approach to begin taking advantage of the program with our leadership change and if we can use their assistance to assist with our Sustainability Plan Development.

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

None



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
February 24, 2026	Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.f

Update on Sustainability Plan — UniverCity Alliance Meeting

### BACKGROUND

"Even Jack" Saltes and I met with Megan McBride from UniverCity Alliance, a UW program that creates partnerships between municipalities and UW programs to produce real-world projects on issues faced by the municipalities. The program allows municipalities to get lower-cost technical assistance and college or graduate students real experience performing tasks in fields they may seek a career in. The cost to the municipality is typically \$5,000 to \$10,000 for up to 3 projects, each covering a semester, dependent on the level of work needed. The fee and number of projects that they are able to undertake depends largely on the amount of information that is readily available for the students versus the amount of research that will need to be done for the project. One similar example given was the City of Waupaca was also seeking assistance with a Sustainability Plan focused on energy use and transportation, with the third project being a shoreland design project.

The formal process begins with the Village submitting a request for a partnership application, which is included in the packet. They will review the application, determine a loose fee schedule, review which university department they feel would best meet the needs of the request and reach out to the staff of that department to gauge interest and availability. If selected, there will be a kick-off meeting to discuss the logistics of the project including communication, a project page will be developed and scoping for the project will be discussed. Regular check-ins with the primary contact will occur with the students performing the work and the supervising staff until completion.

Another option for preparing the sustainability plan could be our new membership as a WI DNR Green Tier Legacy Community. One of the program's benefits is access to DNR staff and assistance with environmental and sustainability-related matters. I will try to explore this further in my remaining time and leave notes.

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

1. Community-Partner-Involvement-One-Pager
2. UniverCity Project Examples - Sustainability Planning
3. Updated-UniverCity-Year-Application-Rolling-Deadline-Fillable-PDF



## Why partner with UniverCity Alliance?

- Kickstart projects in your community
- Gain access to University of Wisconsin–Madison resources
- We help you tell your community’s story on campus and across the state.
- UniverCity navigates campus and connects your project to faculty, instructors, students, and courses.
- Move forward local priorities
- Inspire next generation of local government professionals
- Rolling application offers flexibility
- Join a network of people on campus and across the state committed to fostering innovation in communities of all sizes.

## Jumpstart innovation in your community – today!

*UniverCity Alliance accepts applications on a rolling basis. We are available to visit your community to talk with local leaders and committees about the program and possible partnerships.*

1. Local government partners identify meaningful issues that could benefit from UW–Madison expertise.
2. Staff match projects with solution-based courses, independent research, and internships at UW–Madison and other partner institutions.
3. UW–Madison students work on the issues and questions.
4. Local governments receive big ideas and recommendations that spark momentum toward a more sustainable, livable, and resilient future.



Email [UniverCityAlliance@wisc.edu](mailto:UniverCityAlliance@wisc.edu) to get connected today!



“We have moved the needle on some of the most important work that we need to do that often gets buried under the day-to-day grind.”  
—Todd Schmidt, Village of Waunakee Administrator



“What excited me about getting to work with UniverCity is being connected to all the resources at UW–Madison that we otherwise really don’t have access to, and that includes ... the really bright students who are in unique program areas that overlap with public health.”  
—Kristie Egge, Wood County Health Department Supervisor of Strategic Initiatives

## UniverCity Project Examples

All past projects completed by students are also [available on our website](#).

### Sustainability Planning

1. [Creating an energy and transportation sustainability plan for Waupaca](#). Environmental Studies 900: Sustainability Capstone.
2. [Exploring county-level conservation and sustainability initiatives for Outagamie County](#). Geography 309: People, Land and Food.
3. [Exploring sustainability best practices for the Village of DeForest](#). UniverCity Alliance Scholars Program: Independent Student Research.
4. [Creating an environmental sustainability action plan for DeForest](#). Interdisciplinary Engineering 303: Applied Leadership Competencies in Engineering
5. [Expanding the action plan for new sustainability initiatives at the Appleton International Airport](#). Engineering Professional Development 669: Sustainable Systems Engineering Capstone.

### Sustainability Project Planning or Individual Plan Sections

1. [Exploring green technology solutions to prevent blue green algae](#). Civil and Environmental Engineering 420: Environmental Sustainability Engineering.
2. [Becoming a more pedestrian-friendly city: Wausau, Wisconsin](#). UniverCity Alliance Scholars Program: Independent Student Research.
3. [Feasibility study of composting yard waste](#). Civil Engineering 421: Environmental Sustainability Engineering.
4. [Improving micro-mobility in the City of Marinette](#). Public Health 780: Evidence-Based Decision-Making.
5. [Planning for phosphorus reduction and sustainable development](#). Urban and Regional Planning 999: Independent Professional Planning Project.
6. [Guiding future best practices in managing stormwater ponds](#). Interdisciplinary Engineering 303: Applied Leadership in Engineering.

