



CAPITAL AREA
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Annual Report 2025

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A Message from Our Chair



Dear Friends and Partners,

The challenges facing our region don't stop at municipal boundaries, and neither do the solutions. CARPC helps communities work together on issues that affect the region as a whole by providing technical expertise, reliable data, and a place to have the conversations that move projects forward.

That role is more important than ever. In 2025, a Regional Data Group convened by CARPC projected that Dane County could welcome another 275,000 residents by 2050. That's an indicator of what we already know, the Dane County region is a great place to live. But it also raises an important question. How do we accommodate that growth while protecting the farms, lakes, wetlands, open spaces and quality of life that make this region such a special place? That isn't a question any one community can answer alone. It requires communities to work together, informed by sound data and thoughtful planning.

Over the past year, I saw that regional approach in action time and again. CARPC supported communities across every corner of Dane County while also expanding our work into neighboring counties after the Commission adopted *Guidelines for Work Outside Dane County*. That allowed staff to begin assisting with updates to the *Rock County Comprehensive Plan and Farmland Preservation Plan*, as well as preparing an *Active Transportation Plan* for the City of Evansville.

Some additional highlights from our 2025 work included:

- Launching a [two-year inventory of every town-owned bridge and culvert](#) where a road crosses a creek, supported by grants from Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Wisconsin DNR.
- Beginning the first major update to the [Dane County Water Quality Plan](#) since 2004.
- Continuing [Wisconsin Salt Wise's](#) work to advance smarter salt use across Wisconsin.
- Hosting the [Fall Forum](#) with the Greater Madison MPO, bringing local leaders together to discuss transportation challenges that cross municipal boundaries.
- Supporting regional water quality efforts through Executive Director Jason Valerius' role as Co-Chair of the **Clean Lakes Alliance's Renew the Blue Council**.

These accomplishments reflect what strong partnerships can achieve. Thank you for your continued collaboration and support. I look forward to continuing our work together in 2026.

Sincerely,

David Pfeiffer
Executive Chairperson



Who We Are

The Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) is one of nine commissions in Wisconsin established to coordinate planning and development among area municipalities. Our planning region includes more than 600,000 people living in Dane County's eight cities, 20 villages, and 32 towns. The region's water resources include 69 named lakes and ponds, more than 475 miles of streams and rivers, and more than 52,000 acres of wetlands.

Commission

CARPC Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor of Madison, the Dane County Executive, the Dane County Cities and Villages Association, and the Dane County Towns Association. Commissioners serve three-year terms on a rotating basis and meet monthly to deliberate on regional development and water quality planning, sewer service area amendments, and administrative matters. They also set CARPC's budget, work program, and policies.

Many of our Commissioners serve as local elected officials in cities, villages, and towns across the Dane County region. We continue working toward

a commission that fully reflects the diversity of the region's population to best incorporate diverse perspectives into regional planning and policies.

Staff

Our team includes 10 full-time employees complemented by limited-term positions. CARPC's community planners primarily focus on managing the [regional land use plan](#) and providing [planning assistance](#) to local communities. Environmental resources staff administer the [Dane County Water Quality Plan](#), manage [sewer service area](#) amendments, and review [sewer extension](#) requests and stormwater management plans prior to land development. They also coordinate climate resilience planning, conduct resource studies and management activities, and manage the [Wisconsin Salt Wise](#) program.

As a team, staff bring a wide range of education, training, and professional expertise to the challenges facing the region. Services available to Capital Area communities include comprehensive planning, mapping, and data assistance. We also have hands-on experience with hazard mitigation planning, stormwater management, environmental regulations, urban design, ecology, and grant writing.

Commissioners

Mayor of Madison

Barbara Harrington-McKinney
(through March)

Regina Vidaver
(Appointed April)

Bill Tishler*

Alison Volk

Nick Zavos*
(through October)

Noah Lieberman
(Appointed November)

Dane County Executive

Steve Greb

Peter McKeever*
Treasurer

Caryl Terrell

Dane County Cities & Villages Association

Maureen Crombie*

Heidi Murphy*
Vice Chairperson

Jim Schuler

Dane County Towns Association

Kris Hampton*
(through April)

Audra Dalsoren
(Appointed April)

