

## CHAPTER 4: UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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## CHAPTER 4: UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### INTRODUCTION

One responsibility of a county is to maintain a certain level of community services. To achieve it, they must continuously maintain, upgrade, and expand existing facilities in a cost-effective manner based on future growth projections and the desires of the community. The involvement of the community in the planning process illustrates the importance that the board places on maintaining a high level of public services and facilities. The following section provides an inventory of some of the services and facilities available in the community. The analysis of facilities is based on generalizations and predictions and is no substitute for detailed engineering or architectural studies, which should be completed before municipal funds are expended on specific projects. The size of community facilities along with the cost of providing services is directly related to land use, development patterns, and the existing and future densities of development. See Exhibit 8-1, Existing Land Use Map, and Exhibit 4-1 and 4-2, Utilities and Community Facilities, which illustrate the location of the various items discussed below.

### INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

This section describes the existing utilities and community facilities within Waushara County.

#### Wastewater Collection and Treatment

*Private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) serve a majority of Waushara County. Public wastewater treatment is available in the Cities of Wautoma and Berlin; the villages of Coloma, Hancock, Plainfield, Wild Rose and Redgranite; and through the Silver Lake Sanitary District (City of Wautoma and parts of the towns of Dakota, Marion, Wautoma and Mount Morris), the Poy Sippi Sanitary District No. 1 (unincorporated village of Poy Sippi and part of the Town of Leon), Joint Towns of Poygan and Poy Sippi Sanitary District (part of the towns of Poy Sippi and Poygan – Winnebago County), and the North Lake Poygan Sanitary District (parts of the towns of Bloomfield and Wolf River – Winnebago County).* For more information please see the Community and Public Facilities Element of the individual plans.

Typically, individual systems are designed for each household or business based on the site's soil characteristics and capabilities. However, in some cases, a community, or 'cluster' system, may be used to serve more than one household. In rare cases, some existing development may have only a privy or no system at all. On-site systems, depending on the type and maintenance frequency, can function for 15 to 30 years and can cost-effectively treat wastes in rural areas not served by public sewers.

Beginning in 2000, Waushara County began an inspection program for POWTS. Newer POWTS built since 2000 are inspected every three years. Additional systems are included in the inspection program as they are replaced, or if there has been an improvement of over 25% of existing buildings and/or structures. Waushara County does not allow holding tanks systems for new construction, although they are an option for replacement situations. The Comm 83 rules do allow the use of holding tanks for new construction, however, individual counties and

municipalities can continue to enforce such a ban at their discretion. The allowance of private on-site treatment systems will certainly be needed to accommodate new and existing development within the rural portions of the planning area.

As of October of 2008 the State of Wisconsin has created new requirements that will greatly affect POWTS. This change requires that by 2011 all counties in the state have a complete inventory of every POWTS in their area. By 2013 all POWTS will need to be part of the same inspection program that POWTS built since 2000 are a part of.

## **Stormwater Management**

Stormwater runoff and management have recently gained more attention as an environmental concern due to flooding and surface water quality issues. When the impacts of stormwater management are considered from a regional perspective, the potential for damage is tremendous. Although an individual development may not seem to have a significant impact on the natural drainage system, the cumulative impacts of development and urbanization can influence natural system functions. According to studies by the Center for Watershed Protection, as little as 10% impervious cover (concrete, asphalt, buildings, etc.) can negatively impact fish habitat. Moreover, if 25% of an area is impervious, the natural functions of a watershed become overloaded and stream quality can become permanently degraded.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Drainage Districts***

The Waushara County Drainage Board administers and oversees the drainage of agricultural lands. It regulates various land practices used to remove excess water from farmlands and raises issues regarding the impacts of scattered rural development and the cumulative impacts on water quality flowing to and through their legal drains. In addition, county drainage boards are authorized to assess costs to a landowner for any adverse impacts on downstream water quality that can be directly attributed to that landowner. Landowners must receive drainage board approval before undertaking any action which could potentially affect a drainage system.

Drainage districts usually require a 20 foot vegetated strip on both sides of any ditch, which is to be used as a maintenance corridor, or any applicable stream within the watershed. Row cropping is prohibited within this corridor. These requirements can be coordinated with soil and water conservation plans required under the Farmland Preservation program<sup>2</sup>.

***Eight drainage districts have been established within Waushara County. The only active district is the Marion-Warren district.***

### ***Stormwater Systems***

***Stormwater systems consisting of storm sewer, inlets, curb and gutter are limited in Waushara County and are generally found in the incorporated communities of Wautoma, Redgranite, Wild Rose, Hancock, Coloma, etc.*** Storm sewer systems are also found along limited highway segments to improve stormwater flow.

<sup>1</sup> *Site Planning for Urban Stream Protection*. 2004. Center for Watershed Protection.

<sup>2</sup> *Guide to Community Planning in Wisconsin*. 1999. Ohm, B.W.

### ***Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Prevention***

Several different methods can be used to control and reduce the amount of stormwater runoff into local waterways. These methods can be implemented at a localized, town-wide, or regional level.

**Watershed Planning.** A watershed is an interconnected area of land draining from surrounding ridge tops to a common point such as a lake or stream confluence with a neighboring watershed.<sup>3</sup> This approach allows stakeholders on an individual water body to collectively focus their interests on improving the water quality in one area.

**Land Conservation Techniques.** Land conservation techniques are used to provide physical barriers and improvements and may include legislative actions to change the physical environment and reduce current levels of runoff. These techniques can include cluster or conservation subdivisions, setbacks, buffers, and land acquisition.

**Aquatic Buffers.** An aquatic buffer is an area along a shoreline, wetland, or stream where development is restricted or prohibited.<sup>4</sup> Natural vegetation is highly encouraged in the buffer area. If properly designed, buffers can physically protect waterways from future disturbance or encroachment. Furthermore, buffers can protect surface water quality by removing nutrients and silt from stormwater runoff.

**Site Design Techniques.** Site design techniques can be applied to all developments. Every development should incorporate three main goals: reduce the amount of impervious cover, increase the amount of lands set aside for conservation, and utilize pervious areas for more effective stormwater treatment.<sup>5</sup> Techniques that can be used to achieve these goals include reduction in lot sizes, building narrower streets, planting rain gardens, creating bioretention ponds, etc.

**Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs).** Best Management Practices (BMPs) is a general term used to describe a broad range of structural controls that may be utilized by agricultural, residential, and commercial developments to control and reduce the amount of erosion caused by stormwater.<sup>2</sup> These practices may be used to reduce pollutant loads, maintain groundwater recharge areas, protect stream quality, and limit development within the 100-year floodplain.

### **Water Supply**

***The County is served by municipal water systems and private wells. Municipal water systems are located in the cities of Wautoma and Berlin; and the villages of Coloma, Hancock, Plainfield, and Redgranite.*** There are no municipal water systems available in the villages of Wild Rose and Lohrville. As such, ***groundwater is the source of drinking water throughout the county.*** As with many other locations in Wisconsin, a high concentration of minerals in the soil substrate creates “hard” water. Iron, one mineral which contributes to

<sup>2</sup> *Site Planning for Urban Stream Protection.* 2004. Center for Watershed Protection.

<sup>3</sup> *The Watershed Approach.* 2004. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

<sup>4</sup> *Aquatic Buffers.* 2004. Center for Watershed Protection.

<sup>5</sup> *Better Site Design.* 2004. Center for Watershed Protection.

hardness, is found at extremely high levels.<sup>6</sup> Elevated nitrate levels have been detected in water samples within the county. See the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resource Chapters of the individual community plans for more information.

### **Solid Waste and Recycling**

Waushara County currently subsidizes waste management within the county. ***The County operates nine waste collection sites and contracts with Waste Management of Wisconsin, Inc. and Onyx Waste Services to haul waste and recyclables,*** respectively that are collected at the sites (Exhibit 4-1). ***Residents are able to utilize any of the waste collection sites within the county.*** All non-recyclable wastes are hauled to Valley Trail Landfill in Berlin, Wisconsin. Wastes generated by commercial establishments are not accepted at the sites. Most commercial businesses and some rural residents also have curbside pickup. It is the policy of Waushara County to pay tipping charges for municipal, commercial, and rural residents that choose to have curbside pickup. The county also provides partial compensation for municipalities (cities and villages) to help them finance the hauling portion of waste disposal. The County does not pay tipping charges for foundry sand, demolition materials, rolloff containers, or compactors. The drop-off sites are open on Wednesdays from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM year round; and Sundays from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM during the months of June, July and August.<sup>7</sup>

#### ***All waste management sites in Waushara County accept recyclable materials.***

Recyclables are sent to Paper Valley Recycling in Menasha (paper) and Resource Management in Chicago (co-mingled). Waste oil is subcontracted by Superior Services to Jacobus in Madison. Iron and tin collected by Superior Services is subcontracted to Fox Valley Metal in Oshkosh. Subsidized by the County, residents receive no payment for these materials. Materials that are collected include: glass, tin, aluminum, plastic, newsprint, cardboard, magazines, office paper, yard waste, scrap iron, waste oil, batteries, and tires.

Waushara County currently works with Waupaca County to provide a disposal option for household hazardous waste. County residents bring their household hazardous waste to a Waupaca County Processing and Transfer Facility located in Manawa. This program runs from May through October with regular hours of operation. Residents pay a fee for disposing of these hazardous items, but Waushara County helps to reduce costs by contributing grant money towards the program.

### **Electricity**

***Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op, Alliant-Wisconsin Power & Light, Pioneer Power & Light Company, and Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WE Energies) provide electric power to Waushara County*** (Exhibit 4-1).<sup>8</sup> Adams-Colombia Electric Cooperative is a rural electric distribution cooperative serving approximately 36,156 member/customer in parts of 12 central Wisconsin counties<sup>9</sup>. Alliant Energy is an energy-service provider with subsidiaries

<sup>6</sup> Summers, W.K. 1981. *Geology and Groundwater Resources of Waushara County, Wisconsin*. United States Geological Survey Report 1809-B.

<sup>7</sup> Schuman, S. 2005. Personal Communication. Waushara County Parks, Recreation, and Solid Waste Department. Director.

<sup>8</sup> Waushara County 2005, Utility Data by WPS

<sup>9</sup> Adams-Colombia Electric Cooperative website: [www.acecwi.com](http://www.acecwi.com). Accessed November 20, 2008.

servicing approximately one million electric and over 400,000 natural gas customers. Wisconsin Power and Light, the company's Wisconsin utility subsidiary, serves 456,000 electric and 182,000 natural gas customers. Alliant Energy is headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin.<sup>10</sup> Pioneer Power & Light Company is a private utility located in Westfield Wisconsin. WE Energies serves about 1.1 million electric customers within Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.<sup>11</sup>

## Natural Gas

***Wisconsin Gas Company and Alliant/Wisconsin Power & Light provide natural gas service to Waushara County*** (Exhibit 4-1).<sup>12</sup> Wisconsin Gas Company is a subsidiary of WE Energies. The company serves approximately 583,300 gas customers in Wisconsin.<sup>13</sup> **WE Energies** has pipelines that intersect the county. According to Wisconsin Public Service, there is no gas service in the Town of Bloomfield.

## Power Generation Plants and Transmission Lines

***ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) operates several gas pipelines within Waushara County.*** It operates one of the largest interstate natural pipeline systems, delivering natural gas to both Canada and the United States. It maintains about 10,600 miles of pipeline.<sup>14</sup>

***American Transmission Company (ATC) owns and maintains a number of transmission lines in Waushara County*** (Exhibit 4-1). ATC began operations on January 1, 2001, as the first multi-state transmission only utility. They own 9,350 circuit miles of transmission lines and wholly and jointly own 500 substations.<sup>15</sup> ***According to ATC, transmission systems throughout Zone 1 (includes Waushara County) are overloaded and experiencing low voltages.***<sup>16</sup>

***Koch Pipeline Company LP operates a pipeline within Waushara County.*** Koch Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of Koch Industries, is based in Wichita Kansas. It owns or operates crude oil, refined petroleum products, chemical and natural gas liquids.

## Telecommunications Facilities

***According to information obtained from Waushara County, there are a number of towers scattered throughout the county*** (Exhibit 4-1). These towers serve a variety of purposes including storm warnings, cellular phone communications and cable television.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.alliantenergy.com>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.we-energies.com/home/we\\_keyfacts.htm](http://www.we-energies.com/home/we_keyfacts.htm). Accessed December 9, 2008.

<sup>12</sup> Waushara County 2005, Utility Data by WPS

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.business.com/directory/energy\\_and\\_environment/natural\\_gas\\_utilities/wisconsin\\_gas\\_company/profile/](http://www.business.com/directory/energy_and_environment/natural_gas_utilities/wisconsin_gas_company/profile/)

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.anrpl.com>

<sup>15</sup> [www.atcile.com](http://www.atcile.com). Accessed November 20, 2008.

<sup>16</sup> ATC. 2008. *10-Year Assessment 2008*.



## **Telephone**

***Century Kendall, Century-Midwest WI, CenturyTel Central, SBC Communications and Union Telephone all provide service to Waushara County.***<sup>17</sup> Century Midwest WI, Century Kendall and CenturyTel Central are subsidiaries of CenturyTel, Inc. CenturyTel is the nation's seven largest local exchange company whose focus is on geographically clustered markets in rural areas and small cities.<sup>18</sup> SBC Communications formally known as Southwestern Bell acquired AT&T Corporation in 2005. AT&T is the largest communications holding company in the world by revenue.<sup>19</sup> Union Telephone is based out of Plainfield, Wisconsin.

The advancement of telecommunication technologies, such as cell phones, has greatly increased the need for towers to provide receiving and sending capabilities. The number of telecommunications towers in the United States currently exceeds 77,000; this number could double by 2010.<sup>20</sup> The federal government recognized this need with the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Currently, the Waushara County Zoning Ordinance regulates the placement of cell towers within the county.

## **Internet**

***Due to the proliferation of internet service providers (ISP), area residents can also choose from several national and local ISPs.*** The Athena Group, Wild Blue, Dotnet, Union Telephone Company and CenturyTel are among some of the providers who supply internet service to Waushara County. High speed DSL internet access is available through CenturyTel and Charter Communications to some residents. Services are accessed via a local phone line. The availability of high speed access may change as ISPs increase coverage areas or if state and federal regulations or involvement change.

## **Cemeteries**

***According to the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) there are 43 public and private cemeteries within Waushara County*** (Exhibit 4-2). Cemetery data along with other data is gathered by the USGS and included on quad maps that they publish. Smaller cemeteries, which are more difficult to identify, may not be included in this inventory. More detailed information on cemeteries is included in the Community and Public Facilities chapters of the individual plans.