### Conservation Plans

1. [Creating a conservation action plan to improve water quality and ecosystem conditions in the Koshkonong Creek Watershed](#). Environmental Studies 972: Conservation Planning.
2. [Developing a conservation plan for Lake Altoona](#). Environmental Studies 972: Conservation Planning.
3. [Conservation management plan for Fall Creek watershed](#). Environmental Studies 972: Conservation Planning.

4. [Envisioning a river restoration along the Crystal River in Waupaca.](#) Environmental Studies 972: Conservation Planning.
5. [Designing an integrated and accessible Waupaca River Walk.](#) Planning and Landscape Architecture 611: Senior Project in Landscape Architecture Studio – Capstone.



UniverCity Alliance  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



# REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIPS

Community  
Application

The UniverCity Partnership program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is looking for local government partners.

**Could this be your community? We can create  
BETTER PLACES TOGETHER**

## PROGRAM BACKGROUND

### WHAT IS THE UNIVERCITY PROGRAM?

The UniverCity Partnership program is a collaboration between UW–Madison and Wisconsin communities.

The concept is simple. Community partners identify projects that would benefit from UW–Madison expertise. Faculty from across the university incorporate these projects into their courses, and UniverCity staff provide administrative support to ensure a successful collaboration.

The results are powerful. Partners receive big ideas and feasible recommendations that spark momentum toward a more sustainable, livable, and resilient future.

### WHAT DO WE BRING TO COMMUNITIES?

UW–Madison faculty, staff, and students are eager to help local governments think creatively about issues happening in cities, counties, towns, villages, school districts, or quasi-governmental agencies. The UniverCity Partnership program has the capacity to match local issues with upper-level undergraduate or graduate courses and several hundred hours of supervised student time.

Our partners have chosen to address broad issues facing their communities, like sustainability, diversity, economic development, education, social services, health, and housing.

Some of the deliverables students have produced include: a mental health media campaign, recommendations to improve childcare opportunities, strategies for harvesting blue-green algae, affordable housing plans, best practices for criminal justice reform, and ways to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Experienced UniverCity staff will guide the partnership every step of the way. We will work with you to write a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our campus and your municipality, define the scope, manage logistics, coordinate media relations, troubleshoot, and generally take care of setting up, running, promoting, and evaluating the effort. We are here to make the partnership as successful and as easy as possible.

### WHAT'S EXPECTED OF COMMUNITIES?

A successful UniverCity collaboration requires the local government partner to identify a partnership lead – usually a senior staff person directly accountable to the local government’s executive – who supervises and coordinates the partner’s participation. This person also oversees the process of identifying key issues and assigns government staff to support individual projects. Applicants should invite local organizations, businesses, and non-profits to help envision and plan UniverCity projects. We strongly encourage projects that address social justice. [Local Extension staff](#) could be a good resource for developing your application.

### WHAT WILL THIS COST COMMUNITIES?

To help offset the program’s operational costs, the local government partner must make a financial commitment to the effort. The typical cost is approximately \$5,000–\$10,000 per project. The community must indicate under “Financial Contribution” below how much it can contribute to the partnership.

We can help you apply for grants or solicit donors to help fund this effort.

## REQUIRED DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT

For an application to be considered, the community must demonstrate organizational support for the application in one of two ways:

1. **Resolution:** We **strongly encourage** that communities adopt a resolution through its governing body authorizing the submission of an application to the UniverCity program to ensure awareness and buy-in from elected officials. UniverCity staff are happy to present at a Council/Board meeting and can also provide template resolution language based on examples from past partners.

-OR-

2. **Letter of Support:** Include a letter of support with signatories from both an elected official (e.g., mayor, city/county/village/town board/council member) and professional staff (e.g., administrator, department heads) indicating their willingness to help support the project financially and with staff time. Describe collaboration with local organizations for this project. Communities are welcome to submit more than one letter, but it is not expected.

