

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **Utilities and Community Facilities**

#### **Introduction**

The type and quality of services a community provides are two of the most important reasons why people and businesses are attracted to and choose to remain within the community. Healthcare, childcare, and schools are examples of services that are often most important to the residents of a community, while utilities, power supply, and power transmission capabilities are examples of services that are often most important to businesses and industries.

As a community grows and matures, so does its need for services. Most often considered in this regard are sanitary sewer, public water, and stormwater management. Most small rural communities do not provide such services, but at some point as they continue to grow such services become essential to the continued health, welfare, and safety of the community. In addition, federal and state rules (such as the Clean Water Act) often govern various aspects of such services.

Of particular importance to the City of De Pere, provision of reliable and high quality drinking water, obtaining more cooperation between the east and west De Pere school districts, and maintaining Voyager Park in primarily passive uses were among the top ranked issues raised during the visioning session held for this comprehensive plan.

Experiences from across the country have shown time and again to provide high quality services, a growing community like De Pere must maintain, upgrade, and reevaluate its utilities, facilities, and other services. This means the City should continuously evaluate its existing services to ensure their continued provision in the most cost-effective manner possible consistent with the community's long-term goals, trends, and projections, as well as consider the elimination of unnecessary services and the provision of new services when necessary. This process would also help address the number one issue raised at the afore-referenced visioning session, which was maintenance of the City's low tax rate. The analyses and recommendations within this chapter of the City of De Pere Comprehensive Plan are the first step in that process, and this plan should be used to guide and direct, but not replace, detailed engineering studies, facility plans, and capital improvement programs.

For all of these reasons and more, the continued provision of quality services is very important to the City of De Pere.

#### **Background**

The City of De Pere is a growing urban city within the greater Green Bay Metropolitan Area that provides a full range of utilities, facilities, and other services.

The City of De Pere currently provides:

- A police department.
- A fire rescue department, which also provides emergency rescue services.
- A comprehensive solid waste and recycling collection system.
- A public water supply and transmission system.
- A stormwater management system.
- A comprehensive park, recreation, and forestry system.
- A comprehensive street maintenance program including resurfacing, reconstruction, snowplowing, and street sweeping.
- A health department.
- A newly remodeled and expanded city hall housing the majority of the administrative offices of the City and the police and fire rescue departments .
- A municipal service center housing the public works and parks and recreation and forestry departments.
- A community center.

The City of De Pere contracts with the Brown County Port and Solid Waste Department for solid waste and recycling disposal, encompasses part of two public school districts, and is the location of a Brown County Public Library, a County-run special needs school, and a U.S. Post Office.

Private providers arrange telecommunication, power, healthcare, care for the elderly, and childcare services within the City.

## **Opportunities and Challenges**

Challenges associated with the City's utilities, facilities, and other services are related to the aging of its existing infrastructure, determining the proper timing and location for replacement of existing or construction of new infrastructure, the possible need for new or higher levels of services as resident and business populations and needs change, greater economic competition within the region and the metropolitan area, fiscal constraints, and new legislation and regulations. Opportunities include a healthy local population, economy, and business climate, efficiencies of scale, and possibilities for intergovernmental cooperation and shared services.

## **Inventory and Analysis**

This section of the Utilities and Community Facilities Chapter provides detailed information about the City of De Pere's utilities, facilities, and other services and recommends actions to address identified concerns or issues. These recommendations are also summarized at the end of this chapter.

### **Sanitary Sewer Service**

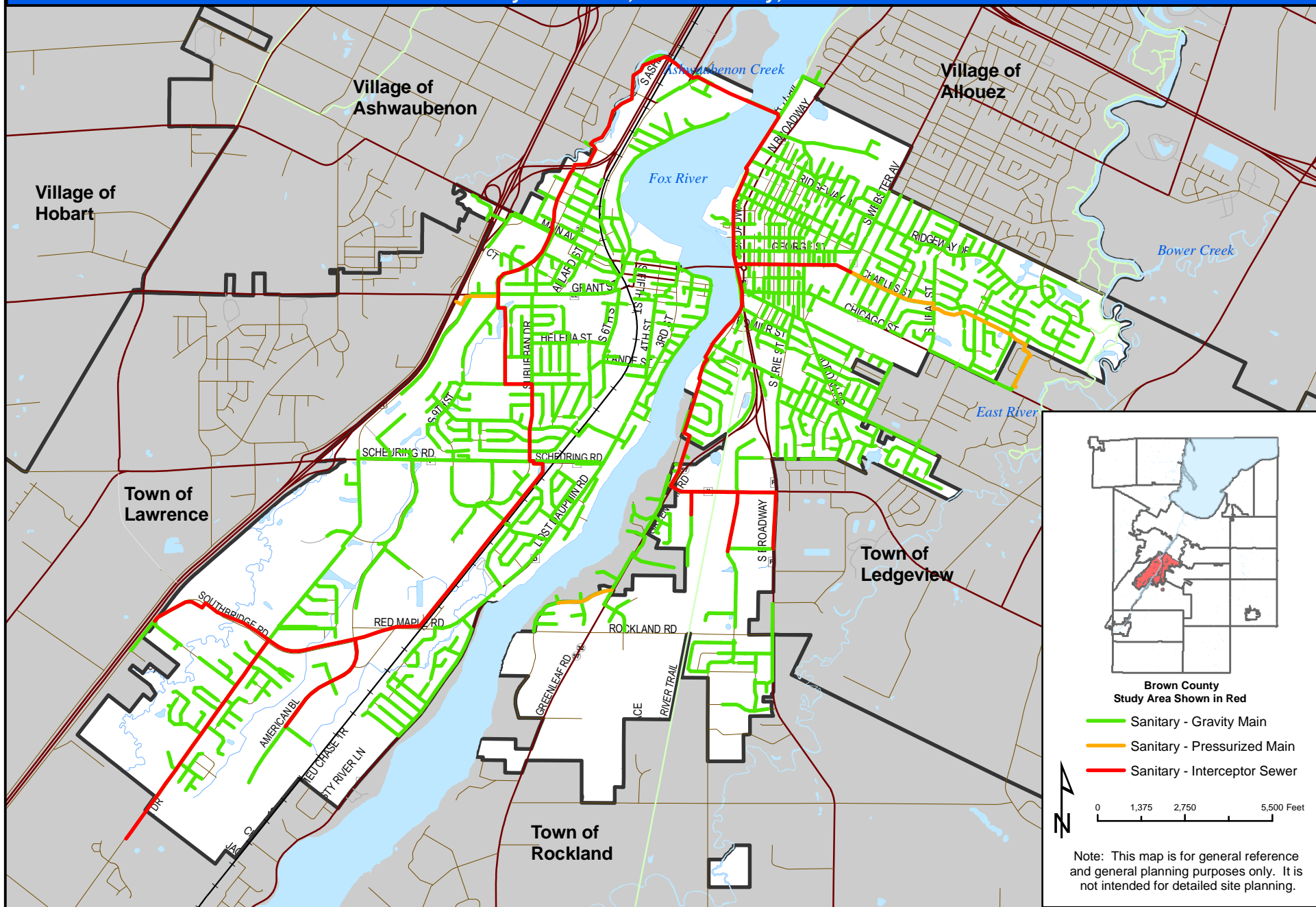
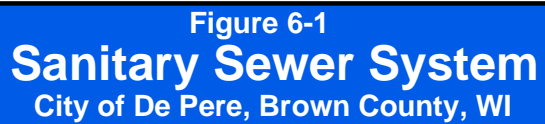
Among the infrastructure most urban communities provide to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of its citizens, sanitary sewer service is one of the more important and traditional.

