



Community Development Programming: July 2026



Extension Community Development Educator Paul Roback **responds to requests for assistance from local communities and organizations** who want to enhance local decision-making and respond to new challenges and opportunities. Programs are designed and delivered to meet these locally identified needs.

Needs Assessment

- 2017 Visioning Session for vacant Ozaukee Community Development position.
- Annually research and track US Census, local newspapers, nonprofit strategic planning, county board oversight committee input, county administrator, and additional data sources.

Extension Presentations & Service

- Presented “Remaining Relevant in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Using Microsoft Copilot to Enhance Program Delivery” at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Extension Leadership Conference in Savannah, GA. Attended by 35 Extension colleagues from around the country.
- Presented “Turning Tension into Transformation: A Facilitator’s Guide to Navigating Conflict” to 40 WI Extension Colleagues.
- Leading statewide evaluation research project on how Extension’s Organizational Development efforts help nonprofits, coalitions, and local governments effectively address community needs.
 - Co-presented results to 18 WI Extension Colleagues.
 - Co-presented results to 7 National Extension Community Development Colleagues.
- Instructor for Foundations in Extension Education for session on “Evaluate for Impact.”
- Serve on the National Board of Epsilon Sigma Phi, an Extension Professionals’ Association. Chair the Professional Development Committee that hosts national webinars and is planning the national conference in Springfield, IL in October 2026.

Current Projects

- Festivals of Cedarburg- strategic planning & external stakeholder survey
- Village of Fredonia- staff development
- Ozaukee Nonprofit Center- collaboration program
- Northern Ozaukee United Way- strategic visioning

Completed Projects

- Balance, Inc.
 - Strategic planning & external stakeholder survey
 - “Having external support guide us through re-working our mission and vision helped us stay focused on the importance of these statements.”
- Ozaukee County
 - Staff development
 - “Fun workshop.” “I like you asking questions and hearing how all other colors react/respond.”
- Ozaukee County Tourism Council
 - Strategic planning & external stakeholder survey
 - “I’m always skeptical about meetings like this but it was a great session! Lots of progress!”
- Lake Michigan Bird Observatory
 - Strategic conversations
 - “This was very helpful to get staff and board and new board members together to have this discussion.”
- Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership
 - Training on succession planning and volunteer recruitment
 - 100% strongly agreed that the content was relevant to their needs.
- SE WI Housing Summit Planning Team
 - 135 participants
 - 100% agreed that they increased their knowledge of data to support community-level housing conversations
- Elevate, Inc.
 - Two staff development workshops
 - “You were very informative and supportive of each group.”
- Previously reported at March NRC meeting:
 - Mequon Nature Preserve- Staff development
 - Leadership Germantown- Staff development
 - Dodge County- Staff development