David Pfeiffer*
Executive Chairperson

Cynthia Richson*
Secretary

*Executive Committee

Staff

Jason Valerius, AICP
Executive Director

Tanya Sime (through May)
Joan Stuessy (May to September)
Matt Kozlowski (beginning August)
Administrative Services Manager

Sean Higgins, AICP
Senior Community Planner

Caitlin Shanahan, AICP
Senior Community Planner & Outreach Coordinator

Matthew Krempely
Community Planner

Kayla Haas
Joint Marketing & Communications Specialist

Nick Bower, PE
Senior Environmental Engineer

Prachi Mehendale, EIT
Environmental Engineer

Liz Levy
Environmental Resources Planner

Melissa Michaud
Environmental Resources Planner

Matt Noone
Senior Environmental Resources Planner

Allison Madison
WI Salt Wise Program Manager

Isaac Porter
Environmental Resources Technician (beginning May)

Kai Farrey
Environmental Resources Tech. (May to September)



UW MADISON FIRST NATIONS TOUR

Our Mission

The Capital Area Regional Planning Commission strengthens the region by engaging communities through planning, collaboration and assistance.

Our Vision

A region where communities create exceptional quality of life for all by working together to solve regional challenges.

What We Do

CARPC works with communities and organizations on a range of topics. Planning for the future is a collective responsibility that requires a collaborative approach.

Regional Development Planning

Per Wisconsin statutes, one of CARPC's core responsibilities is "preparing and adopting a master plan for the physical development of the region." This year, we implemented the *2050 Regional Development Framework* by convening collaborative processes, including an effort to develop population projections based on Dane County's unique growth dynamics. Read more on [page 6](#).

Water Quality Planning

The second major component of our planning responsibilities is administering the *Dane County Water Quality Plan*. This involves planning and modifying sewer service areas, along with reviewing sewer extension requests and stormwater management plans. In 2025, we continued our work with communities and stakeholders in the Starkweather Creek watershed to implement a chloride management plan. Our Ad-Hoc Water

Quality Committee worked to develop an improved sewer service area amendment process. Read more on [page 8](#).

Wisconsin Salt Wise Program

We are happy to house the Wisconsin Salt Wise Program within CARPC. The program made significant statewide impacts this year through training, public education, and legislative advocacy. Read more on [page 10](#).

Climate Resilience Planning

Since the major flood event that occurred in 2018, CARPC has been exploring opportunities for coordinated, intermunicipal projects to increase climate resilience. Over the last several years, CARPC staff have connected people to this mission by distributing hundreds of trees to residents, community groups, and school children. Learn more on [page 12](#).

Community Assistance & Engagement

CARPC provides ongoing assistance to Dane County communities, including interpreting data, making maps, and writing plans. In 2025, we partnered with the Greater Madison MPO to host a one-day Fall Forum for nearly 50 elected officials, planners, engineers, and municipal staff from across Dane County. Read more on [page 14](#).

Partnerships

These activities may be what we do, but our partners and working relationships make us who we are. We worked throughout 2025 to leverage and expand those relationships in support of regional goals. Read more on [page 16](#).

Continued collaboration with area planning partners, local communities, and professionals like you makes our work possible. Thank you!

— “ —

Great sessions with a good variety of experts, planners, and local and state officials. Thank you so much!

— ” —

— 2025 CARPC-MPO
FALL FORUM ATTENDEE

— “ —

We have a good relationship with staff and they are very responsive to our questions. Most specifically their support on our draft boundary agreement and maintaining zoning data.

— ” —

— LYLE UPDIKE,
TOWN OF SUN PRAIRIE



Regional Development Planning

Beyond fulfilling statutory requirements to “prepare and adopt a master plan for the physical development of the region,” CARPC’s [2050 Regional Development Framework](#) serves as an advisory guide for achieving our shared goals while accommodating growth. The Framework incorporates top regional priorities – reducing and adapting to climate change, increasing equitable access to opportunities, and conserving vital natural, agricultural, and fiscal resources – into its strategies for future growth.

After adopting the Framework in 2022, CARPC shifted focus to implementation. Following the recommendations of a Proactive Planning Committee composed of CARPC Commissioners and local government officials, implementation activities include relationship building, supporting local planning processes, facilitating intergovernmental dialogues, and convening collaborative processes.

Good Data Informs Good Planning

How many people will call Dane County home in 2050? It’s a simple question, but the answer shapes nearly every aspect of long-range planning—from housing and transportation to utilities, parks, and public infrastructure.