Several major federal laws have been enacted over the past 100 years to protect our nation's waters, and each of these laws imposed subsequently greater restrictions upon the discharge of pollution into lakes, rivers, and streams. With the passage of the 1972 Clean Water Act, all discharges of pollution required a permit, the use of best achievable pollution control technology was encouraged, and billions of dollars were provided for the construction of sewage treatment plants. This law also required comprehensive water quality planning for both point and nonpoint sources of pollution. For Brown County and the City of De Pere, this planning is currently contained in the *Lower Fox River Basin Integrated Management Plan*, prepared in August 2001 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and the *2002 Brown County Sewage Plan*, which was approved by the Brown County Planning Commission and endorsed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in March of 2003.

The first City of De Pere Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in 1937. The current plant located in the far northwestern part of the City on the Fox River was constructed in 1976, and its last major upgrade was completed in 2004. The treatment plant is designed to treat domestic and industrial wastewater, its effluent is discharged to the Fox River, its sludge is incinerated, and residual waste is disposed of in landfills. Pretreatment of sewage from industrial users is required by the City.

Historically, sewage was treated locally at the City of De Pere Wastewater Treatment Facility. In 2008, the City of De Pere wastewater treatment facility consolidated with the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, and the former City of De Pere Wastewater Treatment Facility now performs primary treatment prior to the waste being piped to GBMSD. As a component of the agreement between the City of De Pere and GBMSD, it was agreed the City of De Pere would have exclusive rights to provide sanitary sewer in an area of the Town of Rockland bounded by the current City boundary in the north, south to a quarter-mile north of Eiler Road, west to STH 32/57, and east to County Highway PP.

As a regional facility, the GBMSD WWTP provides wastewater treatment at its plant to all of the Cities of Green Bay and De Pere and the Villages of Allouez, Ashwaubenon, Bellevue, Howard, and Pulaski and to portions of the Villages of Hobart and Suamico and the Towns of Green Bay, Humboldt, Pittsfield, and Scott, as well as to portions of communities outside of Brown County, including the Oneida area, Town of Red River, and the Village of Luxemburg. GBMSD has a design hydraulic loading capacity of 49.2 mgd (million gallons per day) and received an average monthly flow rate of 27.53 mgd in 2000. The treatment plant also has a design BOD loading limit of 103,110 lb/day (pounds per day) and received an average monthly loading of 57,630 lb/day in 2000. This accounted for approximately 56 percent of the design hydraulic loading capacity and



about 56 percent of the design BOD loading capacity of the treatment plant. There are currently no known concerns or issues associated with the City's sewerage collection system. The City does have a regular inspection program of its sewerage system and is generally aware of the demands future growth will impose upon the treatment plant and collection system.

To continue to ensure the most efficient and cost-effective sewerage system possible, replacement, rehabilitation, and new construction should take place in a planned and coordinated manner. For instance, whenever possible, sanitary system modifications within a specific area should be undertaken at the same time as water, stormwater, and/or road construction or reconstruction so that construction impacts are minimized and efficiency between the projects is maximized. Also, the development/redevelopment of lands adjacent to this specific area and the use of underutilized infrastructure should be encouraged over the extension of new infrastructure. When the extension of infrastructure is warranted, it should be provided in such a manner that encourages compact and contiguous development patterns as identified in this comprehensive plan. By virtue of De Pere being a municipal customer of GBMSD, growth in the City will not be hindered due to wastewater treatment plant capacity restraints.

In addition to the rate of population growth and development noted in Chapter 1, the direction of that growth is also an important factor in planning for improvements and expansion of the sewerage collection system. The *2002 Brown County Sewage Plan*, prepared by the Brown County Planning Commission and approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, envisions that the City and its sewered development will grow no farther than its current municipal boundaries west of the Fox River but will, however, continue to grow east of the Fox River. The County sewage plan envisions that this growth of the City of De Pere could extend from its current limits south of Rockland Road as far south as Old Martin Road, as far east as CTH PP, and as far west as the Fox River by the year 2020.

However this comprehensive plan, utilizing updated Wisconsin Department of Administration population projections and current development type ratios (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.), indicates the City of De Pere could extend far south past Old Martin Road to just south of Eiler Road extended between STH 32/57 and CTH PP by the year 2030, generally consistent with the exclusive sanitary sewer service area agreed to by GBMSD and the City of De Pere. The Future Land Use Map indicates areas of anticipated service in 10 and 20 year increments. Therefore, it is critical the City of De Pere works cooperatively with GBMSD, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Brown County Planning Commission when the Brown County Sewage Plan is updated following the 2010 Census.