The ownership and maintenance of the cemeteries within Waushara County varies between public organizations and public entities. According to the state statutes, if the authority (organization, family or individual) who owns or manages a cemetery fails to care for it for a period of five or more years, then the municipality where the cemetery is located is required to take over the control, management and care of the cemetery.<sup>21</sup> In this manner, some municipalities acquire the management and care of cemeteries; in other instances, the cemetery has always been under public ownership.

<sup>17</sup> East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, *Milestone Report #1, State of the Region. 2003.*

<sup>18</sup> <http://ir.centurytel.com/>. Accessed December 2, 2008.

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.att.com>. Accessed December 4, 2008.

<sup>20</sup> Wind Turbines and Birds: Putting the Situation in Perspective in Wisconsin. 2004. Sagrillo, M.

<sup>21</sup> *Wisconsin State Statutes, Chapter 157.*

## Childcare Facilities

***Public involvement at the state level in the role of childcare falls largely under the supervision of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's Office of Childcare (OCC).*** One of the OCC's primary areas of responsibility is the oversight of the Wisconsin Shares program, which is a childcare subsidy program.

The Wisconsin Shares program is administered by local counties, tribes and Wisconsin Works (W-2) agencies. The program assists families whose incomes are less than 200% of poverty to pay for childcare services. Parents choose the type of care and share the cost through co-payment. In order to be eligible for reimbursement, childcare providers must be licensed by the State, certified by county or tribal government, or operated by a public school. Research indicates that public dollars play a large financial role in the provision of childcare in the state, and in both urban and rural counties. Table 4-1 identifies available information on the number of regulated childcare facilities in the area. These figures are for licensed childcare providers only. A license is required for those who provide care for four or more children under the age of 7 at any one time.<sup>22</sup>

**Table 4-1. Childcare Facilities**

Provider	Regulation Type	City	Capacity
Kathy's Clubhouse	Licensed Family	Almond	8
Little Blessings Christian Daycare	Licensed Group	Berlin	22
Tiny Tots Daycare	Licensed Family	Berlin	8
UMOS-Aurora Center	Licensed Group	Berlin	70
Kopach Family Daycare	Licensed Family	Coloma	8
Lor's Kinder Kare	Licensed Family	Coloma	8
Diane's Little Treasures Daycare	Licensed Family	Neshkoro	8
Trina's Little Critters Daycare	Licensed Family	Plainfield	8
UMOS-Plainfield Center	Licensed Group	Plainfield	60
Wendy's Little Ones	Licensed Family	Plainfield	8
Little Lambs' Haven	Licensed Family	Redgranite	8
Little Rascals Daycare	Certified	Redgranite	6
Little Sprouts Discovery Center	Licensed Group	Redgranite	60
UMOS-Spring Lake Center	Licensed Group	Redgranite	96
Country Kids Preschool	Licensed Group	Saukville	24
Beckies Daycare	Licensed Family	Wautoma	8
Dancing Star Daycare	Licensed Family / Certified	Wautoma	8
Deb's Den	Licensed Family	Wautoma	8
Jessica's Daycare	Certified	Wautoma	6
Little Peanuts	Licensed Family	Wautoma	6
Little Tykes Family Daycare	Licensed Family	Wautoma	8
Little World of Wonders Daycare	Licensed Family	Wautoma	8
Peek-a-boo Daycare	Licensed Family / Certified	Wautoma	8
Sweet Peas	Licensed Family	Wautoma	8
Village of Learning Inc	Licensed Group	Wautoma	34
Wautoma Early Learning Center	Licensed Group	Wautoma	20
Day Dreams Family Child Care	Licensed Family	Wild Rose	8
Happy Hearts Family Daycare	Certified	Wild Rose	6

Source: *Mid-Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral, 2008*

<sup>22</sup> *Wisconsin State Statutes 48.65.*

ChildCare Resource & Referral, Inc. works with counties and the State in monitoring childcare provision and has reported that the highest demand for care is for full-time, first shift (6 AM to 6 PM) hours. ***The Mid-Wisconsin ChildCare Resource & Referral, Inc. and CAPSELL Services works with Waushara County.***

***UMOS is a non-profit, community-based organization which provides housing and other services to underserved populations.***<sup>23</sup> Within Waushara County, migrant workers utilize these programs. ***UMOS operates a housing complex, Head Start program, and childcare facilities in Plainfield and Aurora.*** The licensed facilities provided childcare for 130 children in 2008.<sup>24</sup>

According to the Mid-Wisconsin ChildCare Resource & Referral agency, a need exists in Waushara County for additional childcare, especially for children of non-traditional workers such as second shift. It should be noted that the available capacity versus number of children 12 years old and under may not be representative of the need, since not all children in this age category require licensed childcare. Some children come from families in which the primary caregiver is not employed outside of the home, while other people may seek childcare near their place of employment or utilize unlicensed facilities or family and friends for childcare needs.

## Elderly Services

**Waushara County Department of Aging** offers several programs to area senior citizens. In 2007, these programs provided almost 4,000 individuals with assistance.<sup>25</sup> ***The Waushara County Coordinated Transportation System offers rides to not only senior citizens but also to veterans, and human service clientele on Medical Assistance.*** Transportation is provided by either mini-bus or volunteers. While transportation for medical appointments is provided almost exclusively by volunteer drivers, the mini-bus offers rides for not only medical appointments but also for grocery shopping and other personal errands. This program has been successful and may need to expand to serve the increasing number of senior citizens.

***Meals along with activities and fellowship are provided to seniors at eight locations throughout Waushara County.*** All sites are open from Monday through Friday unless indicated otherwise. Participants must be age 60 or older, but a spouse and/or caregiver any age are welcome to participate as well. Locations include the Wautoma-Waushara Senior Center (W8220 Cottonville Avenue in the Town of Dakota), the Wild Rose Community Center (500 Wisconsin Avenue), the Redgranite Civic Center (202 Pine River Street), the Plainfield Senior Center (114 W. Clark Street), the Hancock Community Building (420 Jefferson Street), the Coloma Community Center (155 Front Street; Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday), and The House Next Door in Poy Sippi (W2306 Prospect Street; Tuesday and Thursday). Meals are served at the Saxeville Town Hall (W4022 Archer Avenue; Monday and Wednesday)<sup>26</sup>. Meals are also delivered to individual residences. Currently, the county provides this service to nearly 1,000 senior citizens<sup>27</sup>.

<sup>23</sup> UMOS. 2006. *Welcome to UMOS*. <http://www.umos.org>.

<sup>24</sup> Mid-Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral, 2008.

<sup>25</sup> Waushara County Department of Aging Services. 2007. *Waushara County Department of Aging Services Summary*.

<sup>26</sup> Communication with the Aging and Disability Resource Center, November 21, 2008.

***The Aging & Disability Resource Center of Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara Counties provides information and assistance on aging, long term care, disabilities, and other related topics.*** A grant written in 2007, and extended through 2010 has allowed the expansion of services and the development of this tri-county consortium.<sup>28</sup>

A trained benefit specialist is available to help seniors and their families find information on public programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and other related programs. This individual not only provides guidance by thoroughly explaining all available options, but also assists seniors with completing all required paperwork for these programs. The benefit specialist offers flexible hours at meeting locations which include the office, local senior centers, and personal residences. Since this program is supervised by an attorney, legal help is available to seniors with an appeal process if they are denied claims or assistance.

According to the Aging and Disability Resource Center, transportation remains an issue within the county.

The **Wautoma-Waushara Senior Center** is located at W8220 Cottonville Avenue in the Town of Dakota. The center serves as a meal site for the Waushara County Department of Aging meal program each weekday. ***The center offers a wide range of social and educational activities for seniors including bingo, card tournaments, crafts, and others.*** Several field trips are organized each year to Wisconsin casinos, museums, and other destinations.

### ***Residential Care Facilities***

***The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) regulates' adult care facilities.*** Several types of residential services exist for the elderly. These include Residential Care Apartment Complexes (RCACs), Adult Family Homes (AFHs), Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRF), and adult day cares.

RCACs provide independent apartment living options for individuals in groups of five or more. Apartments must have a lockable entrance and exit; a kitchen with a stove (or microwave); and individual bathroom, sleeping, and living areas. Individuals can receive no more than 28 hours of supportive services (transportation, housekeeping, recreation), personal assistance (dressing, bathing, etc.), or nursing care per week. They are appropriate only for individuals who require in-depth health monitoring by health care professionals<sup>28</sup>.

AFHs are designed to provide care for up to four persons and allow the opportunity for residents to receive specialized care. AFHs can specialize in residents of advanced age or persons with dementia, Alzheimer's, or physical disabilities.<sup>27</sup>

In Wisconsin, CBRFs provide housing for five or more residents. The minimum age for CBRF residency is 18. CBRFs provide housing for both individuals who can live independently and for those who require care.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> DHFS. 2006. *Adult Family Homes – Introduction*.  
[http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/rl\\_DSL/AdultFamilyHomes/AFHintro.htm](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/rl_DSL/AdultFamilyHomes/AFHintro.htm)

<sup>28</sup> DHFS. 2006. *Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRFs) – Introduction*.  
[http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/rl\\_dsl/CBRF/CBRFintro.htm](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/rl_dsl/CBRF/CBRFintro.htm)

An Adult Day Care Facility provides services for adults who need assistance with daily activities in a group setting. Adult day care may be provided in home, a specialized facility, or other community facility (i.e., churches). Unlike other elderly services, adult day care facilities provide services for only a portion of the day; these services are usually provided during normal business hours. ***There is an adult day care facility in Wautoma called Adult Day Services Living Environmental. Cooperative Care, based out of Wautoma and Redgranite, provides in-home personal and home care services to elderly and disabled residents.*** The profits from this member owned cooperative are divided up between all the members who worked in that year. ***Facilities for Waushara County are located in Wautoma and Redgranite*** (Table 4-2).

**Table 4-2. Elderly Care Facilities**

Facility	Waushara County	
	Number	Capacity
Residential Care Apartment Complexes (RCAC)	3	93
Adult Family Homes (AFH)	5	19
Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRF)	8	106
Adult Day Care Facilities (ADC)	1	40
Total	17	258

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, 2008.

Although the elderly population is healthier and living longer than in the past, assistance will likely be needed at some point in their lives. The type of assistance preferred should be identified with input from potential users. ***The overall capacity for adult care facilities serving the planning area is 258 persons.*** By 2030, about 30 percent of the population in Waushara County is projected to be age 65 or older.<sup>29</sup> As the population ages, it can be assumed that a growing proportion of senior citizens may need additional facilities to meet their recreational, medical, and everyday necessities. In addition, more focus is being placed on allowing individuals to remain in their personal residences. Additional staff may be needed to provide care and assistance to senior citizens who wish to remain in their homes.

## Police Service

### ***Waushara County Sheriff Department***

***The Waushara County Sheriffs Department provides around the clock law enforcement services as needed.*** The sheriff's department has two vehicles patrolling the entire county from 5:00 AM to 5:00 PM, while three patrol vehicles work in the county the remainder of the day. ***Response times within the county vary depending on the location***

<sup>29</sup> Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2004.

*of patrol vehicles. New in 2008, the Sheriff's department provides boat patrol for all lakes within Waushara County.*<sup>30</sup>

*The Waushara County Sheriff's Office is located on Division Street in Wautoma. The Hancock and Poy Sippi fire departments serve as satellite headquarters each Saturday afternoon.* This increases the officers' visibility and availability to county residents who do not live near the sheriff's office.<sup>31</sup> The department employs 25 full-time sworn officers. Other employees include 25 correction officers, eleven E911 dispatchers, one emergency management specialist, and two secretaries. The emergency management specialist coordinates the emergency disaster response programs for both natural and manmade disasters. One police liaison officer is employed by the department; he serves as liaison officer for schools in Wautoma, Redgranite, and Wild Rose.

Several specialized units, including drug enforcement and canine units, are operated by the Waushara County Sheriff's Office. Cooperative agreements exist with other multi-jurisdictional drug units in East Central Wisconsin. Several employees have been trained in latent print examination (fingerprint analysis).<sup>32</sup> In 2000, the County instituted an enhanced county-wide 911 system. The County is now working with Green Lake County, CenturyTel and other county agencies on a wireless 911 project.

A common method used to assess the level of service that is being provided locally is to compare the number of employees per 1,000 residents served with averages for other law enforcement agencies statewide. However, it should be noted that the number of employees per 1,000 residents served is related to a variety of factors including crime level, geographic coverage, size of agency, and budgetary issues.<sup>33</sup> As of October 31, 2006, for a police department serving a community of 25,000 to 49,999 residents, the state average was 1.74 sworn employees per 1,000 residents served. ***For a sheriff's office (includes most jail personnel), the state average was 1.77 sworn employees per 1,000 residents served. The Waushara County Sheriff's Office employs 1.1 officers per 1,000 population. This is below the state average.***

Plans exist to upgrade several facilities. In 2003, a joint effort to develop an interoperability plan was initiated between county and local jurisdictions. The plan includes improving radio coverage; ensuring communication with all other agencies; decreasing reliance on telephone cable; and upgrading to digital equipment by 2008. Additionally, all equipment upgrades identified in the 2007 Radio Improvement Project were purchased and installed.<sup>34</sup> Video cameras will also be added to patrol cars within the next 10 years. New cameras for crime scene investigations and specialized equipment for latent prints examination are also budgeted in future fiscal years.

The Waushara County Sheriff's Department maintains a TRIAD program to educate and raise senior and retired citizens' awareness of safety related issues. The TRIAD meets monthly and includes a different topic or issue at each meeting.

<sup>30</sup> K. Moser, Town of Springwater Clerk, December 5, 2008.

<sup>31</sup> *Waushara County Sheriff Department Annual Report*, 2003. Waushara County Sheriff Department.

<sup>32</sup> Waushara County Sheriff's Department. 2000. Personal Communication

<sup>33</sup> Office of Justice Assistance Statistical Analysis Center. 2003. *Crimes and Arrests in Wisconsin*.

<sup>34</sup> *Waushara County Sheriff's Department Annual Report*, 2007.