For years, communities relied on a single set of statewide population projections to help answer that question. But as Dane County continued to grow faster than projected, many local planners found themselves asking the same thing: Do these numbers reflect what we’re actually seeing on the ground?

This led CARPC to convene the **Regional Data Group (RDG)** in 2025. Bringing together planners, demographers, and local government staff from across Dane County, the group combined demographic data with local knowledge of housing construction, employment trends, development patterns, and land available for growth to develop a new set of population and household projections.

The result paints a different picture of Dane County’s future. The RDG projects that the county could reach approximately **887,000 residents by 2050**. To accommodate these new residents – 325,000 more than the 2020 Census count – the county will need to add approximately **160,000 new homes**.

But producing the projections was only the beginning. Starting in September 2025, CARPC hosted webinars, met with local officials, gave presentations, published fact sheets and press releases, and answered questions from communities about the new methodology and what the projections mean for local planning.

CARPC staff then worked with the Greater Madison MPO to integrate the new projections into the Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) used for transportation modeling, updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and maintaining the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The projections will also be incorporated into sewer service planning and local comprehensive planning processes.

2025 Regional Development Planning Projects, Programs & Accomplishments

- To help **track progress toward Regional Development Framework goals**, Matt Krempely and Liz Levy developed a database to reliably track the timing and location of development throughout Dane County.
- Through his dual role as a CARPC Senior Community Planner and Lecturer at the UW-Madison Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture, Sean Higgins initiated a long-term collaboration to identify Regional Development Framework implementation opportunities in the **Door Creek Corridor** east of I-90/94 between Sun Prairie and McFarland.
- In an effort to learn more about **farmland preservation and agricultural conservation practices**, CARPC staff began attending meetings and events hosted by groups like Yahara Pride Farms, Dane Demo Farms, Groundswell Conservancy, and the American Farmland Trust.
- Continued facilitating talks between the **Town and City of Sun Prairie** in the pursuit of a cooperative plan under Wis. Stat. §66.037.



WINGRA CREEK KAYAK TOUR
WITH CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE



VILLAGE OF OREGON WALKING TOUR



DANE COUNTY LANDFILL TOUR AT THE
2025 MIDWEST CLIMATE SUMMIT



Water Quality Planning

CARPC works to manage, protect, and enhance regional water quality by implementing and updating the [Dane County Water Quality Plan \(DCWQP\)](#). As the local agent of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), CARPC works with communities to develop and implement local plans that align with the DCWQP.

Chloride Monitoring & Community Impact

Every winter, thousands of tons of road salt are applied to Wisconsin roads, sidewalks, and driveways with the goal of keeping people safe. But once the snow melts, excess salt doesn't simply disappear—it dissolves and washes into nearby streams and lakes, contributing to chloride pollution.

For the past five years, CARPC has been working with partners and volunteers to better understand salt pollution in the Starkweather Creek watershed, a 24-square-mile basin that flows through northeast Madison before emptying into Lake Monona. Since

the adoption of the [Starkweather Creek Watershed Chloride Management Plan](#) in 2020, more than 40 volunteers have collected over 200 chloride samples from nine locations throughout the watershed.

In 2025, that work took an important step forward. Thanks to a **Community-Based Water Research Grant** from UW–Madison, CARPC partnered with the **State Cartographer's Office** and **Operation Fresh Start** to install eight continuous conductivity meters throughout the watershed. The new monitors collect data every 10 minutes, giving researchers and local partners a much more complete picture of how chloride levels fluctuate with changing stream and weather conditions.

But the project's impact went beyond better data—it also opened doors for people.

Young adults in **Operation Fresh Start's Conservation Academy**, a Dane County nonprofit that helps young adults build career skills through paid, hands-on training and education, helped install the monitoring equipment while gaining firsthand experience with water quality monitoring. They also participated in a three-day GIS workshop led by CARPC staff, where they learned the basics of digital mapping and how environmental data is used to solve real-world challenges.

For one participant, Kai Farrey, the experience led to a position with CARPC as an Environmental Resources Technician, supporting the [Dane County Road-Stream Crossing Inventory](#).

The project also inspired new community partnerships. Through a series of field demonstrations and educational events, CARPC connected with community members and local organizations, ultimately leading to the creation of the **Adopt-a-Meter program**. The program gives organizations and community members the opportunity to financially support and help maintain a specific meter in the monitoring network. Early adopters include the **Madison Rotary Club**, **UW-Madison's Chemistry Department**, and the **State Cartographer's Office**.