As a portion of the sewer system (and other City infrastructure to a lesser extent) is nearing the end of its design life, an increasingly greater percentage of these components will need to be replaced over the coming years. To ensure the most efficient and cost-effective sewerage system possible, replacement, rehabilitation, and new construction should take place in a planned and coordinated manner. For instance, whenever possible, sanitary system modifications within a specific area should be undertaken at the

same time as water, stormwater, and/or road construction or reconstruction so that construction impacts are minimized and efficiency between the projects is maximized. Also, the development/redevelopment of lands adjacent to and the use of underutilized infrastructure should be encouraged over the extension of new infrastructure. When the extension of infrastructure is warranted, it should be provided in such a manner that encourages compact and contiguous development patterns.

Based upon this information, it is recommended that the City continue its long-range planning, maintenance, and funding activities in coordination with the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District to ensure that its sewage collection system remains adequately sized for anticipated growth and development.

It is also recommended that the City of De Pere expand its collection and treatment systems in conformance with the 5-year growth increments identified within this plan, promoting infill development and efficient and cost-effective growth patterns. In a related matter, it is recommended that the City of De Pere work with the GBMSD to ensure that similar growth patterns and sanitary sewer extension policies are established within other portions of the GBMSD area.

#### **Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems**

Onsite sewage disposal systems are those that store, treat, or dispose of wastewater (or perform a combination of these functions) on the site at which the wastewater is generated. Onsite sewage disposal systems are used in those areas that are not served by offsite systems. Typical examples of onsite systems include holding tanks, conventional septic systems, or mound systems used by individual homeowners and small businesses located in rural areas.

In 2009, there were a total of 16 onsite sewage disposal systems in De Pere. Additional onsite systems, other than those within future annexations, are not anticipated during the timeframe of this plan. It is assumed the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District will provide for all wastewater treatment and disposal within the City.

#### **Water Supply**

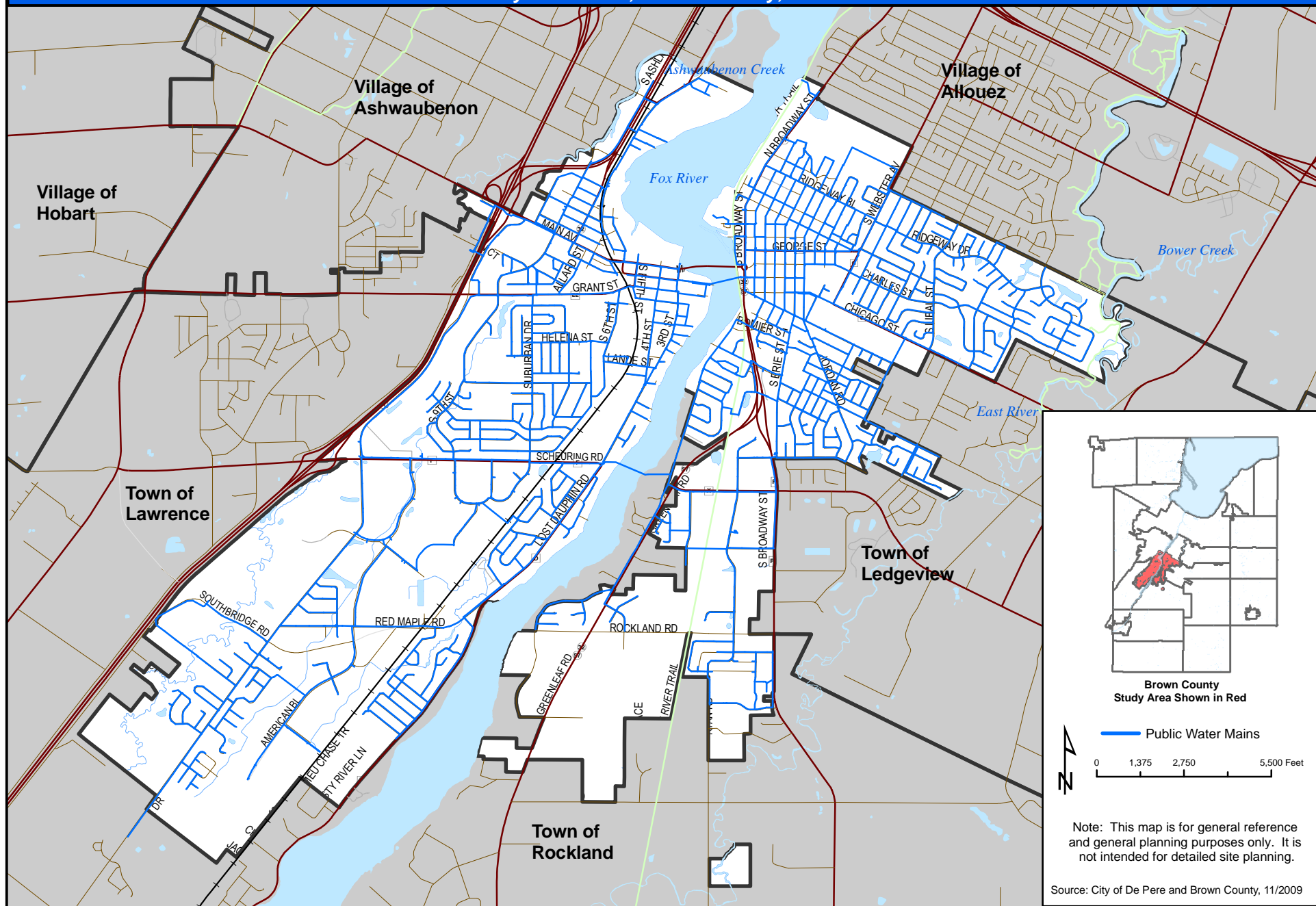
In conjunction with sanitary sewer service, drinking water is one of the more important and traditional elements of urban infrastructure. In addition, where one is provided, the other is also often present. Water mains often share many of the same easements and are often extended concurrently with sanitary sewers.

In 2009, there were over 119 miles of water transmission pipe. Figure 6-2 displays the location of the existing public water main network. In recent years, the City has averaged about 1.5 miles of new pipe construction and about 3 miles of pipe reconstruction each year.

The City of De Pere receives its drinking (potable) water through the Central Brown County Water Authority (CBCWA), which is a wholesale purchaser of potable water from the City of Manitowoc. The City of De Pere has been a member of the CBCWA since its inception in 1999 and the CBCWA is currently comprised of the communities of



Figure 6-2  
**Public Water System**  
City of De Pere, Brown County, WI



De Pere, Allouez, Bellevue, Howard, Lawrence, and Ledgeview. The wells which formerly provided all of the water to the City now provide back-up in case of an emergency. A review of the 2008 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Consumer Confidence Report for the City of Manitowoc Waterworks indicates that of the 107 potential contaminants tested, there were no results exceeding WDNR standards.