## ***Municipal Police Departments***

***Municipal police department exist in the villages of Coloma, Hancock, Plainfield, Redgranite, Wild Rose, the Town of Marion and the cities of Wautoma and Berlin.***

### **Village of Coloma**

The Coloma Police Department provides law enforcement protection to the Village. Hours of service vary but are coordinated with the Waushara County Sheriff Department, who provides backup service to the Village, as needed. The Police Department is staffed by on fulltime police chief and two officers. Police protection is also provided to the Town of Coloma by the Village of Coloma Police Department for about 40 hours per month. The department shares a facility with the Coloma Volunteer Fire-Rescue-EMS Department. The facility was constructed in 2002, and is located in the village industrial park at 383 Industrial Drive. Currently the facility is meeting the needs of the police department, and there are no plans for expansion at this time.<sup>35</sup>

### **Village of Hancock**

Police protection for the village is provided by one full-time officer whose office is located in the Community Center.<sup>36</sup>

### **Village of Plainfield**

Law enforcement in the Village is provided by the Plainfield Police Department and is located at 114 W. Clark Street. Currently the department maintains two full-time and four part-time employees.<sup>37</sup>

### **Village of Redgranite**

The Village of Redgranite's police department provides protection 20 hours per day to its residents. The department employs three full-time and three part-time employees who utilize one squad car. Based on a municipal population of 1,129 people (excludes prison), the Village provides 2.66 officers per 1,000 population, which is above the state average. However, the village's police department does respond to calls at the prison and it may be necessary to take the prison population into account when calculating the level of service. The day shift extends from 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., and the night shift coverage is from 6:00 P.M. to 2:30 A.M. Back up and service when officers are off duty is provided by the Waushara County Sheriff's Department. Equipment for the police department includes a squad car and a fully equipped radio system.<sup>38</sup>

### **Village of Wild Rose**

The Village of Wild Rose employs two law enforcement officers, the Chief of Police and a second police officer, that are further supported by the Waushara County Sheriff's Department.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Village of Coloma Draft Comprehensive Plan

<sup>36</sup> Village of Hancock Existing Conditions Report – Volume 2. Prepared by ECWRPC

<sup>37</sup> Village of Plainfield Draft Comprehensive Plan

<sup>38</sup> Village of Redgranite Comprehensive Plan, adopted June, 20, 2006. Prepared by ECWRPC.

<sup>39</sup> Village of Wild Rose Comprehensive Plan, adopted July 11, 2007. Prepared by ECWRPC.

### **City of Wautoma**

Police protection is provided by five full-time Law Enforcement Officers (LEO)<sup>12</sup>, who supply 24-hour service for the city. The City of Wautoma provides 2.4 sworn officers per 1,000, which is above the state average. A school liaison officer is supplied by the County to the Wautoma Area School District. The police department moved into their current facility at city hall in 1992. Office space for the police chief, officers and clerical are available in the building. While jail space is not provided, it is available at the county jail in Wautoma. The City owns one marked squad car, which is replaced yearly, and two unmarked cars. Recently Wautoma replaced its communication equipment through a grant from the Homeland Security Program. The police department feels that its facility and equipment is adequate to meet its current as well as future needs. The Waushara County Sheriff's Department provides backup support for the city.<sup>40</sup>

### **City of Berlin**

The Berlin Police Department is located on the main floor of the Berlin City Hall building at 108 North Capron Street. The patrol division provides police service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.<sup>41</sup>

### **Town of Marion**

The Town of Marion has one full time officer that patrols 40 hours per week throughout the year. Local lakes are also patrolled approximately 20 hours per week by the town police boat during the summer months and holidays. Currently the residents are happy with the level of police protection and there are no plans to upgrade it at this time. The Waushara County Sheriff's Department provides backup for the Town of Marion at other times.<sup>42</sup>

### ***Correctional Facilities***

According to the Wisconsin Adult Jail Report 2003, total adult admissions to state jails increased by 30 percent from 2001 to 2003, while Waushara County jails have decreased by 20.1 percent in the same time period.<sup>43</sup>

The average daily population (ADP) or average number of inmates held each day during one year is based upon a combination of admissions and the average length of stay. Waushara County reported an ADP of 87 in 2003 which is a 42 percent decrease from 2001. Generally, when the ADP reaches 80 percent of maximum capacity, the facility is considered to be overcrowded. Setting the standard below maximum capacity allows for flexibility in managing seasonal populations, weekend arrests, and other special situations. ***There are three correctional facilities in Waushara County; the Waushara Huber Facility, the Waushara County Jail and the Redgranite Correctional Institution.***

<sup>40</sup> City of Wautoma Comprehensive Plan, adopted June 12, 2006. Prepared by ECWRPC.

<sup>41</sup> City of Berlin website: <http://www.1berlin.com/>

<sup>42</sup> Town of Marion Comprehensive Plan, adopted November 14, 2006. Prepared by ECWRPC.

<sup>38</sup> Office of Justice Assistance Statistical Analysis Center. 2003. *Crimes and Arrests in Wisconsin*.

<sup>43</sup> *Wisconsin Adult Jail Populations*, 2003. Office of Justice Assistance.



The **Waushara Huber Facility** is located in Wautoma. The facility is housed in the former county jail on Park Street and has a maximum capacity of 36 inmates. Inmate populations for the Huber facility fluctuate seasonally.

The **Waushara County Jail** is located in Wautoma. The current facility was opened in January 2000 and has a maximum capacity of 153 inmates. The jail employs 29 security staff and other employees. In 2002, the ADP of the facility was 135 inmates (88.2%).

The **Redgranite Correctional Institution** is located in the Village of Redgranite. This facility is situated north of downtown and west of CTH EE on an 89-acre parcel. This medium security facility was opened in January 2001. With recent expansions, the prison has a maximum capacity of 990 inmates. Currently, the facility is over capacity with 1,013 inmates.<sup>44</sup> The prison employs 182 security staff and 94 other employees.

## Fire Protection

*Waushara County is comprised of eleven Fire Department/Districts. These include Plainfield, Hancock, Coloma, Wild Rose, Wautoma, Neshkoro, Saxeville/Springwater, Redgranite, W. Bloomfield, Poy Sippi, and Berlin (Exhibit 4-2).*

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) of Wisconsin, through the use of the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule, evaluates the adequacy of fire protection within the state for municipal fire protection.<sup>45</sup> The schedule provides criteria to be used by insurance grading engineers in assessing the physical conditions of municipalities relative to fire hazards and rating municipalities' fire defenses. Ratings obtained under the schedule are widely used to establish base rates for fire insurance. While ISO does not presume to dictate the level of fire protection services that a municipality should provide, reports of evaluation results published by its Municipal Survey Office generally outline any serious deficiencies found through the evaluation.

Over the years, these findings have come to be used as a guide to municipal officials planning improvements to local fire protection services.

The grading is obtained by ISO based upon its analysis of several components of fire protection, including fire department equipment, alarm systems, water supply systems, fire prevention programs, building construction, and the distance of potential hazard areas from the fire station. In rating a community, total deficiency points in the areas of evaluation are used to assign a numerical rating of 1 to 10, with a 1 representing the best protection and 10 representing an essentially unprotected community. Many towns and villages in the more rural areas typically have ratings of class 8 through 10 (Table 4-3).

<sup>44</sup> *Offenders Under Control Report*, 2008. Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

<sup>45</sup> ISO. 2006. *Fire Suppression Rating Schedule*. <http://www.iso.com/products/2400/prod2404.html>.

**Table 4-3. ISO Ratings**

<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Coverage Area</b>	<b>Class</b>
Coloma FD	V. & T. Coloma, T. Richford (partial)	6, 6/9
Hancock FD	V. & T. Hancock, T. Deerfield (partial)	7/9
Plainfield FD	V. & T. Plainfield, T. Oasis	6/9
Redgranite FD	V. Redgranite, T. Marion (partial), T. Mt. Morris (partial) T. Leon (partial), T. Warren (partial), V. Lohrville	5, 5/9
Wild Rose FD	V. Wild Rose, T. Rose, T. Springwater (partial) T. Wautoma (partial), T. Mt. Morris (partial)	8, 8/9
Poy Sippi FD	T. Poy Sippi, T. Saxeville (partial), T. Leon (partial), Tustin	8/9
Saxeville/Springwater FD	T. Saxeville (partial), T. Springwater (partial)	8/9
W. Bloomfield	T. Bloomfield	9/9
Wautoma Area FD	T. Dakota, T. Deerfield (partial), T. Marion, T. Mt. Morris, T. Richford (partial), C. Wautoma	5, 5/9
Berlin FD (Green Lake Co.)	C. & T. Berlin, T. Seneca, T. Aurora, T. Rushford, T. Nepeukum (partial), T. Warren (partial)	4,4/9
Neshkoro F.D. (Marquette Co.)	V. Neshkoro, T. Crystal Lake, T. Neshkoro, T. Marion (partial)	9

Source: Milestone Report #1; State of the Region, ECWRPC 2003. Waushara County, 2008. Coloma FD, 2009.

The standards for fire station location utilized by the National Board of Underwriters are given in Table 4-4. These standards are based on the density of development in the station service area.<sup>46</sup> Since the towns constitute a relatively low-density rural area, a four to six mile service radius is the recommended standard.

**Table 4-4. Recommended Density/Distance Standards for Fire Protection**

Land Use	Suggested Service Radius	
	Engine or Pumper Company	Ladder Company
Commercial/Industrial	.75 - 1.0 miles	1.0 miles
Res. Med./High Density (<100' bet. Structures)	2.0 miles	3.0 miles
Res. Scattered (>100' bet. Structures)	3.0 - 4.0 miles	3.0 miles
Res. - Rural Low Density	4.0 - 6.0 miles	-

Source: American Planning Association, 1988

<sup>46</sup> American Planning Association. 1988. 1988 Small Town Planning Handbook.

## Health Care Facilities/Emergency Medical Services

***There is one hospital located within Waushara County; the Wild Rose Community Memorial Hospital in the Village of Wild Rose.*** General information about the Wild Rose Community Memorial Hospital and other hospitals located within a reasonable distance and most likely utilized by Waushara County residents are listed in Table 4-5.

***Emergency medical services for the county are provided by the Waushara County EMS.<sup>47</sup> EMS administrative offices are located at 230 W. Park Street in Wautoma and provide municipal and county ambulance service. The department also operates a permanent service center in Poy Sippi and alternating service centers in Coloma and Plainfield.*** The district service centers are located within the fire departments in each community. Both the Coloma and Poy Sippi service centers have live in crew quarters for staff.

The agency provides 24-hour service for emergency calls. Although the department owns five ambulance rigs, only four are in active service at any given time. Two rigs are located in the City of Wautoma, and one rig is housed in Poy Sippi. One rig alternatives regularly between Plainfield and Coloma. Two emergency response paramedic units SUVs are also operated for rescues within rough terrain. Response time varies and depends on where the ambulance is located and where the service is required.

All 80 full-time and part-time staff members are certified EMTs. The Wautoma Division provides intermediate/basic man defibrillations with advanced airway, while the Poy Sippi Division provides basic AED with all skills.

***Since the EMS headquarters share facilities with the Department of Human Services, preliminary plans have been made to relocate the headquarters to a new location; no specific sites have been determined.<sup>48</sup> Preliminary plans have also been drafted to remodel the Plainfield district center.*** The EMS Department constantly updates medical rescue equipment such as defibrillators, monitoring equipment, and extraction devices. Vehicles are replaced on a regular basis. Two new ambulances were added to the fleet in June 2005.

The various fire districts and local fire departments within the county also have First Responders on staff that can assist with the basic and advanced medical emergencies. Depending on the location, ***First Responders are usually able to arrive at the emergency scene either ahead of the ambulance or at approximately the same time.***

***The towns of Aurora and Warren contract with the City of Berlin for emergency medical services for areas within their individual towns that are near the City of Berlin.*** Service to the remaining area of both towns is provided by the Waushara County EMS.

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<sup>47</sup> Town of Wautoma Comprehensive Plan 2025, 2006. East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

<sup>48</sup> Gramse, R. 2008. Building and Grounds Superintendent. Personal Communication

**Table 4-5. Area Hospitals, Level of Service**

	Adams Co. Memorial, Friendship	Wild Rose Comm. Mem., Wild Rose	Riverview Hosp. Assoc., WI Rapids	Berlin Memorial, Berlin	Divine Savior, Portage	St. Michael's, Stevens Point	Mercy Medical Center, Oshkosh	Aurora Medical Center, Oshkosh
Beds Set Up & Staffed	25	25	69	25	52	122	172	71
Level of Service:								
Adult Med-Ser, Acute	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Orthopedic	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Rehab & Phy. Med.	2	2	2	5	2	5	1	5
Hospice	4	2	4	5	5	3	4	2
Acute Long-Term Care	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5
Other Acute	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Pediatric, Acute	2	2	2	2	2	1	5	1
Obstetrics	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1
Psychiatric	5	5	2	5	5	1	1	5
Alcoholism/Chem. Dep.	5	3	2	5	2	2	2	5
ICU/CCU:								
Med.-Sur.	5	5	2	2	1	2	2	2
Cardiac	5	5	2	2	5	2	2	2
Pediatric	5	5	2	2	5	2	2	5
Burn Care	5	4	5	5	5	5	2	5
Mixed IC	5	5	1	1	5	1	1	1
Step-Down (Sp. Care)	5	5	2	5	1	1	2	2
Neonatal Interm/IC	5	5	5	5	5	1	4	1
Other	5	2	5	5	5	5	5	5
Subacute	5	2	5	5	5	5	1	5
Other Inpatient	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

1 = Provided-Distinct Unit, 2 = Provided-Not Distinct Unit, 3 = Available in Network, 4 = Contracted, 5 = Service Not Provided

Source: 2006 Wisconsin Hospital Guide, Office of Health Care Information, State of Wisconsin

## Libraries

**Residents within the county have access to a good selection of libraries. These libraries are located in Coloma, Hancock, Pine River, Plainfield, Poy Sippi, Redgranite, Wautoma and Wild Rose.** Residents are towns near the county line may also utilize libraries within other counties. For example, residents from the Town of Aurora, utilize the Berlin Public Library. The libraries are part of the Winnefox Federated Library System. The federated library system is designed to provide expanded library service to more people without making additional large expenditures. The libraries receive the majority of their revenue from the local

municipalities and county based on resident usage. Any town, city or village resident has access to the materials in any county-supported library within Waushara County. Besides other services listed below, the libraries offer their patrons Internet service. Table 4-6 provides relevant information for the Hancock, Plainfield and Wautoma Public Libraries.