## HOW ARE APPLICATIONS EVALUATED?

While this is not a competitive application process and it is highly unlikely that community applicants will not be selected as a UniverCity partner, staff have found that applications which have resulted in the most successful partnerships include:

### **TOP-LEVEL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND CAPACITY:**

The city/county manager or administrator, mayor, elected officials, and department managers indicate a willingness to involve UniverCity program staff and provide resources. There is sufficient staff capacity to successfully engage in a multi-year partnership with numerous projects and to carry work forward at the end of the collaboration.

### **LIKELIHOOD OF MATCH WITH COURSES:**

Projects are within the capability of UW-Madison faculty and students and involve rigorous research or technical needs.

**PROJECT RELEVANCE:** Projects directly relate to the community's short-term and long-term strategic goals, as embodied in a strategic plan, work plan, sustainability plan, policies, programs, etc.

**FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION:** The financial contribution indicates that the community is committed to and values the partnership.

**COMMUNITY COLLABORATION:** Projects reflect efforts to collaborate with local organizations to envision, plan, and shape a shared future.

**THRIVING COMMUNITIES:** Projects that explore making communities a place for all people to thrive.

## TYPICAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

These estimates are based on average timelines for past projects. These are approximations, and timelines may be shorter or longer based on when the application is received, the nature and complexity of the projects identified, and other factors.

Given that the UniverCity program operates on an academic calendar, applications received January through March may take longer to match with the following fall semester courses. If you have questions about the best time to apply based on your community's needs, please contact UniverCity Alliance staff at [UniverCityAlliance@wisc.edu](mailto:UniverCityAlliance@wisc.edu).



**ROLLING DEADLINE:** Applications received by UniverCity staff.

**1- 3 MONTHS:** UniverCity program staff and local government staff meet to deeply discuss the scope of work and final deliverables for each project.

**2-6 MONTHS** (depending on when the application is received relative to the academic calendar): UniverCity program staff match projects to faculty and courses for the upcoming semester.

**8-9 MONTHS** (depending on the number and nature of the projects): Classes work on UniverCity projects.

**FOR UP TO ONE YEAR AFTER PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED** (depending on the needs of the community): UniverCity program staff and faculty provide follow-up assistance for project implementation.

**ANNUALLY:** The UniverCity program publishes a report summarizing projects and recommendations.

## TESTIMONIALS

*"UniverCity is important because it brings that experience at UW-Madison ... right down to the local community and says, 'Here's what's possible.'"*

– Mike Olson  
President and CEO, Bank of Brodhead

*"To do that kind of work on such diverse, different topics would have never been done at the county level without being a part of UniverCity."*

– Dave Mack,  
Program Manager, Marathon County  
Conservation, Planning & Zoning Department

*"We see this as an opportunity to bring resources to issues that have been identified by our communities in their comprehensive plans and other planning processes, but without funding or staff, have been delayed."*

– Cara Carper  
Former Executive Director  
Green County Development Corporation

*"There is benefit not just to a county looking for assistance with projects ... but for our future workforce as well by students gaining practical experience they're going to see in the real world, that they may not see in the classroom."*

– Phil Rentmeester  
Director,  
Marathon County Emergency Management

*"We have moved the needle on some of the most important work that we need to do that often gets buried under the day-to-day grind."*

– Todd Schmidt  
Village of Waunakee Administrator

PHOTO CREDITS  
Cover: University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Page 4: Patrick Bodell

## APPLICATION

The UniverCity Partnership program is flexible to the needs of its local government partners. Partnerships can range from a small number of rapid response projects to a multi-year collaboration. Applicants are encouraged to contact UniverCity program staff before applying. We are also available to visit your community to discuss the UniverCity Partnership with local government leaders.

### Applicant Community

### Website Address

### Primary Contact Person

Contact Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

### Secondary Contact Person

Contact Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

### Financial Contribution

Identify how much the community can contribute toward this partnership.

\$

### Demonstration of Support Attached

(At least one is required, check all that apply)

- Resolution approved by governing body (strong recommended)
- Letter(s) of support including at least one elected official and one professional staff member

## PROPOSED PROJECTS

Please identify and provide brief descriptions of projects you are hoping to accomplish through a partnership with UniverCity. Projects do not need to be finalized, but they should reflect a coherent idea, explain the questions you would like to have answered, and provide a brief background about the issue. There is no minimum or maximum number of projects that communities can propose, so please list as many as you would like and feel free to attach additional sheets as necessary.

Questions to think about for brief project descriptions:

1. What questions are you trying to answer?
2. What added value are you expecting?
3. What do you want to do with the expected final deliverable?
4. Are there any existing plans, reports, or other documents that are relevant to the project?

### Proposed Projects:

1.

---

---

2.

---

---

3.

---

---

4.

---

---

5.