Similar to the recommendations regarding the City's sewerage system, it is recommended that the City continue its long-range planning, maintenance, and funding activities in cooperation with the Central Brown County Water Authority to ensure De Pere's water supply and transmission system remain adequately sized for anticipated growth and development. The City of De Pere should continue to extend its water supply and transmission system in conformance with the 5-year growth increments identified within this plan, promoting infill development and efficient and cost-effective growth patterns.

### **Solid Waste Collection and Disposal**

Solid waste collection and disposal is another example of traditional infrastructure provided by many urban communities to protect the health, welfare, and safety of its citizens.

Prior to the 1970s, solid waste from Brown County's communities and businesses was put in unregulated garbage dumps or burned in unregulated incinerators. In 1976, Brown County built the East Landfill, the first engineered landfill in Wisconsin. Shortly thereafter, Brown County built the West Landfill, the second engineered landfill in Wisconsin. These landfills were an environmentally- and economically-sound alternative to previous methods of solid waste disposal. The City of De Pere first began to transfer its solid waste to the Brown County landfills in the late 1970s. Beginning in 2003, its solid waste, as well as the rest of Brown County's, was transported to the Brown County Solid Waste Transfer Station located at the West Landfill where it is then transported to the Outagamie County landfill.

The City of De Pere Department of Public Works provides collection of solid waste within the City. Garbage is collected on a weekly basis. In February of 2004, an automated collection system was initiated. Garbage and recycling services are provided to all single-family through 4-unit residential facilities through this new system. All others, including those single-family through 4-unit residential facilities that generate more garbage and recyclables on a weekly basis than can be accommodated by five carts, must contract with private firms for garbage and recyclable collection.

With regard to bulk items, the City of De Pere has specific rules and regulations depending on the item to be picked-up. The City of De Pere website should be consulted for specific items.

The City of De Pere Compost Facility is located on Rockland Road immediately west of the Fox River Trail. The facility is a cooperative effort between the City of De Pere and Town of Ledgeview. Residents of either De Pere or Ledgeview need to have a permit in order to drop off yard waste. Hours vary depending on the season.



The City of De Pere currently provides a high quality service in its comprehensive solid waste collection and disposal program and that maintenance of this program will continue to meet the needs of the community during the 20-year span of this plan.

### **Recycling**

An increasing number of communities are realizing that the slogan “reduce, reuse, and recycle” is a significant factor in protecting the environment. The benefits of recycling are numerous and include saving natural resources, saving energy, reducing the need for landfill space and incineration, reducing pollution, reducing local solid waste management costs, and creating jobs and businesses.

The City of De Pere provides its own collection of recyclable wastes through single-stream recycling containers. One recycling container is provided at cost to all single-family to 4-unit residential developments. All other developments must also purchase the garbage carts from the City for both garbage and recyclable materials. The City picks up the recyclable materials once every other week. These materials are then transported to the Brown County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) and disposed of by Brown County. Recyclable waste collection or disposal needs in excess of this are the responsibility of the individual property owner.

It is envisioned that the current method of recycling will continue to be adequate during the next 20 years; although, this service will be periodically reviewed in the future.

### **Stormwater Management**

In 1987, the federal government passed an amendment to the Clean Water Act which included several regulations relating to stormwater management and nonpoint source pollution control. The programs created by this legislation are administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and are targeted to control nonpoint source pollution from municipal, industrial, and construction site runoff.

Due to revisions to the federal programs in 1999 and corresponding changes to Wisconsin Administrative Code, these federal programs apply to most communities, including the City of De Pere, for most construction sites one acre or larger in size. Within the City of De Pere, these requirements also apply to many ongoing City activities, such as road and utility reconstruction and grounds maintenance.

As stated in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ model stormwater runoff ordinance, uncontrolled stormwater runoff from land development activity has a significant impact upon water resources and the health, safety, and general welfare of the community. Uncontrolled stormwater runoff can:

- Degrade physical stream habitat by increasing stream bank erosion, increasing streambed scour, diminishing groundwater recharge, and diminishing stream base flows.
- Diminish the capacity of lakes and streams to support fish, aquatic life, recreational, and water supply uses by increasing loadings of nutrients and other urban pollutants.