Better data was the goal, but the project's greatest impact may be the people and partnerships it inspired along the way.

2025 Water Quality Planning Projects, Programs & Accomplishments

- CARPC's [updated Environmental Corridors Report](#) was adopted as part of the [Dane County Water Quality Plan](#) and approved by the Wisconsin DNR.
- Began updating the **Environmental Corridor Policies & Criteria**, including consultation with key stakeholders and subject matter experts.
- Received **\$48,000 in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding** to update the *Dane County Water Quality Plan Summary Plan*.
- CARPC's **Ad-Hoc Water Quality Committee** provided guidance and review for an update to sewer service area amendment policies to address bottlenecks, increase efficiency, and improve process outcomes.
- Worked to renew an expiring agreement with local municipalities to fund a USGS monitoring program focused on the **Yahara River watershed**, reaching a final agreement in 2026.
- Continued coordinating with local municipalities and USGS on a monitoring program in the **Black Earth Creek Watershed**.

2025 Urban Service Area Amendments



4
SEWER
SERVICE AREA
AMENDMENTS
APPROVED BY DNR

2025 Sewer Extension Reviews



50
GREENFIELD



25
INFILL /
REDEVELOPMENT



23
RECONSTRUCTION
/ OTHER



22
STORMWATER
PLAN REVIEWS



Wisconsin SaltWise Program

[Wisconsin SaltWise](#) is a coalition of organizations working together to reduce salt pollution in Wisconsin's lakes, streams, and drinking water. Since its creation as a Madison-area partnership in 2015, SaltWise has grown into a statewide program centered on training, public education, and advocacy. Originally housed within the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, the Wisconsin SaltWise program officially became part of CARPC in 2023.

Leveraging the Power of Social Learning

Social learning has long been a cornerstone of the **WI SaltWise Equipment Open Houses**. In 2025, SaltWise expanded the use of peer-to-peer conversations with powerful results.

In April, we hosted **SaltWise Season Debriefs** in Madison and Milwaukee that facilitated cross-sector dialogue between department of public works staff and private snow removal contractors. While SaltWise has historically trained these groups separately, the depth and openness of the conversations

underscored how much participants have in common and helped attendees better understand the unique challenges each group faces. The richness of these exchanges made it clear that future SaltWise programming would benefit from more intentional opportunities for peer-to-peer learning.

Insights from the Madison-area Season Debrief directly shaped new programming. In July, we partnered with local contractors to host the first-ever **SaltWise 101 for Property Managers**, addressing a clear need identified by participants. Planning is underway for a repeat event in February 2026. This high-level curriculum was also adapted for presentations to the International Facility Management Association–Fox Valley Chapter and a local chamber of commerce.

Another new practice introduced in 2025 was inviting participants to share their current winter maintenance practices at the start of each event and to identify a specific next step at the conclusion. This approach not only reinforces accountability and reflection but also provides SaltWise with better insight into on-the-ground practices and goals. Improved tracking of this information will help us more effectively support participants and further reduce salt pollution in Lake Michigan and freshwater resources across the state.

2025 by the Numbers



15
WORKSHOPS



8
OPEN HOUSES



900+
WINTER SALT WEEK
REGISTRANTS



9
AGENCY TRAININGS



3,299
WEBINAR VIEWS

Learn more about Wisconsin Salt Wise's 2025 activities, including maps and visuals, in the program's [2025 Partner Report](#).



2025 EXCELLENCE IN SNOW AND
ICE CONTROL AWARD WINNER



WI APWA 2025 SNOWPLOW ROADDO



SCIENCE TEACHING FOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE COHORT



SCHOOL NURSERY TREE CRIBS

Climate Resilience Planning

Through our Climate Resilience Planning program, CARPC collaborates with a wide range of partners to increase regional flood resilience through green infrastructure and proactive planning. We also lead several efforts to promote a healthy and equitable regional [tree canopy](#) by developing unique data and mapping products and strategic partnerships.

Tree Canopy Initiatives Provide a Tangible Connection to Regional Goals

Trees are deeply rooted in the [2050 Regional Development Framework](#) goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering community resilience to climate change. Through [extensive public outreach](#), CARPC staff have distributed hundreds of trees to municipalities, nonprofits, Friends groups, and community members, providing the public with a physical connection to our big-picture regional goals.