**Table 4-6. Public Library Statistical Data**

	<b>Library Type</b>	<b>Municipal Population 2007</b>	<b>Additional Service Population</b>	<b>Total Service Population 2007</b>	<b>Annual Hours Open</b>	<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>Library Materials Total</b>
<b>Waushara</b>							
Coloma	Municipal Library	471	1,276	1,747	1,716	1.60	\$9,013
Hancock	Municipal Library	441	898	1,339	1,508	1.13	\$7,050
Pine River	Joint Library	2,486	247	2,733	1,560	1.15	\$6,091
Plainfield	Municipal Library	884	1,105	1,989	1,540	1.33	\$9,560
Poy Sippi	Municipal Library	967	862	1,829	1,404	0.73	\$5,123
Redgranite	Municipal Library	2,076	1,150	3,226	1,248	0.90	\$4,231
Wautoma	Municipal Library	2,109	6,608	8,717	2,600	3.20	\$22,285
Wild Rose	Municipal Library	730	2,826	3,556	2,264	2.20	\$11,013
<b>Waushara Total</b>		<b>10,164</b>	<b>14,972</b>	<b>25,136</b>	<b>13,840</b>	<b>12.24</b>	<b>\$74,366</b>

	<b>Book and Serial Volumes Owned</b>	<b>Audio Materials</b>	<b>Video Materials</b>	<b>Other Material</b>	<b>Periodical Subscriptions</b>	<b>E-Books</b>	<b>Electronic Audio Materials (downloadable)</b>
<b>Waushara</b>							
Coloma	10,136	998	1,897	31	51	8,825	2,745
Hancock	7,795	563	2,270	37	45	8,825	2,745
Pine River	12,214	1,099	2,551	21	50	8,825	2,745
Plainfield	15,946	962	1,923	0	45	8,825	2,745
Poy Sippi	11,551	604	2,568	86	15	8,825	2,745
Redgranite	13,360	509	1,873	0	20	8,825	2,745
Wautoma	20,318	2,389	4,598	400	107	8,825	2,475
Wild Rose	11,949	1,155	3,439	1,042	40	13,391	0
<b>Waushara Total</b>	<b>103,269</b>	<b>8,279</b>	<b>21,119</b>	<b>1,617</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>75,166</b>	<b>18,945</b>

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2007

Service targets for libraries are based on quantitative standards contained in the Wisconsin Library Standards. Reported for each standard is the effort required to achieve basic, moderate, enhanced or excellent levels of service. These standards are based on the population served and vary for a community in regard to municipal population versus service population.

**Table 4-7. Library Service Levels**

Libraries	Population	Staff FTE	Volumes (Print)	Periodical Received	Audio Record.	Video Record.	Hours Open/Wk	Material Expend.	Collection Size
Coloma	Municipal Service	Excellent Enhanced	Enhanced <Basic	Excellent Moderate	Excellent Enhanced	Excellent Enhanced	Moderate Enhanced	<Basic <Basic	Excellent Basic
Hancock	Municipal Service	Excellent Enhanced	<Basic <Basic	Excellent Enhanced	Excellent Enhanced	Excellent Excellent	Basic Moderate	<Basic <Basic	Enhanced Basic
Pine River	Municipal Service	<Basic Basic	<Basic Basic	<Basic Moderate	Moderate Excellent	Moderate Excellent	Basic <Basic	<Basic <Basic	<Basic Moderate
Plainfield	Municipal Service	Enhanced Basic	Enhanced Moderate	Moderate Moderate	Excellent Enhanced	Excellent Enhanced	Basic Enhanced	<Basic <Basic	Enhanced Moderate
Poy Sippi	Municipal Service	<Basic <Basic	Moderate Basic	<Basic <Basic	Enhanced Enhanced	Excellent Excellent	Basic Moderate	<Basic <Basic	Moderate Basic
Redgranite	Municipal Service	<Basic <Basic	<Basic Basic	<Basic <Basic	<Basic Basic	Moderate Enhanced	<Basic <Basic	<Basic <Basic	<Basic Basic
Wautoma	Municipal Service	Enhanced <Basic	Basic <Basic	Moderate Basic	Excellent Enhanced	Excellent Excellent	Excellent Moderate	Enhanced <Basic	Moderate <Basic
Wild Rose	Municipal Service	Excellent Moderate	Enhanced <Basic	Moderate <Basic	Excellent Enhanced	Enhanced Excellent	Enhanced Enhanced	Enhanced <Basic	Enhanced Basic

Source: Public Library Service Data, 2007; Wisconsin Public Library Standards, 4th edition, 2005.

***Service targets for libraries within Waushara County vary from less than basic to excellent*** based on the criteria that are being looked at (Table 4-7). In addition to the criteria listed in Table 4-7, a library should employ a certified library director to perform board-designated duties for no fewer than 25 hours per week and support the director's continuing education for at least 20 contact hours per year. No library within Waushara County employs a certified library director. Countywide, a higher level of service is provided for audio and video recordings held. On an average, libraries within the county provide an enhanced to excellent level of service for both audio and video recordings held. While lower service levels are achieved for volumes held in print (basic to enhanced for the municipal population and less than basic for the service population) and material expenditures (less than basic for both municipal and service population).

## Education

### ***Primary and Secondary Education***

***Nine school districts are found within Waushara County. These include the Almond-Bancroft, Omro, Tri-County Area, Westfield, Wautoma Area, Wild Rose, Waupaca, Weyauwega-Fremont, and the Berlin Area school districts*** (Exhibit 4-2).

### ***Almond-Bancroft School District***

The Almond-Bancroft School District operates a total of three schools: the Almond High School (grades 6-12, Almond), Almond Elementary (grades 1-5, Almond), and the Bancroft Elementary School (pk-k, Almond). ***The Almond-Bancroft School District includes a small portion of the towns of Oasis and Rose.*** The district is comprised of 67.4 staff members, 481 students, and a pupil to teacher ratio of 11.5.<sup>49</sup> ***It has seen a declining enrollment at all levels since the 2003-2004 school year. Therefore, it is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the enrollment of the district's population for the near future.*** However, it may be necessary to provide updates at the schools in the future based on technological advances.

### ***Tri-County Area School District***

The Tri-County Area School District operates a total of three schools: the Tri-County High School (grades 9-12, Plainfield), Tri-County Middle School (grades 5-8, Plainfield), and the Tri-County Area Elementary School (pk-4, Plainfield). ***The Tri-County Area School District includes the towns of Plainfield, Oasis (partial), Rose (partial), Hancock, Deerfield (partial) and the villages of Plainfield and Hancock.*** The Tri-County School District is comprised of 92.0 staff members, 717 students, and a pupil to teacher ratio of 13.2.<sup>50</sup> ***The district is experiencing a declining enrollment at all levels. Therefore, it is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the enrollment of the area's population for the near future.***<sup>51</sup> However, it may be necessary to provide updates at the schools in the future based on technological advances.

### ***Westfield School District***

The Westfield School District operates six schools: the Westfield Area High School (grades 9 – 12, Westfield), Westfield Area Middle School (grades 7 – 8, Westfield), Coloma Elementary School (4 year old K – 6, Coloma), Neshkoro Elementary (K – 6, Neshkoro), Oxford Elementary School (K – 6, Oxford) and the Westfield Elementary (Early Childhood, K – 6, Westfield). Students within the Town of Richford attend the Coloma Elementary School and the Westfield Area Middle and High Schools<sup>52</sup>. ***The Westfield School District includes the towns of Coloma, Richford (partial), Dakota (partial) and Marion (partial).*** It has a total of 175.8 staff members, 1,325 students, and a pupil to teacher ratio of 13.5.<sup>53</sup> All schools are being maintained by the district and no improvements are planned at this time other than general maintenance. According to the district, ***enrollment has remained stable at the elementary schools. Therefore, it is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the district's enrollment for the near future.***<sup>54</sup> However, it may be necessary to provide updates at the schools in the future based on technological advances.

<sup>49</sup> Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. 2008. *School Facts 08*.

<sup>50</sup> Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. 2008. *School Facts 08*.

<sup>51</sup> Connie Hamilton, District Secretary, person communication 11/24/08.

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.westfield.k12.wi.us>. Accessed December 2, 2008.

<sup>53</sup> Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. 2008. *School Facts 08*.

<sup>54</sup> Personal conversation with the Westfield Area School District, December 2, 2008.

### ***Wautoma Area School District***

The Wautoma Area School District operates three schools within the City of Wautoma and one elementary school in the Village of Redgranite. ***The Wautoma Area School District serves the towns of Richford (partial), Deerfield (partial), Dakota (partial), Wautoma (partial), Marion (partial), Warren (partial), Leon (partial), Mount Morris (partial); the City of Wautoma; and the villages of Redgranite and Lohrville.*** The district has a total of 197.4 staff members, 1,486 students, and a pupil to teacher ratio of 13.0.<sup>55</sup> According to the district, ***enrollment is declining at all schools;*** there are no additions or renovations to any of the schools planned at this time<sup>56</sup>. ***Therefore, due to declining enrollment and school capacities, it is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the district's anticipated enrollment for the foreseeable future.*** However, it may be necessary to provide updates at the schools in the future based on technological advances.

### ***Wild Rose School District***

The Wild Rose School District operates a total of four schools: Wild Rose High School/Middle School (grades 9-12/6-8, Wild Rose); Wild Rose Elementary (pre-k thru 5, Wild Rose); and Pleasant View Elementary School (k-5, Pine River, Exhibit 4-2).<sup>57</sup> ***The Wild Rose School District includes the towns of Rose (partial), Springwater, Saxeville (partial), Leon (partial), Mount Morris (partial), and Wautoma (partial); and the Village of Wild Rose.*** The district is comprised of 88.9 staff members, 734 students, and a pupil to teacher ratio of 13.1.<sup>58</sup> According to the district, ***a declining enrollment is being experienced at all levels. Therefore, it is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the enrollment of the district for the near future.*** However, it may be necessary to provided updates to the schools in the future based on technological advances.<sup>59</sup>

### ***Waupaca School District***

The Waupaca School District operates a total of five schools: Waupaca High School (grades 9-12, Town of Farmington); Waupaca Middle School (grades 6-8, Waupaca); Waupaca Learning Center (grades prek-5, Waupaca), Chain O' Lakes Elementary School (grades K-2, Town of Farmington), and the Waupaca Accelerated Learning Center (WALC, grades 9-12, Waupaca).<sup>60</sup> ***The district encompasses a small portion of the Town of Saxeville.*** It has a total of 320.8 staff members, 2,420 students, and a pupil to teacher ratio of 13.2.<sup>58</sup> According to the district, ***a declining enrollment is being experienced at all levels. Therefore, it is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the enrollment of the district for the near future.*** However, it may be necessary to provided updates to the schools in the future based on technological advances. ***The district does not have any plans for any major improvements to their schools at this time.***

<sup>55</sup> Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. 2008. *School Facts 08*.

<sup>56</sup> Personal conversation with the Wautoma Area School District, December 2, 2008.

<sup>57</sup> Wild Rose School District, 2006. Philosophy of Education. <http://www.wildrose.k12.wi.us>.

<sup>58</sup> Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. 2008. *School Facts 08*.

<sup>59</sup> Olson, C. 2005. Personal Communication. District Administrator. Wild Rose School District.

<sup>60</sup> Poeschl, D. 2008. Personal Communication. District Administrator. Waupaca School District.



### ***Weyauwega-Fremont School District***

***The Weyauwega-Fremont School District includes part of the northeast quarter of the Town of Saxeville.*** The administrative offices are located at 410 E. Ann Street in Weyauwega. The district operates a total of five schools on three campuses. Weyauwega-Fremont High School (grades 9-12, Weyauwega), Weyauwega-Fremont Middle School (grades 6-8, Weyauwega), Weyauwega Elementary (k-5, Weyauwega) and Fremont Elementary (k-4, Fremont). The Weyauwega-Fremont School District includes the towns of Saxeville (partial) and Bloomfield (partial). It is comprised of 128.7 staff members, 1,010 students, and a pupil to teacher ratio of 14.6.<sup>58</sup> ***Enrollment has declined by approximately 25 students annually in recent years. Due to declining enrollments, there are no planned upgrades to any district facility at this time.***<sup>61</sup>

### ***Berlin Area School District***<sup>62</sup>

The Berlin Area School District's administrative offices are located at 295 E. Marquette Street in Berlin. The district operates a total of four schools: Berlin High School (grades 9-12, Berlin), Berlin Middle School (grades 6-8, Berlin), Clay Lamberton Elementary (k-5, Berlin) and Poy Sippi Elementary (k-4, Poy Sippi). ***The district includes the towns of Saxeville (partial), Bloomfield (partial), Poy Sippi (partial), Aurora (partial), Leon (partial) and Warren (partial); and the City of Berlin (Waushara County).*** The district is comprised of 212.3 staff members, 1,667 students, and a pupil to teacher ratio of 14.0.<sup>63</sup> ***According to the district, enrollment at the high school has remained steady in recent years and the building has excess capacity. There are no planned upgrades at this time. The Berlin Middle School is nearing capacity; at this time, however, the district has no plans to expand the facility. The Clay Lamberton and Poy Sippi elementary schools have been seeing declining enrollment in recent years. Due to declining enrollment and the capacity of the buildings, these schools should adequately meet enrollment needs of the district for a number of years.*** However, it may be necessary to provide updates at the district schools in the future based on technological advances.<sup>64</sup>

### ***Omro School District***

The Omro School District operates a total of four schools; Omro High/Middle School (grades 9-12/6-8, Omro), H.B. Patch Elementary (k-1, Omro), and Omro Elementary (2-5, Omro). ***The district includes a few properties in the towns of Aurora and Poy Sippi. Enrollment at H. B. Patch Elementary has been declining in recent years.*** However, ***within the district as a whole, enrollment has been gradually increasing in recent years, but existing facilities should be adequate capacity for future growth within the next ten years.*** School administrators will reassess facility needs if housing construction increases within the Omro area.<sup>65</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Harlan, F.J. 2006. Personal Communication. District Administrator. Weyauwega-Fremont School District.

<sup>62</sup> Town of Aurora Comprehensive Plan, June 2007. East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

<sup>63</sup> Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. 2008. *School Facts 08*.

<sup>64</sup> Runice, J. 2005. Personal Communication. District Administrator. Berlin Area School District.

<sup>65</sup> Amundson, P. 2006. Personal Communication. District Administrator. Omro School District.

### ***Institutions of Higher Education***

***There are no institutions of higher education in Waushara County.*** However, UW-Oshkosh (Oshkosh), UW-Stevens Point (Stevens Point), Lawrence University (Appleton), and Ripon College (Ripon) are within an hour's drive of the area. UW – Fox Valley (Menasha) is a two-year university offering freshman and sophomore level classes. Students can earn an associate's degree, or credits are transferable to all four-year UW system schools.

### ***Vocational Technical Colleges***

The state is covered by 16 multi-county vocational technical and adult education districts which are organized on a regional basis and financed primarily by local property taxes.<sup>66</sup> These districts tend to follow school district boundaries rather than county lines. ***Waushara County is part of the Mid State District in the northwestern portion of the county, the Madison Area District in the southern portion, the Moraine Park District in the southeastern portion, and Fox Valley District in the central and northeastern portion of the county.*** Fox Valley Technical College has a local facility in Wautoma. Curricula in the technical schools are usually geared toward an area's particular needs. Typically a student may choose from among a two-year highly technical associate degree program, a two-year vocational program, a one-year vocational program, and a short-term program.