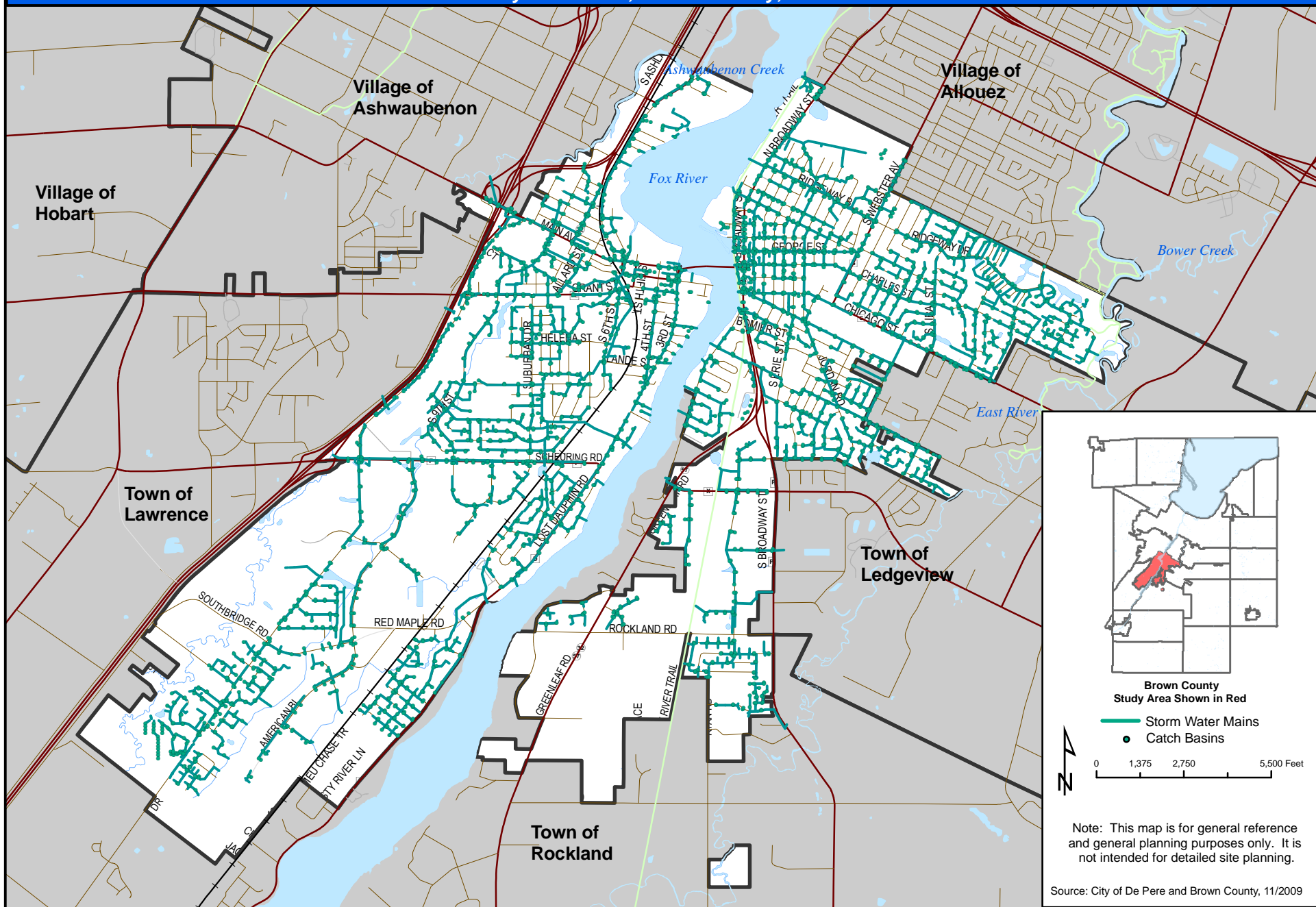
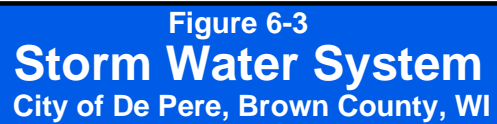
- Alter wetland communities by changing wetland hydrology and by increasing pollutant loads.
- Reduce the quality of groundwater by increasing pollutant loads.
- Threaten public health, safety, property, and general welfare by overtaxing storm sewers, drainageways, and other minor drainage facilities.
- Threaten public health, safety, property, and general welfare by increasing major flood peaks and volumes.
- Undermine floodplain management efforts by increasing the incidence and levels of flooding.
- Diminish the public enjoyment of natural resources.

As urban development increases, so do these risks. Research indicates that many of these concerns become evident when impervious surfaces (rooftops, roads, parking lots, etc.) within a watershed reach 10 percent. A typical medium density residential subdivision can contain about 35 to 45 percent impervious surfaces. Therefore, such adverse impacts can occur long before the majority of a watershed becomes developed.

The City of De Pere's current stormwater system is comprised of a conveyance system consisting of swales, roadside ditches, storm sewers, culverts, and channels and a storage system consisting of wetlands, wetland remnants, and constructed stormwater detention facilities. This system transports stormwater runoff from developed lands to the Fox and East Rivers. In 2009, the City of De Pere Public Works Department maintained approximately 116 miles of storm sewers and numerous stormwater detention ponds. The location of the City's stormwater system is shown in Figure 6-3.

The City of De Pere first adopted a stormwater management plan and ordinance in January 1999. The plan recommended a comprehensive course of action to address the stormwater management needs of the City for the foreseeable future. General objectives of the plan included to attain the water resource and nonpoint source pollution goals set forth in the Ashwaubenon Creek, East River, and Fox River nonpoint sources control plans, to minimize the potential for downstream flooding from future development, and to set a 50 percent sediment reduction as the City's pollutant reduction goal. As a result, the plan recommended:

- Vigorous enforcement of the City's current construction site erosion control ordinance.
- Preparation and adoption of a stormwater management ordinance.
- Control of potential sources of pollution.
- Drainage system improvements.
- Public education and information.
- Development of structural best management practices, including construction of 11 new detention ponds, reconstruction of 5 existing detention ponds, and an inline treatment device/vegetative filter strip.
- Reduce ravine erosion.



Subsequent to adoption of the stormwater management plan and ordinance, in 2005 the City of De Pere created a stormwater utility to fund the ongoing maintenance and improvement activity of stormwater management. Each property owner in the City is assessed a stormwater fee based upon the amount of impervious surface on their property, resulting in a contributing source to the City's stormwater system as set forth in Chapter 28 of the De Pere Municipal Code. Furthermore, by virtue of the City being located within a federally-recognized "urbanized area" De Pere has adopted Chapter 29 of the municipal code to regulate the introduction of pollutants and illegal connections to the City's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). In order to further educate the public regarding stormwater and meet the requirements of its MS4 permit, the City of De Pere is a member of the Northeastern Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium (NEWSC). NEWSC provides member communities with educational materials and training to ensure continued compliance with the public educational requirements of each community's MS4 permit.

The City of De Pere will need to continually monitor state and federal legislative actions regarding stormwater management requirements to ensure continued compliance with rapidly evolving mandates.

### **Public Parks and Recreation**

The presence of outdoor recreation and open space adds to a community's quality of life. It enhances the attractiveness of and fosters a sense of civic pride in the community. Furthermore, the provision of an adequate supply of areas, facilities, and activities to accommodate the public's open space and recreational needs has been demonstrated to promote the general health, welfare, and safety of the community and its citizens.

The City of De Pere has long recognized the importance of outdoor recreation and open space. It established its first park, Wilson Park, in 1874 at the intersection of College Avenue and Fourth Street on the west side of the City. Its first comprehensive plan, prepared in 1972, specifically addressed park and recreation issues and included goals and objectives that called for the protection of unique natural areas and the development of the recreational potential of the Fox and East Rivers. De Pere completed its first comprehensive park and outdoor recreation plan in 1987 and most recently updated it in 2007.

### **Parks**

As shown in Figures 6-4 and Figure 6-5, the City of De Pere currently contains 35 public park sites encompassing a total of 471.8 acres, including those park or recreation facilities owned by Brown County or the State of Wisconsin.