In 2025, CARPC staff and partners distributed **over 700 trees** – primarily [heritage oak](#) saplings – through educational tabling, tree planting events, and school

nursery installations. These saplings made their way to [23 Wisconsin counties and 13 states](#) across the U.S.

Over 400 K-12 students in Dane County have contributed to the success of our [school tree nursery program](#). In 2025, two new nurseries were established at **LaFollette High School** in Madison and the **Severson Learning Center** in Cambridge. CARPC is now working with the **Wisconsin DNR** and the **University of Wisconsin–Steven’s Point** to spread this work even further by developing a professional lesson plan and curriculum that can be adopted by interested schools throughout the state.

In the summer of 2025, CARPC partnered with **Dane County Planning & Development, Parks**, and the [Dane County Tree Board](#) to launch the **Dane County Rural Free Tree Program**. Through this program, all newly constructed homes and rezoned properties on prior farmlands – which typically don’t have any trees – will receive a flyer explaining how to obtain two free trees along with maintenance instructions.

[Remarkable Trees of Dane County](#) is a digital community involvement project developed through a 2025 collaboration between CARPC, the **State Cartographer’s Office**, and **Urban Tree Alliance**. Any community member can add their favorite tree to this crowd-sourced web map, sharing its story with fellow Dane County tree enthusiasts.

2025 Road-Stream Crossing Inventory



\$282K
IN GRANT FUNDING



25
TOWNSHIPS
SURVEYED



528
CROSSINGS
INVENTORIED



11
REPORTS
COMPLETED

2025 Climate Resilience Projects, Programs & Accomplishments

- Led the **Black Earth Creek Watershed Green Infrastructure Plan** Steering Committee to continue supporting plan implementation
- Began work on a grant-funded project to create a statewide **old-growth forest and prairie remnant map** in partnership with the State Cartographer's Office
- Provided data and mapping to help plant and maintain 100-125 trees in south Madison through the **Neighborhood Forest Project**, a partnership with WI Eco-Latinos, Operation Fresh Start, Sustain Dane, and the Urban Tree Alliance
- Partnered with Trout Unlimited to continue the [Dane County Road-Stream Crossing Inventory](#)



TREE PLANTING AT SCHENK ELEMENTARY



TREE CANOPY COLLABORATIVE
OLD GROWTH FOREST TOUR



BLACK EARTH CREEK



Community Assistance & Engagement

CARPC-MPO Fall Forum: One Conversation, One Regional Response

A bike path doesn't stop at a city or village boundary, nor does a watershed, a daily commute, or even a snowstorm. So many of the transportation challenges our communities face are regional by nature, making collaboration just as important as local action.

That idea was the driving force behind the **2025 Fall Forum**. CARPC and the **Greater Madison MPO** brought together nearly 50 elected officials, planners, engineers, and municipal staff from across Dane County for a day of learning, discussion, and problem-solving. We covered everything from regional transit and EV charging to watershed coordination and winter road maintenance, but the real value wasn't just in the presentations. It was in the conversations that happened between them.

People compared notes, sharing what was working, what wasn't, and the challenges they kept running into. Before long, a pattern started to emerge: people at every table were asking many of the same questions about e-bikes. What exactly counts as an e-bike? What about the devices that look like e-bikes but can travel 40 or even 50 miles per hour? Are they allowed on bike paths? What are other communities doing? And how can we avoid creating a patchwork of different rules from one municipality to the next?

This ultimately spurred the Greater Madison MPO to prepare regional guidance on electric transportation devices, defining different device types and providing recommendations that communities can use as they develop local policies. The effort also inspired a regional safety campaign featuring videos and educational resources that local governments can share to help residents better understand different device types and how to ride safely.

The Fall Forum was a reminder that some of the region's biggest transportation challenges don't stop at municipal boundaries, and neither do the best ideas. When communities come together to learn from one another, conversations become collaboration, and collaboration becomes practical solutions that benefit the entire region.