### **Community Theaters**

***Several small theaters are located in City of Wautoma and the towns of Saxeville, Mount Morris and Coloma.*** These theaters schedule a diverse calendar of events throughout the year including musical concerts, talent shows, the Wautoma Queen Pageant, and theatrical performances. Audiences are attracted from throughout Waushara County and central Wisconsin. The general public can rent the facilities for private events.<sup>67</sup>

### **Other Municipal Buildings**

#### ***Buildings and Maintenance Garages***

The Waushara County Buildings and Grounds Department is responsible for the Courthouse, Jail, and North and South Annexes and associated property. The Buildings and Grounds Department is comprised of six employees; two housekeepers, one technician, two part-time custodians and a Superintendent. Contracted services are responsible for cleaning two buildings. Prisoners from Huber Jail provide snow removal assistance in winter.<sup>68</sup>

***While the courthouse building is in good shape structurally, some departments are seeing a need for additional storage.***<sup>69</sup> The **North Annex** on Park Street, across the street from the courthouse, accommodates the Emergency Management (EMS) and Human Services departments. This building was formerly utilized as the County Highway Garage until it was remodeled in 1994. ***Generally, concerns with the North Annex Building have been noted***

<sup>66</sup> Wisconsin Department of Instruction. 2006. *Wisconsin Technical College Districts*. <http://dpi.wi.gov/lbstat/techcmap.html>.

<sup>67</sup> McComb-Brush Performing Arts Center. 2006. <http://www.mccombbruchspac.com>.

<sup>68</sup> *Annual Report, Buildings and Grounds Department, 2007*. Waushara County Buildings and Grounds Department

<sup>69</sup> Gramse, R. 2008. Building and Grounds Superintendent. Personal Communication

***in regard to heating and ventilation.*** Additionally, the EMS department has outgrowth its space and a new location is being explored (Health Care Facilities/Emergency Medical Services). The South Annex, or old Normal Building, houses a portion of the Human Services Department. ***This building is outdated, and in need of a number of major improvements.*** Prior to the change in the economy, plans were being made to demolish this building and improve parking needs around the courthouse. The **jail** space includes the jail and administrative offices. The building is about 8 years old and was built to be easily expanded in the future. ***At this time, no improvements or expansions are needed at the jail.***

## **Parks and Recreation**

The Waushara County area is a popular recreational retreat. Waushara County's natural resources and outdoor recreational facilities provide a wide range of active and passive recreational activities. The abundance of natural lakes, forests, parks, recreational trails, and other amenities provide year-round recreational opportunities.

### ***Parks***

#### **Waushara County**

***Waushara County's park system is comprised of 15 sites containing a total of 761 acres*** (Table 4-8, Exhibit 4-2). Mt. Morris County Park, which contains 383 acres, is one of the largest county-operated parks in the state. Kusel Lake Park, 92 acres, and Sorenson Natural Area, 71 acres, are other sizable parcels. The county park system is considered to primarily provide active recreational opportunities. Mt. Morris County Park, which remains largely in its natural state, and Sorenson Natural Area, presently undeveloped, are exceptions. The county park system is considered to primarily provide active recreational opportunities. County recreational facilities are described below.<sup>70</sup>

Several years ago, the County looked at ways to integrate its adjacent 48-acre West Point quarry tract into the property and also assessed other options for the two parcels. The West Point site is also currently being leased out to a diving club. The location of the two sites on the Bannerman Trail and possible tie-ins with similar quarries in Redgranite, Berlin, and Montello may offer potential for historical interpretation. With this in mind, it was felt there might be interest by DNR and/or State Historical Society (SHS) in managing the two sites. Since neither has expressed serious interest in pursuing this option, thoughts have been given to selling these properties.

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<sup>70</sup> Waushara County Outdoor Recreational Plan. April 2006. East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

**Table 4-8. County Owned Park and Recreational Land, 2006**

Park/Recreational Site	Location	Acres
Lake Huron County Park (b)	T. Oasis	2
Marl Lake County Park (b)	T. Deerfield	24
County Shooting Range (d)	T. Wautoma	5
Curtis Lake County Park (b)	T. Richford	1
Waushara County Fairgrounds	Wautoma	35
Sorenson Natural Area	T. Deerfield	71
Bannerman Trail (7 miles)	Redgranite/Lohrville/ Marion	63
Flynn's Quarry Property	T. Marion	40
Lake Alpine County Park	T. Marion	17
Otto Brey County Park	T. Aurora	6
Mt. Morris County Park	T. Mt. Morris	383
Willow Creek County Park	T. Mt. Morris	1
Big Hills Lake County Park	T. Mt. Morris	5
Kusel Lake County Park (a)	T. Springwater	92
Pony Creek County Park ©	T. Bloomfield	16

(a) 33 ac. owned by the county; 59 ac. leased from the town.

(b) town owned; leased by county for development & maintenance

(c) owned by state; county has permanent easement

(d) owned by state; county has land use agreement

### **Mt. Morris County Park**

Located on CTH W in the Town of Mount Morris, Mt. Morris County Park's 383 acres comprise over half the parkland in the county park system. Mt. Morris itself, the granite monadnock on which the park is located, is one of the most prominent features in Waushara County. Facilities include a shelter house, tables and grills, three restroom buildings, play equipment, drinking water, two tennis courts, basketball goals, volleyball courts, a fenced ball diamond and concession stand. The northern slope of Mt. Morris is leased out as a ski hill complex. The parking area at Nordic Mountain serves as a trailhead for 9.6 km. of county-maintained cross-country ski trails. About three-fourths of the trail is in Mt. Morris County Park while the remainder is in adjacent Willow Creek County Park and adjacent private lands. ***Existing ski/hiking trails need continual improvement and maintenance. A second shelter is needed to accommodate picnickers and group activities.***

### **Willow Creek County Park**

This one-acre site provides walk-in access to Willow Creek, a class I trout stream. A small parking area off the entrance road into Nordic Mountain Ski Hill serves the park. A restroom building and picnic facilities are available. The park is on a loop of cross-country ski trail that originates at the Nordic Mountain parking lot. ***Existing ski/hiking trails need continual improvement and maintenance. Interest in lighting the cross-country ski trails should be explored.***

### **Lake Alpine County Park**

This 17-acre county park lies about a quarter mile north of STH 21 midway between Wautoma and Redgranite in the central portion of the county. Recreational facilities include a shelter,

restrooms, boat ramp, picnic facilities, a variety of play apparatus, drinking water and volleyball courts. A portion of the shoreline is used for swimming. ***Parking is considered generally adequate while the restrooms are considered inadequate. A larger flush type restroom building is needed. Horseshoe pits need to be installed.***

### **Kusel Lake County Park**

Kusel Lake is one of the county's most fully developed and heavily used parks. Facilities near the water's edge include a boat launch, play equipment, picnic facilities, shelter building with restrooms, and parking. A portion of the shoreline is used for swimming. ***Parking capacity in this area is considered inadequate while erosion control along the shoreline remains an ongoing problem.*** Upland development includes an additional shelter/restroom, other picnic facilities, two tennis courts, basketball goals, play equipment, security lights, and a large parking area. Drinking water is available in both areas. The lower parking area serves as the trailhead for 8.8 km. of County-maintained ski trail, consisting of three loops through the park and adjacent Camp Luwisomo land. The County continues to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on an ongoing prairie restoration project.

### **Bannerman Trail**

Bannerman Trail supplies about seven miles of linear recreational opportunities for hikers, bicyclists, and snowmobilers. The trail utilizes the abandoned railroad right-of-way that once linked the quarries of Redgranite and Lohrville with the nation's rail system. The trail extends from the south side of Bannerman Avenue in downtown Redgranite to STH 73 north of Neshkoro. ***Waushara County has expressed an interest in working with the Village to pursue opportunities to provide off-street parking near the Redgranite trailhead. Necessary repairs to trail surfaces need to be made.***

### **Otto Brey County Park**

Otto Brey County Park occupies a six acre site on the southern shore of the Auroraville Millpond in the Town of Aurora. The park features a softball field and a large shelter suitable for local functions. Other facilities include restrooms, playground equipment, picnic facilities, a boat ramp with a fishing/boarding pier, and a paved parking area along Cottonville Court. ***Because of the millpond's shallow gradient, additional boat ramp improvements are still needed.***

### **Pony Creek County Park**

Development of Pony Creek County Park was encouraged by the WDNR, which granted a permanent easement to the land in 1991. Since its development, this 16-acre site has become one of the most heavily used parks in the county. Located west of Tustin where Pony Creek drains into Lake Poygan, the park has been designed to provide an extensive shoreline fishing area. Development consists of a paved parking area; parking area fencing; a park sign; benches, picnic tables, and grills; restrooms; a shelter; electrical service; a shoreline path; and a handicapped drinking fountain. ***Future plans call for the installation of playground equipment and development of a nature trail and boardwalk. Existing parking has been found to be inadequate during peak bank fishing.***

### **Marl Lake County Park**

Located in the west central portion of Waushara County between Wautoma and Hancock on CTH C, Marl Lake County Park occupies a 24-acre wooded site leased from the Town of Deerfield on the west side of 12th Avenue. Facilities include a paved boat ramp, a shelter, restroom facilities, picnic facilities, play equipment, and drinking water. Park visitors use a portion of the shoreline for swimming. ***Erosion control remains a problem in this area. Because parking capacity is limited, parked vehicles often infringe on adjacent lawn areas. Electrical service needs to be installed. Lights with light pollution shades and outlet(s) are needed in the shelter. The restrooms building needs renovation; a power vent needs to be installed.***

### **Curtis Lake County Park**

Curtis Lake County Park in the Town of Richford serves the southwestern portion of Waushara County. The one-acre site fronts the east shore of Curtis Lake, a relatively pristine 33-acre body of water located about a mile south of CTH JJ on 10th Court. Development consists of a boat ramp, restrooms, a swing set, and picnic facilities. The natural beach, although not officially designated for swimming, is popular with park visitors. ***Additional land is needed to more effectively develop and utilize this site. The parking, picnic area needs to be expanded. A small shelter is needed in the picnic area and a boarding pier should be installed.***

### **Lake Huron County Park**

Located four miles east of Plainfield in the Town of Oasis, Lake Huron County Park serves residents in the northwestern portion of the county. The 1.5-acre park functions primarily as a boat access site to Lake Huron, widely regarded as one of the county's finest lakes. Facilities include a boat ramp, restroom building, and picnic equipment.

### **Big Hills Lake County Park**

Located in the Town of Mt. Morris in the north central portion of Waushara County, Big Hills Lake County Park occupies a 5-acre parcel at the southwest end of Big Hills Lake. An undeveloped portion of the site is located away from the lake west of CTH WW. Facilities adjacent to the lake include a boat ramp, a paved parking area, a restroom building, a merry-go-round, and picnic equipment. Dusk-to-dawn lighting is available.

### **Sorenson Natural Area**

Purchased about five years ago, this 71-acre site in the Town of Deerfield is located on the north shore of Hartford (Lyman's) Lake, a 9-acre kettle pond some 27 feet deep. The County intends to limit development of this site so that its natural character is preserved. Walk-in access to the lake and a boarding pier is provided but use of the lake will be limited to canoes, kayaks, and other non-motorized craft. Sorenson Natural Area lies within the identified corridor of the Ice Age Trail and could provide modest overnight camping facilities for trail users without compromising the beauty and natural setting the site provides. An extensive trail system for hiking and snowshoeing is presently available. Other site improvements include a well and septic system.

***Restrooms should be constructed; existing hiking/snowshoe trails should be improved and basic campsites should be considered.***

### **Flynn's Quarry County Recreational Property**

Flynn's Quarry is a 40-acre County-owned recreational property that surrounds a former granite quarry on CTH N near the Village of Lohrville. Near vertical rock walls surrounding a deep 3-acre quarry pond make the parcel one of the county's most unique recreational properties. Remnants of two former mine buildings are found on the site along with a number of abandoned artifacts, which are submerged on the floor of the quarry. While the steep rock walls and deep pond create some safety problems, cliff diving and scuba diving are unique recreational experiences traditionally enjoyed by visitors to the site. However, ***vandalism and after-hours use have created long-term problems for the County in managing this parcel.*** At the present time, Flynn's Quarry is leased to a dive shop for site management. Public use for scuba activities is arranged through Precision Sports Shop in Oshkosh.

### **Waushara County Shooting Range**

The County has a land use agreement with DNR to maintain a five-acre site on CTH C west of Wautoma as a public shooting range. Facilities include five shooting stations (three different distances) with rear bunkers. Lateral bunkers would be needed to bring the range up to safety standards. The entrance road from CTH C into the range requires routine grading. Although more restrictive hours have been set, the need for short-term staffing should be assessed on an annual basis. ***Lateral bunkers are needed.***

### **Waushara County Fairgrounds**

There are about 35 acres of recreational land available at the Waushara County Fairgrounds in Wautoma. The fairgrounds include the typical complement of livestock, exhibition, and concession buildings. The grandstand, with its upgraded seating, fronts a ½-mile dirt track, which is used for harness racing. Other facilities available at the fairgrounds include picnic equipment, restrooms, shelter house, and drinking water. Among the more recent improvements are perimeter fencing, a new show ring, and a livestock building. Other improvements include an upgrade of the fairground's electrical system and lighting, extension of city water, and the extension of the midway. ***Restroom facilities, although updated, continue to remain inadequate for major events such as the county fair. A covered grandstand, lighting of horse area, and tree planting should be considered/provided.***

### **Recreational Needs<sup>70</sup>**

***Three factors are assessed to determine how well the recreational needs of Waushara County residents are being met: the amount of recreational land available, its location, and the supply of existing recreation facilities.*** As a first step, surpluses and deficiencies in open space acreage for both active and passive recreational activities are identified and a determination is made of how well various public and private agencies are fulfilling their responsibilities in providing recreation land. The location of parks is then assessed to determine how well each area of the county is served. Finally, an analysis of specific recreation facilities existing in the county is made to determine which facilities are not available or in short supply.

Based on this analysis, needs for new county parks or additional recreation facilities can be identified.

Various recreation standards are used as a basis for determining recreation needs. Those adopted by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in its March 1977 *Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan* are used as indicators of recreational need in Waushara County.

### **Recreational Land Needs**

To determine the overall need for park and recreational land in Waushara County, the standard utilized is that ***a minimum of 100 acres of open space or outdoor recreational land should be available for every 1,000 persons.*** This area should be comprised of:

- ***70 acres of passive recreational open space.*** This acreage includes national, state, and county forests, wildlife areas, hunting preserves, and other lands which have development limited to that needed to accommodate extensive recreational activities such as hiking, nature study, cross-country skiing, hunting and fishing.
- ***30 acres of active recreational open space.*** This acreage includes portions of state and other regional parks and county parks designed to accommodate intensive recreational activities such as picnic areas, campgrounds, swimming beaches, ball fields, and play areas. Also included are privately operated facilities such as campgrounds and golf courses that are open to the general public.