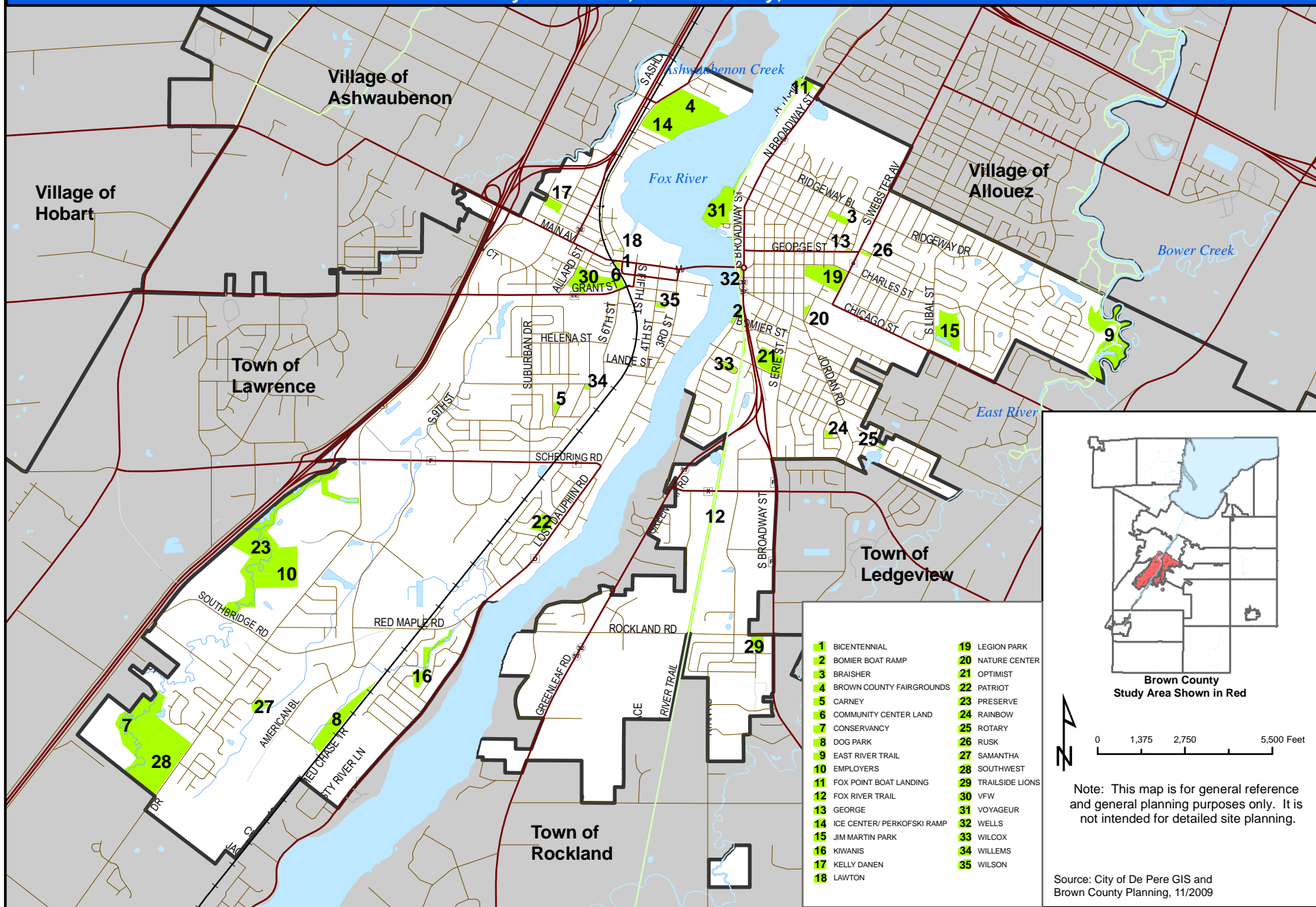
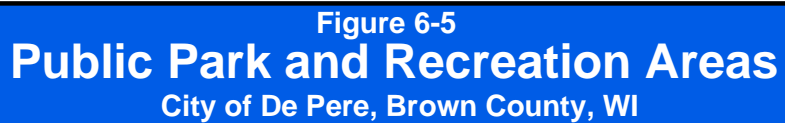
As explained in the City's 2007 comprehensive park and outdoor recreation plan update, the City classifies its parks into five types: mini parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, urban greenspace/open space parks, and single/special purpose park facilities.

Mini parks typically provide open space for passive and some limited active recreation opportunities. They are designed and located to be used by people of all ages (but especially by the elderly and parents with very young children), to be within walking

distance of intended users (approximately one-eighth mile), to serve a portion of a neighborhood (about 250 to 1,250 people), and to be about one acre in size. Mini parks often include some combination of scenic areas, woods, landscaping, basic playground equipment, sidewalks, and benches.

**Figure 6-4: City of De Pere Parks**

Site Name	Acreage	Type
Bicentennial	0.4	mini park
Bomier Boat Ramp	1.7	special purpose
Braisher Park	3.1	neighborhood park
Brown County Fairgrounds	36.1	community park
Carney Park	1.0	mini park
Community Center Land	4.8	greenspace
Conservancy (The)	54.6	greenspace
De Pere Dog Park	19.0	special purpose
East River Trail and Conservancy	39.0	greenspace
Employers Park	25.6	community park
Fox Point Boat Launch	4.5	special purpose
Fox River Trail	33.2	special purpose
George Street Park	0.1	mini park
Ice Center / Perkofski Boat Landing	18.4	special purpose
Jim Martin Park	17.2	community park
Kelly Danen Park	3.6	neighborhood park
Kiwanis Park	10.5	neighborhood park
Lawton Park	0.2	mini park
Legion Park	16.2	community park
Nature Center	0.9	mini park
Optimist Park	11.7	community park
Patriot Park	5.7	neighborhood park
Preserve (The)	75.5	greenspace
Rainbow Park	1.0	mini park
Rotary Park	0.7	neighborhood park
Rusk Park	0.8	mini park
Samantha Street Park	3.0	neighborhood park
Southwest Park	41.1	community park
Trailside Park	4.2	neighborhood park
VFW Park	12.2	community park
Voyageur Park	21.7	community park
Wells Park	0.7	neighborhood park
Wilcox Park	1.9	neighborhood park
Willems Park	0.5	neighborhood park
Wilson Park	1.0	neighborhood park
<b>Total</b>	<b>471.8</b>	<b>35 parks</b>



Neighborhood parks typically provide both passive and active recreation opportunities. They are designed and located to be used by people of all ages (but especially by older children and teenagers), to be within walking distance of intended users (about one-quarter mile), to serve a neighborhood-sized area (about 500 to 2,500 people), and to be about five to ten acres in size. Neighborhood parks usually include a combination of passive areas, such as scenic, wooded and landscaped areas, and facilities, such as picnic areas, pathways, playground equipment, shelters, open playfields, basketball and tennis courts, and ballfields.