---

---

6.

---

---

7.

---

---

8.

---

---

9.

---

---

10.

---

---

11.

---

---

12.

---

---

13.

---

---

14.

---

---

15.

---

---

16.

---

---

17.

---

---

18.

---

---

19.

---

---

20.

---

---

21.

---

---

22.

---

---

23.

---

---

24.

---

---

25.

---

---

26.

---

---

# Draft Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Plan

## ***Village of Mount Horeb, Wisconsin***

Created By: Scott Roethle

Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee

*(Working Draft for Community Review)*

## 1. Purpose & Vision

Mount Horeb is a community that values safety, sustainability, and active living. This plan outlines steps to make walking and biking safer, easier, and more enjoyable for residents of all ages. By improving our streets and pathways, we support healthier lifestyles, reduce traffic congestion, and strengthen our village's sense of connection.

### **Vision Statement:**

*A Mount Horeb where everyone can comfortably walk or bike to school, parks, shops, and community destinations.*

## 2. Community Context

- Mount Horeb's compact layout and existing trail assets make it ideal for active transportation.
- The Military Ridge State Trail, downtown district, and school campuses are major activity hubs.
- Main Street and Springdale Street carry high traffic volumes, creating challenges for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Tourism and community events increase seasonal foot and bike traffic.

## 3. Goals & Objectives

### Goal 1: Improve safety for all travelers

- Enhance visibility and crossings
- Expand safe, low-stress bike routes

### Goal 2: Increase walking and biking

- Create continuous, connected routes

- Improve comfort and convenience
- Support Safe Routes to School

### Goal 3: Promote sustainability and community health

- Reduce vehicle dependence
- Encourage active transportation
- Support climate and sustainability goals

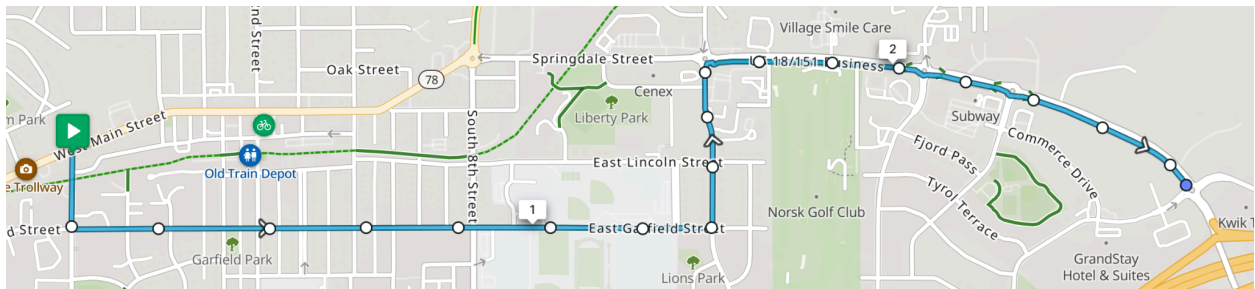
## 4. Bicycle Network & Designated Routes

To build a safer, more connected village, Mount Horeb will establish designated bicycle routes that help riders travel comfortably across town without relying on high-traffic streets. Phase 1 is to designate North/South and East/West routes.

### East–West Route:

#### **OPTION A:** East Garfield / BUS 151

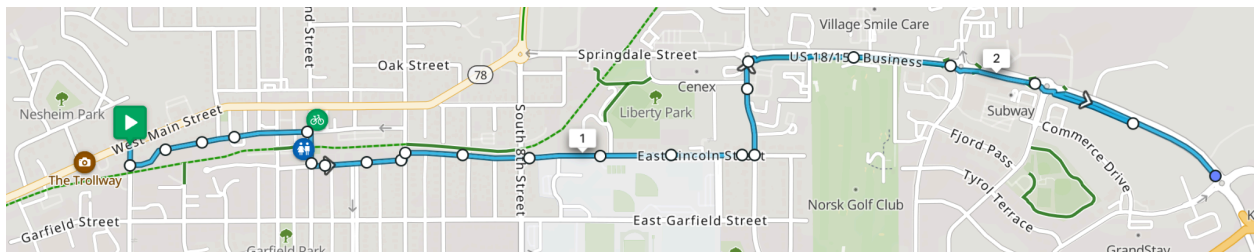
2.6 Miles | +119 FT / -155 FT Elevation Change (West to East)



East Garfield Street provides a neighborhood-friendly alternative to Main Street while still connecting directly to schools and downtown.