2025 Data, Mapping, & Community Assistance Accomplishments

- Updated our [Open Data Portal](#), redesigned the [CARPC News Explorer](#), and created a [Land Use Archive Explorer](#)
- Developed a first-of-its-kind **building attribute dataset** that includes unique spatial identifiers for all buildings in Dane County, as well as build year and unit count for residential buildings
- Maintained **zoning maps** for the Towns of Bristol, Berry, Springfield, Blue Mounds, and Sun Prairie
- Completed the [Bordner Survey Digitization](#)
- Developed maps of [Witness Trees](#), [Dane County Friends of Groups](#), [Land Patents](#), and [rooftop solar](#) and expanded our [historic bird's-eye view map](#)
- Assisted with comprehensive plan updates for [Rock County](#) and the [Town of Berry](#)
- Conducted legislative outreach advocating for state budget items that support water and resource conservation projects
- Held hands-on GIS trainings for [OFS Conservation Academy](#) crew members and teens in [Sustain Dane's Powerful Teen Leaders](#) program.



STARKWEATHER MONITORING OPEN HOUSE



TROUT DAYS

2025 Outreach & Engagement



613

NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

13

LOCAL MEDIA
FEATURES

19

COMMUNITY
EVENTS

672

LINKEDIN
FOLLOWERS



CHANNEL 3 COVERAGE OF STREAM
CROSSING INVENTORY



Our Planning Partners

Within the greater Madison region, virtually all planning processes occur through ongoing partnerships and collaborations. CARPC collaborates with several other regional organizations in an effort to integrate land use planning with related areas such as transportation planning and economic development. In addition to specifically working with Dane County and municipalities, staff also regularly participate in important water quality and natural resource initiatives across the region.

In 2025, staff actively participated in organizational events and activities at local, regional, and statewide scales, including serving on boards and committees, conducting outreach and education, and giving presentations.

Our 2025 partnerships and collaborations included:

- AARP Wisconsin
- Black Earth Creek Watershed Association
- Capitol Water Trails

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT Midwest Climate Collaborative



CARPC joined the Midwest Climate Collaborative (MCC) in 2022 as a founding member. Over the years, our membership has helped us bring research partnerships, networking and relationship building opportunities, informational resources, and technical assistance back to our partner agencies and communities.

In 2025, the MCC held the **2025 Midwest Climate Summit** in Madison, bringing nearly 500 climate leaders, researchers, students, and professionals to the Capital Region. CARPC staff co-chaired the event, led a bike tour, presented conference sessions, provided heritage oak seedlings to attendees, and moderated the closing panel. We're proud to have helped showcase all the innovative actions being taken by Dane County communities and organizations to the wider Midwest region.

- Clean Lakes Alliance / Yahara CLEAN Compact
- Dane County Cities' and Villages' Association
- Dane County Land & Water Resources and Planning & Development Departments
- Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change
- Dane County Towns Association
- Dane County Tree Board
- Dane County Tree Canopy Collaborative
- Downtown Madison, Inc.
- Driftless Area Land Conservancy
- Friends of Starkweather Creek
- Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Madison MPO
- Green Tier Clear Waters Initiative
- Groundswell Conservancy
- Heartwood Tree Company
- Lake Waubesa Conservation Association
- Local units of government
- Madison Area Builders Association
- Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership (MAMSWaP)
- Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)
- Midwest Climate Collaborative
- Madison Rotary Club
- Operation Fresh Start
- Schenk & Nuestro Mundo Elementary Schools
- Smart Growth Greater Madison
- Sustain Dane
- The Nature Conservancy
- The State Cartographer's Office
- The Urban Tree Alliance
- The Wisconsin State Trails Council
- Trout Unlimited
- UW-Madison Center for Limnology
- UW-Madison Planning & Landscape Architecture and Chemistry Departments
- U.S. Geological Service
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- Wisconsin EcoLatinos
- Yahara Pride Farms



SUSTAIN DANE



MIDWEST CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE



OPERATION FRESH START



Financials

CARPC is primarily funded through an annual property tax levy included in the Dane County tax bill, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §66.0309(14)(b). Other major revenue sources include local payments for water resource monitoring (which CARPC passes through to USGS) and an annual water quality planning grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Fees from planning assistance contracts, reviewing sewer service area amendment applications, and issuing Section 208 letters of plan conformance round out our revenue portfolio.

2025 Revenues

While the dollar value of CARPC's revenue from the county property tax levy has increased each year since 2022, it has steadily become a smaller percentage of our revenue, declining from 67% of the budget to 60% over the last three years.