As a second standard, ***a minimum of 10 additional acres of land should be available for every 1,000 residents to meet local day-to-day needs.*** This land, which includes local parks and school sites, is not counted when assessing the adequacy of the county's supply of outdoor recreational land. ***Applying these standards to Waushara County's current resident and seasonal population estimates indicated a peak demand in 2000 of 11,533 acres of recreation land – 8,073 for passive use and 3,460 for active use. When applied to the county's population projections, land needs increase to over 14,000 acres by the year 2030*** (Table 4-9).

**Table 4-9. Waushara County Open Space Demand**

Year	Resident Population	Seasonal Population	Total Population	Demand (acres)		Total
				Passive	Active	
2000	23,066	92,264	115,330	8,073	3,460	11,533
2010	26,349	105,396	131,745	9,223	3,952	13,175
2020	27,518	110,072	137,590	9,631	4,128	13,759
2030	28,051	112,204	140,255	9,818	4,208	14,026

Source: ECWRPC Population Projections, 2004.

Comparing existing and projected demand with the existing supply of outdoor recreational land suggests that Waushara County presently has and will continue to have an overall surplus of land available (Table 4-10). DNR holdings account for nearly three-quarters of the total acreage. Nearly all of this land is considered to provide passive recreational opportunities, however, and although the result is a substantial surplus in the amount of passive open space acreage in the county, a deficiency of over 2,100 acres of active recreational land presently exists. This



deficiency is projected to increase to about 2,900 acres by the year 2030 if additional land is not developed for active recreational activities.

**Table 4-10. Waushara County Open Space Needs**

Year	Demand			Supply			Surplus or Deficiency		
	Passive	Active	Total	Passive	Active	Total	Passive	Active	Total
2000	8,073	3,460	11,533	23,134	1,341	24,475	15,061	-2,119	12,942
2010	9,223	3,952	13,175	23,134	1,341	24,475	13,911	-2,611	11,300
2020	9,631	4,128	13,759	23,134	1,341	24,475	13,503	-2,787	10,716
2030	9,818	4,208	14,026	23,134	1,341	24,475	13,316	-2,867	10,449

Source: ECWRPC, 2006.

### ***Jurisdictional Responsibility for Meeting Land Needs***

Standards have also been developed to help gauge how well various levels of government as well as the private sector are doing in meeting their responsibility of providing outdoor recreational facilities. These guidelines suggest that, ***of the total 100 acres of open space that should be available for each 1,000 residents, federal and state governments are responsible for providing 80 acres; the County and local jurisdictions, 15 acres; and the private sector, five acres. Based on these guidelines, the State and private sectors are fulfilling their obligation in providing recreational land, while the County lags slightly behind*** (Table 4-11).

**Table 4-11. Waushara County Land Use Needs by Jurisdiction (2000-2030)**

Jurisdiction	Ex. Acres Provided	Recommended Acres Provided				Surplus or Deficiency			
		2000	2010	2020	2030	2000	2010	2020	2030
State/Federal	18,800	9,226	10,540	11,007	11,221	9,574	8,260	7,793	7,579
County/Local	1,580	1,730	1,976	2,064	2,104	-150	-396	-484	-524
Private Sector	4,095	577	659	688	701	3,518	3,436	3,407	3,394
Total	24,475	11,533	13,175	13,759	14,026	12,942	11,300	10,716	10,449

Source: ECWRPC, 2006.

### ***Lakes***

***Waushara County's 136 lakes, 96 of which are named, comprise about 7,000 acres of surface water.***<sup>70,71</sup> Thirty-six Waushara County lakes have ramp access, nine have road access, three have walk-in access, and two are accessible from their outlet streams. The lakes provide a diversity of recreational opportunities including boating, swimming, and fishing. Many of the lakes within the area have public access. More information is presented in the Natural Resources element of this plan and within the individual community plans. County Facilities are listed below.

- Otto Brey County Park, Town of Aurora – Boat launch and parking
- STH 49, Town of Aurora – Parking and walk-in access
- Pony Creek Park, CTH H, Town of Bloomfield – Parking and walk-in access
- 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Town of Deerfield – Parking and walk-in access
- 12 Avenue/Marl Lake County Park, Town of Deerfield – Boat launch and parking

<sup>71</sup> Wisconsin DNR. 1970. *Surface Water Resources of Waushara County*.

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Town of Marion – Boat launch and parking
- CTH WW, Town of Mount Morris - Boat launch and parking
- North Huron Road, Town of Oasis - Boat launch and parking
- Curtis Lake County Park/10<sup>th</sup> Court to Curtis Lake Road, Town of Richford - Boat launch and parking
- Kusel Lake County Park, 24<sup>th</sup> Lane, Town of Springwater - Boat launch, parking and walk-in access

### Church and Youth Camps

Waushara County has long been a popular area for churches and other organizations to develop camps and retreats for members and their children. ***There are several of these facilities located throughout the county, collectively occupying nearly 2,000 acres of land.*** While the facilities they provide are generally not available to the public, the county benefits from goods and services they obtain from local vendors. In recent years, some of these camps have been sold off.<sup>72</sup>

### School and Town Forests

***Three school forests and a town forest provide 819 acres of passive open space in Waushara County.*** These facilities include the Tri-County School Forest (230 acres), the Wild Rose School Forest (128 acres), the Coloma School Forest (40 acres) and the Town of Rose Forest (421 acres).

### Campgrounds

***Fifteen private and one public (Village of Hancock) campgrounds are located throughout Waushara County.*** These facilities occupy an estimated 250 acres and provide an estimated 1,700 camping sites. Most of the campgrounds offer a diversity of recreational activities including swimming, boating, and fishing.

### Snowmobile Trails

***About 285 miles of state-funded snowmobile trails are available in Waushara County.*** The public trail network and 50 miles of interconnected privately maintained club trails are readily accessible to all portions of the county and link up with trails of surrounding counties as part of a statewide system. Most of the public trails operate on wintertime easements which cross private property.<sup>70</sup> A notable exception is the previously discussed Bannerman Trail between Redgranite and Neshkoro. Snow permitting, the public snowmobile trail system has a major impact on county's economy during the winter months. ***The private trails within the county are maintained by the Aurora SnoBlazers, Berlin River Riders, Coloma Pathfinders, Eureka Belt Busters, Metz Ridgerunners, Mid State Snow Drifters, Neshkoro River EZ Riders, Tri-County Sno Drifters, Poy Sippi Hillclimbers, and Richford Ridge Riders.***

### Sportsman's Clubs and Conservation Organizations

***Over a dozen parcels in the county are owned by a variety of sportsmen's and conservation groups.*** These sites total an estimated 800 acres and accommodate a variety of

<sup>72</sup> ECWRPC. 2006. *Waushara County Outdoor Recreation Plan.*

uses including trap and other shooting ranges; a snowmobile club; hunting and fishing grounds, areas set aside for preservation; and, in the case of private hunting clubs, hunting opportunities on a fee basis. Some of the hunting clubs also provide overnight accommodations. Depending on the activities each site provides and the user groups it serves, it can make a noticeable contribution to the local economy. Because some of these lands provide public recreational opportunities at times, they also help reduce use pressure on public land holdings.

## **Golf Courses**

***There are three golf courses located in Waushara County.*** The following golf courses are located within the County: the Waushara Country Club, Two Oaks North Golf Course and Marl Links. Waushara Country Club, located on STH 21 east of Wautoma, has recently been expanded to a 27-hole facility. Although the course is semi-private, guests are always welcome. Two Oaks North Golf Course is located near the City of Wautoma on CTH F in the Town of Marion. This 18-hole public course provides a golfing experience amid a scenic, peaceful, countryside setting. Marl Links, a par 3 course located near Marl Lake in the Town of Deerfield, is also available for public play. The courses offer challenging opportunities for golfers of all skill levels.<sup>70</sup>

## **Post Office**

***There are twelve Post Offices in Waushara County.*** Their locations are listed below. Delivery is based upon individual Post Office locations.

- US Post Office, 122 S Pearl Street, Berlin, WI 54923<sup>73</sup>
- US Post Office, 145 N Front Street, Coloma, WI 54930
- US Post Office, 127 W North Lake Street, Hancock, WI 54943
- US Post Office, 110 W North Street, Plainfield, WI 54966
- US Post Office, 130 E Bannerman Avenue, Redgranite, WI 54970
- US Post Office, 108 W Main Street, Wautoma, WI 54982
- US Post Office, 801 Main Street, Wild Rose, WI 54984
- US Post Office, Main Street, Pine River, WI
- US Post Office, W4655 Portage Street, Saxeville, WI 54976
- US Post Office, 616 Main Street, Poy Sippi

## **Key Findings**

### ***Wastewater Collection and Treatment***

- Private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) serve a majority of Waushara County.
- Public wastewater treatment is available in the Cities of Wautoma and Berlin; the villages of Coloma, Hancock, Plainfield, Wild Rose and Redgranite; and through the Silver Lake Sanitary District (City of Wautoma and parts of the towns of Dakota, Marion, Wautoma and Mount Morris), the Poy Sippi Sanitary District No. 1 (unincorporated village of Poy Sippi and part of the Town of Leon), Joint Towns of Poygan and Poy Sippi Sanitary District (part of the towns of Poy Sippi and Poygan – Winnebago County), and the North Lake

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<sup>73</sup> Not located in Waushara County but utilized by County residents.

Poygan Sanitary District (parts of the towns of Bloomfield and Wolf River – Winnebago County).

### ***Stormwater Management***

- Eight drainage districts have been established within Waushara County. The only active district is the Marion-Warren district.
- Stormwater systems consisting of storm sewer, inlets, curb and gutter are limited in Waushara County and are generally found in the incorporated communities of Wautoma, Redgranite, Wild Rose, Hancock, Coloma, etc.

### ***Water Supply***

- The County is served by municipal water systems and private wells. Municipal water systems are located in the cities of Wautoma and Berlin; and the villages of Coloma, Hancock, Plainfield, and Redgranite.
- Groundwater is the source of drinking water throughout the county.

### ***Solid Waste and Recycling***

- The County operates nine waste collection sites and contracts with Waste Management of Wisconsin, Inc. and Onyx Waste Services to haul waste and recyclables.
- Residents are able to utilize any drop-off site within the county.
- All waste management sites in Waushara County accept recyclable materials.

### ***Electricity***

- Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op, Alliant-Wisconsin Power & Light, Pioneer Power & Light Company, and Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WE Energies) provide electric power to Waushara County.

### ***Natural Gas***

- Wisconsin Gas Company and Alliant/Wisconsin Power & Light provide natural gas service to Waushara County.

### ***Power Generation Plants and Transmission Lines***

- ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) operates several gas pipelines within Waushara County.
- American Transmission Company (ATC) owns and maintains a number of transmission lines in Waushara County. According to ATC, transmission systems throughout Zone 1 (includes Waushara County) are overloaded and experiencing low voltages.
- Koch Pipeline Company LP operates a pipeline within Waushara County.

### ***Telecommunications Facilities***

- According to information obtained from Waushara County, there are a number of towers scattered throughout the county.
- Century Kendall, Century-Midwest WI, CenturyTel Central, SBC Communications and Union Telephone all provide service to Waushara County.
- Due to the proliferation of internet service providers (ISP), area residents can also choose from several national and local ISPs.

### ***Cemeteries***

- According to the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) there are 43 public and private cemeteries within Waushara County.

### ***Childcare Facilities***

- Public involvement at the state level in the role of childcare falls largely under the supervision of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's Office of Childcare (OCC).
- The Mid-Wisconsin ChildCare Resource & Referral, Inc. and CAPSELL Services works with Waushara County.
- UMOS is a non-profit, community-based organization which provides housing and other services to underserved populations. UMOS operates a housing complex, Head Start program, and childcare facilities in Plainfield and Aurora.

### ***Elderly Services***

- The Waushara County Coordinated Transportation System offers rides to not only senior citizens but also to veterans, and human service clientele on Medical Assistance.
- Meals along with activities and fellowship are provided to seniors at eight locations throughout Waushara County.
- The Aging & Disability Resource Center of Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara Counties provides information and assistance on aging, long term care, disabilities, and other related topics.
- The Wautoma-Waushara Senior Center (in the Town of Dakota) offers a wide range of social and educational activities for seniors including bingo, card tournaments, crafts, and others.
- The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) regulates' adult care facilities.
- There is an adult day care facility in Wautoma called Adult Day Services Living Environmental. Cooperative Care, based out of Wautoma and Redgranite, provides in-home personal and home care services to elderly and disabled residents.
- Facilities for Waushara County are located in Wautoma and Redgranite.
- The overall capacity for adult care facilities serving Waushara County is 258 persons.

### ***Police Service***

- The Waushara County Sheriffs Department provides around the clock law enforcement services as needed.
- Response times within the county vary depending on the location of patrol vehicles.
- New in 2008, the Sheriff's department provides boat patrol for all lakes within Waushara County.
- The Waushara County Sheriff's Office is located on Division Street in Wautoma.
- The Hancock and Poy Sippi fire departments serve as satellite headquarters each Saturday afternoon.
- For a sheriff's office (includes most jail personnel), the state average was 1.77 sworn employees per 1,000 residents served. The Waushara County Sheriff's Office employs 1.1 officers per 1,000 population. This is below the state average.
- Municipal police department exist in the villages of Coloma, Hancock, Plainfield, Redgranite, Wild Rose, the Town of Marion and the cities of Wautoma and Berlin.
- There are three correctional facilities in Waushara County; the Waushara Huber Facility, the Waushara County Jail, and the Redgranite Correctional Facility.

### ***Fire Protection***

- Waushara County is comprised of eleven Fire Department/Districts. These include Plainfield, Hancock, Coloma, Wild Rose, Wautoma, Neshkoro, Saxeville/Springwater, Redgranite, W. Bloomfield, Poy Sippi, and Berlin.

### ***Health Care Facilities/Emergency Medical Services***

- There is one hospital located within Waushara County; the Wild Rose Community Memorial Hospital in the Village of Wild Rose.
- Emergency medical services for the county are provided by the Waushara County EMS. EMS administrative offices are located at 230 W. Park Street in Wautoma and provide municipal and county ambulance service. The department also operates a permanent service center in Poy Sippi and alternating service centers in Coloma and Plainfield.
- Since the EMS headquarters share facilities with the Department of Human Services, preliminary plans have been made to relocate the headquarters to a new location; no specific sites have been determined. Preliminary plans have also been drafted to remodel the Plainfield district center.
- First Responders are usually able to arrive at the emergency scene either ahead of the ambulance or at approximately the same time.
- The towns of Aurora and Warren contract with the City of Berlin for emergency medical services for areas within their individual towns that are near the City of Berlin.