Community parks typically provide active and some limited passive recreation opportunities. They are designed and located to be used by people of all ages (but especially by older teenagers and adults), to be as near to its users as possible, to serve an area several neighborhoods in size with a population of about 2,500 to 20,000 people, and to be about 20 to 35 acres in size. Community parks primarily include more elaborate active recreational opportunities than neighborhood parks, but they also provide some limited passive recreation opportunities, such as trails and picnic areas.

Urban greenspace and open space parks typically provide open space, protection of natural features, and/or buffers between different land uses. They are designed and located to meet these needs, often encompass woodlands, floodplains, and wetlands, and often include trails. As such, they do not have any service area or per capita standards.

Single/special purpose park facilities typically provide features or facilities unique to the community. They often include such facilities as zoos, marinas, fairgrounds, historic sites, or archeological sites. As unique sites or facilities, they do not have any service area or per capita standards.

The following is a brief summary of the facilities provided at each City of De Pere park and open space site:

- Bicentennial Park provides landscaped open space.
- Bomier Boat Ramp provides a boat launch (one ramp), fishing, picnic area, and restrooms.
- Braisher Park provides a playground, basketball court, soccer field, picnic area, shelter, and restrooms.
- Brown County Fairgrounds provides camping and river access when the fairgrounds are not in use for a special event
- Carney Park provides a playground and picnic area.
- Community Center Land is the grassy yards on either side of the De Pere Community Center.
- Conservancy (The) is the wooded area along Ashwaubenon Creek in the southwestern part of the City.
- De Pere Dog Park provides an area for licensed dogs to exercise off leash.
- East River Trail and Conservancy provides open space and a multiuse trail.

- Humana Sports Park provides two softball fields.
- Fox Point Boat Launch provides a boat launch (six ramps), fishing, picnic area, restrooms, and parking.
- Fox River Trail is a paved asphalt trail and right-of-way extending north to south through the east side of the City.
- George Street Park provides landscaped open space.
- Ice Center / Perkofski Boat Landing are located south of the Brown County Fairgrounds and include an enclosed ice center for hockey and figure skating and a boat launch to the Fox River.
- Jim Martin Park provides a playground, basketball court, football field, soccer fields, volleyball court, picnic area, trails, and parking.
- Kelly Danen Park provides two little league baseball diamonds, picnic area, restrooms, concession stand, and parking.
- Kiwanis Park provides playground equipment, soccer fields, and a sledding hill.
- Lawton Park provides a playground and picnic area.
- Legion Park provides playgrounds, a basketball court, three tennis courts, volleyball court, soccer field, hockey/skating rink, softball diamond, swimming pool and bathhouse, picnic area, trails, shelters, concession stand, restrooms, and parking.
- Nature Center provides a picnic area, shelter, and landscaped open space.
- Optimist Park provides a playground, basketball court, softball diamond, non-league baseball diamond, soccer field, football field, picnic area, restrooms, shelter, trails, and parking.
- Patriot Park provides a playground, basketball court, soccer field, skating rink, picnic area, shelter with restrooms, and parking.
- Preserve (The) includes the wooded ravine associated with Ashwaubenon Creek adjacent to the USH 41. Rustic trails extend throughout the conservancy area.
- Rainbow Park provides a playground and picnic area.
- Rotary Park provides open space and an open air gazebo.
- Rusk Park provides a picnic area.
- Southwest Park provides six soccer fields, a baseball diamond, indoor shelter, concession stands, and restrooms.
- Trailside Lions Park provides a sledding hill and trails.
- VFW Park provides a playground, basketball court, three tennis courts, volleyball court, softball field, soccer field, hockey/skating rink, swimming pool and bathhouse, picnic area, shelters, restrooms, concession stand, and parking.
- Voyageur Park provides a playground, fishing piers, picnic area, shelters, restrooms, trails, and parking.
- Wells Park provides a picnic area and a sledding hill.



- Wilcox Park provides a picnic area.
- Willems Park provides a playground and picnic area.
- Wilson Park provides a playground and picnic area.

The City constructed a community center at VFW Park at the northwest corner of Grant Street and South Sixth Street in the northwestern portion of the City near downtown. This 2-story community center is a broad-based facility intended to provide a wide variety of uses for the entire community. It includes two large activity areas (large enough to accommodate up to 200 people each), two meeting rooms, a multi-purpose room, game room, and lounge. It also provides public computer workstations and room for many Park Department staff and NWTC classes, as well as the Brown County Nutrition (Meals on Wheels) Program. The facility and its rooms are available for rent.

As shown on Figure 6-6, the City of De Pere has two paved off-road multi-use trails. Existing trails include the Fox River Trail, the East River Trail, and the rustic trails located within The Greenway and The Preserve. These trails are planned to extend along Ashwaubenon Creek and connect the Southwest Park to The Preserve, and The Conservancy, and eventually connect to the Fox River and East River trails.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources owns and Brown County maintains the Fox River State Recreational Trail located along the east side of the Fox River from the City of Green Bay to the Brown-Calumet County line. The trail is paved with asphalt from its start in Green Bay, through Allouez and De Pere to Rockland Road, where it transitions into a crushed limestone surface. The Fox River Trail provides an excellent opportunity for biking, walking, or rollerblading for exercise as well as providing a safe, alternative route for commuters who wish to bike to work along the corridor.