Revenues from federal and state grants increased 88% from 2024 as we expanded grant-funded work on the [Road-Stream Crossing Inventory](#), while the share of revenues from planning, GIS, and other local service contracts increased nearly \$75,000.

Sewer service amendment fee revenues decreased significantly (42%) primarily due to a below average number of sewer service area amendment requests in 2025. Overall, total revenues increased 9% from 2024 to 2025.

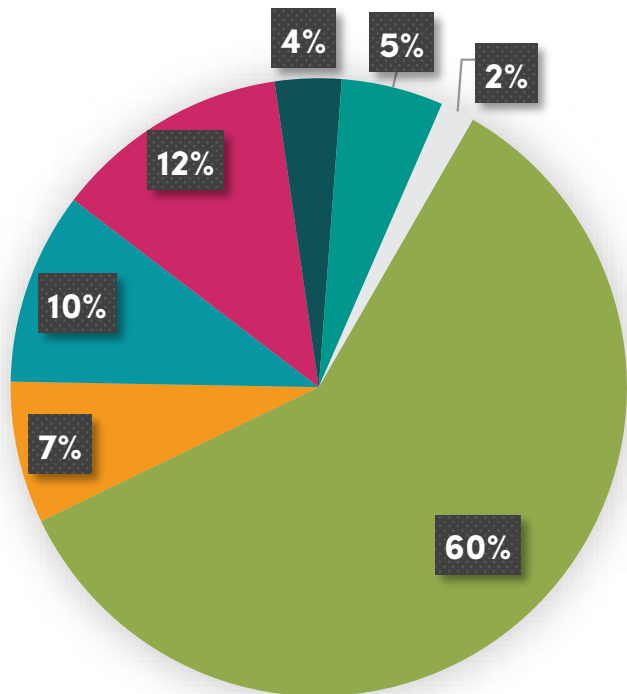
2025 Expenses

The majority of the agency's operating expenses are related to personnel costs, including salaries and wages, group insurance, participation in the Wisconsin Retirement System, and FICA taxes. Professional services such as IT, legal, accounting, and partner organizations that support our programmatic work take up about 20% of our operating budget.

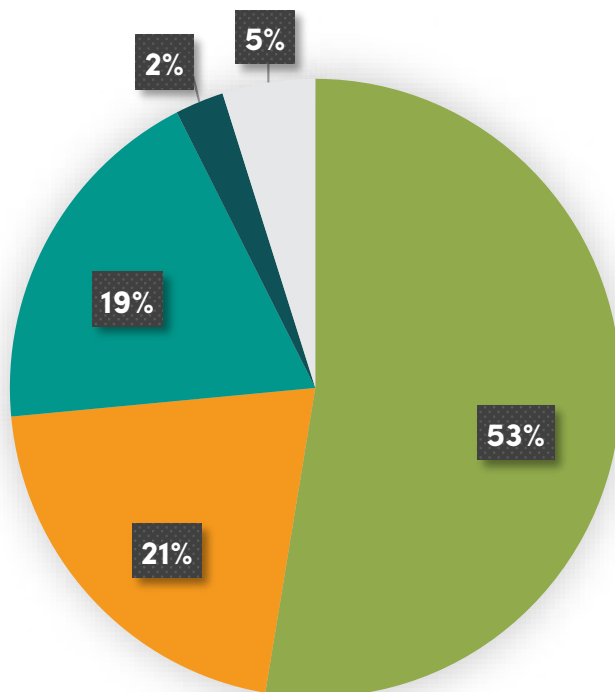
Expenditures on employee benefits increased 25% in 2025 due to significant increases in health insurance costs. All other expense categories increased modestly between 2024 and 2025, with the exception of rent, which decreased slightly. Total expenses increased 9% overall from 2024 to 2025.

Total Revenues: \$1,971,822

■ Property Tax	\$1,173,808
■ WI Salt Wise	\$146,376
■ Water Resource Monitoring	\$198,695
■ Federal & State Grants	\$243,369
■ Sewer Extension & Service Area Review Fees	\$68,807
■ Planning & Other Services	\$105,595
■ Other	\$35,172



Total Expenses: \$2,000,218



■ Salaries & Wages	\$1,052,480
■ Employee Benefits	\$418,074
■ Professional Services	\$379,851
■ Rent	\$51,580
■ Supplies & Other Expenses	\$99,233



August 2026

CAPITAL AREA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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