### ***Libraries***

- Residents within the county have access to a good selection of libraries. These libraries are located in Coloma, Hancock, Pine River, Plainfield, Poy Sippi, Redgranite, Wautoma and Wild Rose.
- Service targets for libraries within Waushara County vary from less than basic to excellent.

## ***Education***

- Nine school districts are found within Waushara County. These include the Almond-Bancroft, Omro, Tri-County Area, Westfield, Wautoma Area, Wild Rose, Waupaca, Weyauwega-Fremont, and the Berlin Area school districts.
- The Almond-Bancroft School District includes a small portion of the towns of Oasis and Rose. The district has seen a declining enrollment at all levels since the 2003-2004 school year. Therefore, it is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the enrollment of the district's population for the near future.
- The Tri-County Area School District includes the towns of Plainfield, Oasis (partial), Rose (partial), Hancock, Deerfield (partial) and the villages of Plainfield and Hancock. The district is experiencing a declining enrollment at all levels. Therefore, it is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the enrollment of the area's population for the near future.
- The Westfield School District includes the towns of Coloma, Richford (partial), Dakota (partial) and Marion (partial). Enrollment has remained stable at the elementary schools. Therefore, it is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the district's enrollment for the near future.
- The Wautoma Area School District serves the towns of Richford (partial), Deerfield (partial), Dakota (partial), Wautoma (partial), Marion (partial), Warren (partial), Leon (partial), Mount Morris (partial); the City of Wautoma; and the villages of Redgranite and Lohrville. Enrollment is declining at all schools. Due to declining enrollment and school capacities, it is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the district's anticipated enrollment for the foreseeable future.
- The Wild Rose School District includes the towns of Rose (partial), Springwater, Saxeville (partial), Leon (partial), Mount Morris (partial), and Wautoma (partial); and the Village of Wild Rose. A declining enrollment is being experienced at all levels. It is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the enrollment of the district for the near future.
- The Waupaca School District encompasses a small portion of the Town of Saxeville. A declining enrollment is being experienced at all levels. Therefore, it is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the enrollment of the district for the near future. The district does not have any plans for any major improvements to their schools at this time.
- The Weyauwega-Fremont School District includes part of the northeast quarter of the Town of Saxeville. Enrollment has declined by approximately 25 students annually in recent years. Due to declining enrollments, there are no planned upgrades to any district facility at this time.
- The Berlin Area School District includes the towns of Saxeville (partial), Bloomfield (partial), Poy Sippi (partial), Aurora (partial), Leon (partial) and Warren (partial); and the City of Berlin (Waushara County). Enrollment at the high school has remained steady in recent years and the building has excess capacity. There are no planned upgrades at this time. The Berlin Middle School is nearing capacity, however, the district has no plans to expand the facility. The Clay Lamberton and Poy Sippi elementary schools have been seeing declining enrollment in recent years. Due to declining enrollment and the capacity of the buildings, these schools should adequately meet enrollment needs of the district for a number of years.
- The district includes a few properties in the towns of Aurora and Poy Sippi. Enrollment at H. B. Patch Elementary has been declining in recent years. However, within the district as

a whole, enrollment has been gradually increasing in recent years, but existing facilities should be adequate capacity for future growth within the next ten years.

- There are no institutions of higher education in Waushara County.
- Waushara County is part of the Mid State District in the northwestern portion of the county, the Madison Area District in the southern portion, the Moraine Park District in the southeastern portion, and Fox Valley District in the central and northeastern portion of the county.

### ***Community Theaters***

- Several small theaters are located in City of Wautoma and the towns of Saxeville, Mount Morris and Coloma.

### ***Other Municipal Buildings***

- While the courthouse building is in good shape structurally, some departments are seeing a need for additional storage.
- Generally, concerns with the North Annex Building have been noted in regard to heating and ventilation.
- The South Annex building is outdated, and in need of a number of major improvements.
- At this time, no improvements or expansions are needed at the jail.

### ***Parks and Recreation***

- Waushara County's park system is comprised of 15 sites containing a total of 761 acres.
- Existing ski/hiking trails need continual improvement and maintenance at the Mount Morris County Park. A second shelter is needed to accommodate picnickers and group activities.
- Existing ski/hiking trails need continual improvement and maintenance at the Willow Creek County Park. Interest in lighting the cross-country ski trails should be explored.
- Parking is considered generally adequate while the restrooms are considered inadequate at Lake Alpine County Park. A larger flush type restroom building is needed. Horseshoe pits need to be installed.
- Parking capacity in this area is considered inadequate while erosion control along the shoreline remains an ongoing problem at Kusel Lake County Park.
- Waushara County has expressed an interest in working with the Village to pursue opportunities to provide off-street parking near the Redgranite trailhead of Bannerman Trail. Necessary repairs to trail surfaces need to be made.
- Because of the millpond's shallow gradient, additional boat ramp improvements are still needed at Otto Brey County Park.
- Future plans call for the installation of playground equipment and development of a nature trail and boardwalk at Pony Creek County Park. Existing parking has been found to be inadequate during peak bank fishing.
- Erosion control remains a problem at Marl Lake County Park. Because parking capacity is limited, parked vehicles often infringe on adjacent lawn areas. Electrical service needs to be installed. Lights with light pollution shades and outlet(s) are needed in the shelter. The restrooms building needs renovation; a power vent needs to be installed.



- Additional land is needed to more effectively develop and utilize the Curtis Lake County Park. The parking, picnic area needs to be expanded. A small shelter is needed in the picnic area and a boarding pier should be installed.
- Restrooms should be constructed; existing hiking/snowshoe trails should be improved and basic campsites should be considered at Sorenson Natural Area.
- Vandalism and after-hours use have created long-term problems for the County in managing Flynn's Quarry.
- Lateral bunkers are needed at the Waushara County Shooting Range.
- Restroom facilities, although updated, continue to remain inadequate for major events such as the county fair. A covered grandstand, lighting of horse area, and tree planting should be considered/provided.
- Three factors are assessed to determine how well the recreational needs of Waushara County residents are being met: the amount of recreational land available, its location, and the supply of existing recreation facilities.
- A minimum of 100 acres of open space or outdoor recreational land should be available for every 1,000 persons; 70 acres of passive recreational open space and 30 acres of active recreational open space.
- A minimum of 10 additional acres of land should be available for every 1,000 residents to meet local day-to-day needs.
- Applying these standards to Waushara County's current resident and seasonal population estimates indicated a peak demand in 2000 of 11,533 acres of recreation land – 8,073 for passive use and 3,460 for active use. When applied to the county's population projections, land needs increase to over 14,000 acres by the year 2030.
- Of the total 100 acres of open space that should be available for each 1,000 residents, federal and state governments are responsible for providing 80 acres; the County and local jurisdictions, 15 acres; and the private sector, five acres. Based on these guidelines, the State and private sectors are fulfilling their obligation in providing recreational land, while the County lags slightly behind.
- Waushara County's 136 lakes, 96 of which are named, comprise about 7,000 acres of surface water.

### ***Church and Youth Camps***

- There are several church and youth camps located throughout the county, collectively occupying nearly 2,000 acres of land.

### ***School and Town Forests***

- Three school forests and a town forest provide 819 acres of passive open space in Waushara County.

### ***Campgrounds***

- Fifteen private and one public (Village of Hancock) campgrounds are located throughout Waushara County.

### ***Snowmobile Trails***

- About 285 miles of state-funded snowmobile trails are available in Waushara County.

- The private trails within the county are maintained by the Aurora SnoBlazers, Berlin River Riders, Coloma Pathfinders, Eureka Belt Busters, Metz Ridgerunners, Mid State Snow Drifters, Neshkoro River EZ Riders, Tri-County Sno Drifters, Poy Sippi Hillclimbers, and Richford Ridge Riders.

### ***Sportsman's Clubs and Conservation Organizations***

- Over a dozen parcels in the county are owned by a variety of sportsmen's and conservation groups.

### ***Golf Courses***

- There are three golf courses located in Waushara County.

### ***Post Office***

- There are twelve Post Offices in Waushara County.

## **INTERRELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ELEMENTS**

### **Economic Development**

Rising health care costs directly impact a company's ability to compete in a global market. High quality, affordable, and accessible health care that is available to all residents is important to the vitality of the area. As the area's residents become older, the importance of healthcare will increase. Residents who live and work in healthy communities are more active, have fewer health problems, and are more productive. Studies have shown that productivity for working parents increase if they have access to safe, reliable, quality daycare for their children.

A vital, safe, clean and healthy environment is an economic draw for new industry and residents. It aids in the retention of existing residents and businesses. Parks or green space add to the local economy by maintaining or increasing property values; providing a place where local citizens can socialize, play sports or relax; and promoting healthy active lifestyles that encourage physical activity. In addition, local parks and recreational facilities draw visitors to an area. These visitors spend money at local restaurants, motels and other businesses.

A good educational system has the ability to respond to an ever-changing job market, to educate or retain residents, and to form partnerships between businesses and schools.

Citizens, businesses and industries need accessible, reliable gas and electric services. To enable economic growth and open up new markets and opportunities for diverse and innovative services, access to fast, reliable, cost-effective, and cutting edge telecommunications must be available.

### **Housing**

Preplanning can save municipalities time and money. Infill of housing units or reuse of existing buildings in areas that already have the needed infrastructure in place, such as streets, sewer,

water, emergency services and schools, saves taxpayers the cost of extending these services to new areas.

Housing developments should be provided with infrastructure that promotes healthy community lifestyles. It is important that housing, businesses and schools be interconnected with a network of sidewalks, green space and parks to encourage active lifestyles. Schools, parks, and libraries should be located in or near existing residential areas within walking distance for both children and adults. Parks and green space not only promote more active lifestyles but may increase housing values in the area.

However economically expedient or convenient it may seem at the time, housing should not be located in floodplains, areas of high groundwater, or other areas that are susceptible to flooding. Not only does this ill-conceived practice increase insurance costs, but it may also increase the cost to install basements and on-site sewage systems.

### **Transportation**

A well maintained, efficient and safe transportation network provides access for emergency service providers (police, fire and ambulance) and ensures a timely response. By incorporating pedestrian and bicycling facilities into the design of a transportation system, options other than the motor vehicle are made available and active healthy lifestyles that rely less on driving can be promoted.

The siting of a local park, recreational facility, school, library, solid waste or recycling facility may have an impact on the adjoining transportation network or facility. These facilities often result in additional vehicular and pedestrian traffic, increasing the likelihood that new roads, signalized intersections and pedestrian facilities will need to be built. The siting of facilities that attract birds and other wildlife, such as parks, solid waste or recycling centers, can adversely impact the safety of nearby transportation systems, including air traffic.

### **Agricultural Resources**

Preplanned development leads to the efficient use of public infrastructure and reduces the extent of sprawl, which contributes to the consumption of the rural countryside. Educating local officials and citizens about local land use decisions and their implications for farming is essential if farmland and the ability to grow or raise food are to be preserved.

### **Natural Resources**

The ability to accommodate growth while protecting the natural environment is essential if our quality of life is to be maintained or improved. The quality of the surface and groundwater resources is linked to the proper siting, installation and maintenance of individual on-site wastewater treatment systems. Improper treatment can result in the discharge of excessive human waste and bacteria into the groundwater system, which in turn can contaminate public and private water supplies. The cumulative impacts of development and well density can not only affect the level of aquifers but also the rate at which the aquifer is recharged due to increased amounts of impervious surface. Additionally, improperly abandoned wells provide a direct link between the upper and lower aquifers and can be the cause of leakage between the two.

Parks, recreational areas, and other open space preserve and protect green areas for future generations to enjoy. They protect wildlife habitat within our communities, enhance water and air quality, lower heating and cooling costs, help control stormwater runoff, enhance property values, contribute to the vitality of a community, and encourage active lifestyles.

### **Cultural Resources**

Cultural and historical resources often help to determine and define a community's identity. Renovating or preserving an existing historic structure or building and reusing it not only enhances the area, but is often coveted by future tenants. Forming partnerships between public and private sectors to encourage development or redevelopment in already developed areas can make better use of existing public infrastructure and allow for ideas to become reality. Historic buildings can often be creatively converted to restaurants and other business and residential uses. Reuse of these buildings contributes to the tax roll as they are in close proximity to existing facilities; eliminates the need to expand infrastructure to new areas; cuts down on urban sprawl and the consumption of farm and open land; and saves taxpayers money. Cemeteries preserve the history of a community or area and are invaluable in the search for individual family history. In addition to their historical significance, they also contribute to the green space within a community.

### **Land Use**

Preplanned development leads to an efficient use of an area's resources, reduces urban sprawl, utilizes existing public infrastructure, and helps to eliminate land use conflicts. Concerns regarding the siting of solid waste and recycling facilities; gas, electric and telecommunications facilities; cemeteries; schools; and other public facilities are often raised by local citizens. However, education of local citizens and officials may result in a better general understanding of the issues and an acceptance of a solution that ultimately benefits everyone. Compact development in more urban areas reduces the cost to install public and private infrastructure and deliver public services (garbage pickup, sewer, water, emergency, electric, gas, and telecommunication, and elderly services, etc.).

Comm 83 regulations (affecting private on-site systems) have brought about state-level concerns regarding the promotion of "sprawl" development patterns and the ability to develop in or near sensitive areas. While the county has adequate groundwater supplies, well density in both urban and rural areas can impact the level of the aquifers. The rate at which they are recharged is influenced by the amount of impervious surface. Therefore when making land use decisions, it is imperative that the cumulative impacts of development on natural resources be examined carefully.

### **Intergovernmental Cooperation**

Forming partnerships between schools, park departments, libraries, non-profits and others benefits the community and saves the local taxpayer money. In some instances, if these facilities are located near each other, additional cost savings and avoidance of duplicative services can be realized.

## POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

The provision of public and private utilities and community facilities is governed at federal, state, regional, and local levels. Given the breadth of topics discussed in this chapter, the policy background is provided for those areas most relevant to the comprehensive planning process.

### Regional, County and Local Policies

#### *Regional*

**East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.** East Central has adopted a regional smart growth plan. As part of this planning effort, East Central has adopted six Public and Community Facilities goals:

- Support opportunities for the sustainable and safe management of solid waste and recycling, collection, processing and disposal activities working in a cooperative, regional manner.
- Support efforts to provide electric, gas and telecommunication services to meet industrial and residential needs while being environmentally conscientious.
- Support the provision of efficient quality emergency and non-emergency services in a timely cost-effective manner within the region.
- Work cooperatively to protect and preserve current park, open space, recreational facilities, programs and plan for new facilities, while providing for and balancing the needs of various community groups with the needs of the general public in a financially responsible manner.
- Support a collaborative regional forum to create and implement a strategic policy framework for the continuum of care for the health and well being of the residents of the region.
- Support a variety of meaningful educational options and opportunities for all students.