#### **OPTION B:** Front Street / Lincoln Street / BUS 151

2.8 Miles | +109 FT / -146 FT Elevation Change (West to East)



Lincoln Street has a few more turns than Garfield option, but it offers a close proximity to Military Ridge State Trail and a less elevation change.

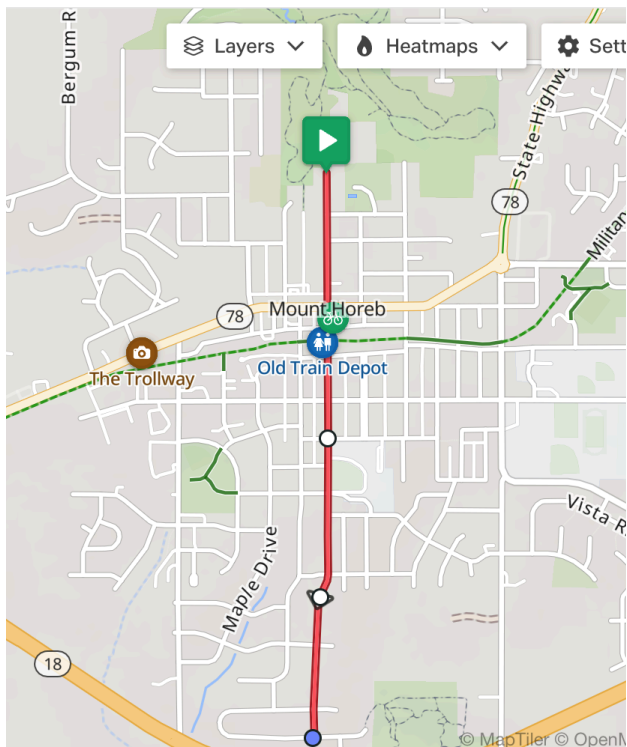
### Implementation:

- Bicycle lane markings where feasible
- Install wayfinding signs - one per block, total of 25 signs.
- Traffic calming to maintain low speeds
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at Hwy 78 Crossing

### North–South Route: 2nd Street

2nd Street offers a north–south connection with direct access to schools and neighborhoods. 2nd street is the only north south street that crosses main street at a controlled intersection.

1.3 Miles | +79 FT / -105 FT Elevation Change (West to East)



### Implementation:

- Bicycle lane markings
- Install wayfinding signs, 1 per block for a total of 10 signs.
- Traffic calming to maintain low speeds
- Upgrade Main St traffic signal to use Inductive Loop Sensor

## 5. Pedestrian Improvements

### Sidewalk Network Enhancements

- Fill sidewalk gaps near schools, parks, and transit stops
- Prioritize ADA-compliant curb ramps

### Intersection & Crossing Safety

- High-visibility crosswalks
- Pedestrian refuge islands
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs)
- Leading pedestrian intervals at signals

## 6. Programs & Education

### Safe Routes to School

- Walking & biking school buses
- Bike-to-School Day events
- Student and parent safety education

### Community Education

- Driver awareness campaigns
- Bicycle skills workshops
- Helmet distribution partnerships

### Enforcement

- Targeted speed enforcement in school zones
- Crosswalk yield enforcement
- Collaboration with Mount Horeb Police and Dane County Sheriff's Office

## 8. Data Collection & Evaluation

- Annual crash data review
- Pedestrian and cyclist counts
- Community surveys on perceived safety

## 9. Funding Opportunities

- Wisconsin DOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- Federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
- Dane County bicycle/pedestrian grants
- Local capital improvement funds
- Public-private partnerships

## 10. Implementation Timeline

### Short-Term (1–2 years)

- Community engagement on bike routes
- Identify crosswalk upgrades
- Sidewalk gap analysis
- Install North/South and East/West bike route wayfinding signs

### Medium-Term (3–5 years)

- 2nd Street reconstruction in 2027 (Lincoln to Carver)
  - Upgrade Main St traffic signal to use Inductive Loop Sensor
  - Add bicycle lane markings
- Install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at Hwy 92 Crossings
- Complete designated bike lane markings
- Sidewalk infill projects

## 11. Conclusion

By investing in safe, connected walking and biking routes - Mount Horeb can create a healthier, more sustainable, and more welcoming community. This plan provides a roadmap for improvements that support residents of all ages and abilities.



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

February 24, 2026

### PREPARED BY

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.h

Bird City Designation Update

### BACKGROUND

The Mount Horeb Chamber of Commerce is preparing their 2026 Community & Visitor Guide and are thinking about including the [Bird City Designation](#) on page 32.

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

None