#### *County*

**Waushara County Zoning Ordinance.** The Waushara County Zoning Ordinance regulates many of the public facilities referenced in this chapter. The following chapters contain relevant information.<sup>74</sup>

Chapter 30, Parks and Recreation, regulates land, structures and properties owned or leased by the County. This chapter specifies the laws associated with public usage of county parks. Topics discussed include, but are not limited to, park hours, permissible activities, safety standards, and police protection.

Chapter 38, Solid Waste, regulates solid waste and recycling activities in the county. Zoning ordinances are intended to preserve and protect environmental resources, to safeguard public health, and promote county-wide recycling initiatives. This section establishes hours for county waste collection facilities, delineates recycling guidelines, and discusses proper disposal techniques for solid waste.

Chapter 54, Utilities, regulates private on-site wastewater treatment systems within the unsewered portions of the County. This section regulates the proper siting, design, installation,

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<sup>74</sup> Waushara County Zoning and Land Conservation Department. 2006. *Code of Ordinances: Waushara County, Wisconsin*.

inspection, and maintenance of private on-site wastewater systems (POWTS). The prerequisites necessary for the essential protection of the public health and the environment are the same everywhere. To a lesser extent, POWTS are also regulated by the Health and Sanitation Zoning Ordinance contained within Chapter 22. This ordinance declares that improper disposal of sewage and effluents are a public health hazard.

Chapter 54 is augmented by Comm 87 and Comm 83. Comm 87 requires that all new private on-site wastewater treatment systems be inspected at installation. Comm 83 specifies that all new POWTS must be inspected and maintained by a licensed certified professional. All new or replacement systems must be inspected every three years. POWTS should also be pumped out as mandated by their normal usage. Individual owners are now required to execute a verified affidavit and restrictive covenant running with the land which verifies that the POWTS serving the property is under such a maintenance program. Comm 83 requires that the service providers submit these forms on behalf of the POWTS owner within 30 days of the service. Records are kept on file with individual counties for a period of six years.

Chapter 58, Zoning, establishes the general zoning practices for unincorporated areas of Waushara County. Chapter 58 regulates cell tower heights (58-825), airport height limitations (58-236) and Wireless Communication Facilities (58-236). Cell towers are permitted as conditional uses according to the Waushara County zoning ordinances. Cell towers can be placed anywhere in the county with the exception of shoreland, wetland, or floodplain areas or the Wautoma airport height limitation zone. Although not specifically included in the Waushara County Zoning Codes, additional restrictions could be placed on communication towers.

**Waushara County Outdoor Recreation Plan.** The Waushara County Outdoor Recreation Plan discusses longstanding goals and objectives, inventories existing park and recreation needs and opportunities, and presents recommendations and an action program for addressing the system's growth and development. The current plan was adopted in April 2006.

**Waushara County Solid Waste Plan Update.** The Waushara County Solid Waste Plan Update 1999 inventories current waste management activities, projects future waste volumes, and discusses alternatives that the county may want to consider as they proceed into the future.<sup>75</sup>

## **Federal, State and Regional Programs**

### ***Federal Agencies***

#### **United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)**

**Water Pollution Control Act.** The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (1977), more commonly known as the Clean Water Act, established the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into surface waters. Effluent standards for wastewater treatment plants and other industrial facilities were established by this landmark legislation. The legislation also provided grants to communities to assist with planning and construction of upgraded facilities. Today, increasing levels of growth and changing treatment standards have caused more recent expansions and improvements of these systems.

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<sup>75</sup> Waushara County Parks, Recreation, and Solid Waste Department. 1999. *Solid Waste Plan Update*.

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Program.** The Clean Water Act also established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Program. The comprehensive two-phased program addresses the non-agricultural sources of stormwater discharges which adversely affect surface water quality. A NPDES permitting mechanism requires the implementation of controls designed to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff and the level of harmful pollutants in stormwater runoff.

**Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).** Drinking water standards are set by the USEPA. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires the USEPA to set primary standards, while individual public water systems must ensure that they are met. Drinking water standards apply to public water systems which supply at least 15 connections or 25 persons at least 60 days of a calendar year. Standards have been set for 90 chemical, microbiological, radiological, and physical contaminants. Non-enforceable guidelines are also set for secondary standards for contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects such as poor taste or odors.

### **United States Department of Agriculture**

**Rural Emergency Responders Initiative.** The Rural Emergency Responders Initiative can be utilized to strengthen the ability of rural communities to respond to local emergencies. Public bodies and non-profit organizations are eligible to receive funds. Eligible projects include the purchase of equipment, vehicles or buildings for the following types of projects: fire protection, rescue/ambulance, civil defense/early warning systems, communication systems, training facilities, and several other projects. More information can be found at [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/Emerg\\_Responder/rural\\_emergency\\_responders\\_initi.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/Emerg_Responder/rural_emergency_responders_initi.htm).

**Water and Waste Grant and Loan Program.** The Water and Waste Grant and Loan Program offers grants and loans to communities with populations of up to 10,000. The funds are utilized to develop water and wastewater systems, including water supply, storage, waste disposal and storm drainage in rural areas. Eligible projects involve the original construction, modification or extension of existing projects. More information can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/programs.htm>.

**Community Facilities Grant Program.** The Community Facilities Grant Program provides assistance to rural communities in the development of essential community facilities. Eligible applicants include public entities with populations less than 20,000. Grant funds may be used to purchase equipment or construct, enlarge, or improve facilities associated with health care, public safety, or community and public services. More information can be found at [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/brief\\_cp\\_grant.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/brief_cp_grant.htm).

### **Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)**

FEMA offers several annual grant awards to fire departments. Eligible project costs include equipment, supplies, training, emergency work (evacuations, shelters, etc.), and mobilization/demobilization activities. All municipal jurisdictions with a population of less than 50,000 are eligible to receive funding. Recipients must provide a 10 percent match for all project costs. FEMA also operates disaster relief programs. For additional information see <http://www.fema.gov>.

### ***Other Federal Agencies***

Federal regulation of telecommunications, radio, and television towers is currently under the auspices of the **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)**, the **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**, and the **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**. The FCC issues licenses for new telecommunication facilities by determining the overall need, coordinates frequencies, and regulates tower placement. Communication towers must be located at the most central point at the highest elevation available. The FAA regulates tower height, coloring, and lighting to ensure aircraft safety. OSHA regulates the occupational exposure to non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation emitted from radio, microwave, television, and radar facilities.

### ***State Agencies and Associations***

**Public Service Commission (PSC)**. Public utilities in Wisconsin are regulated by the PSC, an independent regulatory agency. The PSC sets utility rates and determines levels for adequate and safe service. More than 1,400 utilities are under the agency's jurisdiction. PSC approval must be obtained before instituting new rates, issuing stock or bonds, or undertaking major construction projects such as power plants, water wells, and transmission lines.

### **Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)**

Rural areas are governed by several non-point pollution prevention programs. Small-scale drains are prevalent throughout Waushara County. Administrative rules relating to agricultural runoff include NR-151, ATCP-50, NR-88, and ATCP-48. The first two regulations govern the total suspended solids (TSS) loadings; a 20 percent reduction is required by 2008 and 40 percent reduction by 2013. The latter two regulations pertain to the daily operations and functions of agricultural drainage districts. Primary responsibility for planning for, administering, and enforcing drainage district regulations resides with the county drainage board.

### **Wisconsin Department of Commerce**

COMM 83 is a health and safety code that sets standards for private on-site wastewater treatment system (POWTS). COMM 83 provides a technical and administrative framework for enforcing POWTS related issues. This legislation regulates traditional septic and mound systems as well as delineates alternative options in which soil conditions and other factors limit the use of these traditional methods of private domestic wastewater treatment. The updated code prescribes specific effluent standards for POWTS.

**Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities (CDBG – PF)**. The Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities (CDBG – PF) is a versatile tool that allows local units of government to finance public works projects. Projects must enhance the economic vitality of a community by undertaking public investment that contributes to overall community and economic development. Funds can be allocated to a wide array of infrastructure and public building projects, excluding buildings for the conduct of government. Typically, funded projects include improvements or construction of municipal sewer systems, wastewater treatment plants, municipal water systems, and other related projects. More information can be found at <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/CD/CD-bcf-cdbg-pf.html>.



**Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities for Economic Development (CDBG – PFED).** The Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities for Economic Development (CDBG – PFED) helps underwrite municipal infrastructure development that retains or promotes business development by creating employment opportunities. Eligible projects include water and sewer systems and roads that are owned by a special purpose unit of government. All local governmental units with populations of less than 50,000 are eligible for funding. More information can be found at <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/CD/CD-bcf-cdbg-pfed.html>.

**Wisconsin Fund.** The Wisconsin Fund provides grants to homeowners and small commercial businesses to repair, rehabilitate, or replace an existing private on-site wastewater treatment system (POWTS). Since 1978, the program has provided \$77 million in assistance. Waushara County residents living in areas not serviced by municipal sewer systems are eligible to participate if the annual household income is less than \$45,000. Small businesses with gross revenues totaling less than \$362,700 are also eligible. Waushara County provides assistance to county residents to prepare grant applications. A portion of the funds is used to develop more environmentally friendly systems. More information can be found at <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-WisconsinFundProgram.html>.

### **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

Federal legislation such as the Clean Water Act has served as the impetus for state legislation. Areawide Water Quality Management under Section 208 and the Facility Planning Grant Program under Section 201 mandated the preparation of sewer service area plans for urban areas. These principles have been embodied into Chapters NR-121 and NR-110 of the Wisconsin State Statutes respectively. NR-121 specifies the standards and processes for initiating and continuous areawide wastewater treatment management planning. As provided by NR-121, the WDNR's role is to review and approve every sewer service area plan and its amendments, taking into account water quality impacts and cost-effectiveness. NR-110 regulates site-specific facility planning and sanitary sewer extensions. Decisions regarding the extension or expansion of wastewater collection facilities are made primarily at the local level.

**Wisconsin Solid Waste Management Program.** Begun in the 1970s, the Wisconsin Solid Waste Management Program regulates existing landfills and provides assistance to local governments. The program delineates all environmental regulations and standards that landfills must adhere to including construction specifications, water monitoring requirements, and sanitary procedures. The program inventories and licenses all operating and proposed solid waste facilities. Periodic updates are performed to ensure that environmental protection standards are the most current based on data collection.

**Wisconsin Act 335.** In 1989, Wisconsin Act 335 was passed. This law governs the recycling programs within the state. Recycling programs for all commercial and residential entities were mandated under this legislation. The intent of the legislation is to divert recyclable material and various household hazardous wastes from landfills. Municipal governments are responsible for arranging residential programs, and the WDNR oversees and supports these efforts.

**NR-809.** Drinking water standards are also maintained at a state level. NR-809 regulates the design, construction, and proper operation of public water systems. The WDNR also assures that regulated contaminants are adequately monitored.

**Knowles-Nelson State Stewardship.** The Knowles-Nelson State Stewardship Fund is a land acquisition program for the State of Wisconsin. Created by the state legislature in 1989, \$60 million dollars per year is utilized to purchase lands for parks and other recreational purposes. An important component of the program is the cooperation between the DNR and local governments and non-profit organizations. The program offers a 50 percent grant match to create parks, hiking trails, hunting grounds, and other facilities. The funds can also be utilized for facilities improvements such as road construction and capital acquisition projects (picnic equipment, playgrounds, etc.). More information can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/lr/stewardship/stewardship.html>.

**Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP).** The Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) offers loans and hardship grants to any town, village, city, county utility district, public inland lake protection & rehabilitation district, metropolitan sewerage district or federally recognized American Indian tribe or band to construct or modify municipal wastewater systems or construct urban storm water best management practices. More information can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/BUREAU/CleanWaterFund.pdf>.

**Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP).** The Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) offers loans to any city, village, town, county, sanitary district, public inland lake protection & rehabilitation district, or municipal water district to construct or modify public water systems to comply with public health protection objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act. More information can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/EL/Section/drinkingwater.html>.

**Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Storm Water Program.** The NPDES program is administered by the WDNR through NR-216. The Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Storm Water Program regulates stormwater discharge from construction sites, industrial facilities, and selected municipalities. Recent Phase II requirements will require six minimum control measures to be addressed by communities and other local entities: public education, public participation, illicit discharges, construction site pollutant control ( $\geq$  1 acre in size), post construction site stormwater management, and pollution prevention. More information can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/permits/wpdes.htm>.

**Well Compensation Program.** The Well Compensation Program provides grants to owners of contaminated private water supplies that serve a residence or are used for livestock. Contamination can not be bacterial in nature. Eligibility is determined based on annual family income. More information can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/Grants/wellcomp.html>.

## **Department of Public Instruction (DPI)**

The Wisconsin Constitution as it was adopted in 1848 provided for the establishment of district schools that would be free to all children age 4 to 20. Subsequent laws allowed a property tax to be collected to fund school programs. Today, the Department of Public Education (DPI) oversees the operations of school systems and sets state standards for educational curricula, teacher certification standards, and other educational programs.

**Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP)**

**Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP).** Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) offers training and technical assistance to small (under 10,000), rural, low income communities, sanitary districts, and isolated rural areas for problems related to water and wastewater system development. More information can be found at [http://www.wiscap.org/rcap\\_what\\_is\\_rcap.htm](http://www.wiscap.org/rcap_what_is_rcap.htm).

**Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL)**

**State Trust Fund Loan Program.** The State Trust Fund Loan Program offers loans to municipalities, lake districts, metropolitan sewerage districts and town sanitary districts for a wide variety of municipal purposes. More information can be found at <http://bcpl.state.wi.us/>.

**Wisconsin Rural Water Association**

The Wisconsin Rural Water Association offers rural communities with populations of less than 10,000 grants, loans, and technical assistance for approved Rural Utility Service, Clean Water, Safe Drinking Water and Brownfield projects. More information can be found at <http://www.wrwa.org>.

***Regional Agencies***

**East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC).** ECWRPC acts in an advisory and regulatory role for Sewer Service Area (SSA) Plans. ECWRPC has prepared detailed long range plans for 26 wastewater treatment plants to address growth and ensure water quality within the region. These plans were developed and administered by East Central through an agreement with the Wisconsin DNR. ECWRPC also acts in an advisory capacity to WDNR and provides recommendations on various plan updates, amendments, facilities plans, and sewer extensions.