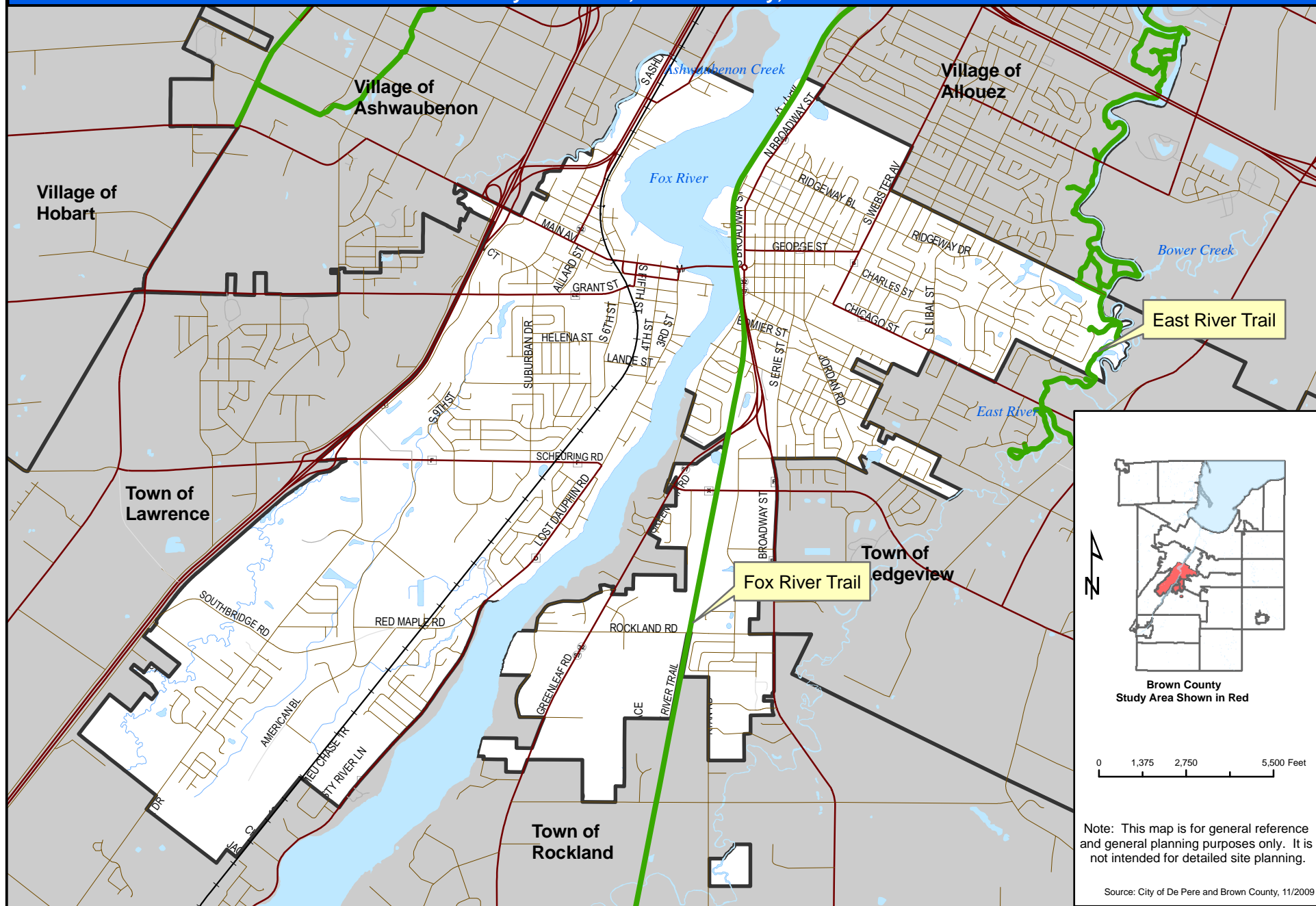
### **School Recreation Sites**

The Unified De Pere School District provides recreational facilities at its four schools located in the City and its two schools located in the Town of Ledgeview. Both the facilities within the City and those within the Town are available to City residents. The De Pere school sites and their recreational facilities consist of:

- De Pere High School and its seven tennis courts, two soccer fields, track/football field, and parking.
- De Pere Middle School (located in the Town of Ledgeview immediately adjacent to the City of De Pere and the De Pere High School) and its baseball field, two softball fields, basketball courts, and parking.
- Foxview Intermediate School and its playground.
- Altmayer Elementary School and its playgrounds and basketball court
- Dickinson Elementary School and its playground, basketball court, baseball field, and track/football fields.
- Heritage Elementary School and its two softball diamonds and basketball courts.



Figure 6-6  
**Multi-Use Trail Corridors**  
City of De Pere, Brown County, WI



**East River Trail**

**Fox River Trail**

**Town of Edgemoor**

**Town of Rockland**

**Town of Lawrence**

**Village of Ashwaubenon**

**Village of Allouez**

**Village of Hobart**

**Ashwaubenon Creek**

**Fox River**

**Bower Creek**

**East River**

**Southbridge Rd**

**Red Maple Rd**

**American Bl**

**Red Chase Tr**

**City River Ln**

**Greenleaf Rd**

**Rockland Rd**

**Joe River Trail**

**Broadway St**

**1st St**

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**97th St**

**98th St**

**99th St**

**100th St**

**0**

**1,375**

**2,750**

**5,500 Feet**

**Note:** This map is for general reference and general planning purposes only. It is not intended for detailed site planning.

**Source:** City of De Pere and Brown County, 11/2009

- The West De Pere School District provides recreational facilities at its three schools located in the City and its one school located in the Town of Lawrence. Both the facilities within the City and those within the Town are available to City residents. The school sites located in the City and their recreational facilities consist of:
  - West De Pere High School and its three tennis courts, baseball field, track/football field, practice fields, and parking.
  - West De Pere Middle School and its minor league baseball diamond, two softball diamonds, and soccer fields.
  - Westwood Elementary School and its playground, soccer fields, and parking.

St. Norbert College provides recreational facilities within the City, including a baseball field, softball field, soccer fields at the St. Norbert soccer fields, and a ball-field at the St. Norbert practice field. These facilities are available to City residents.

The City of De Pere has an agreement with Syble Hopp School for City residents to utilize the Syble Hopp School pool during the fall and winter months for exercise and swim classes.

In addition to its park, recreation, and open space sites and facilities, the City of De Pere is also home to many local nonprofit and volunteer organizations that provide a significant amount of assistance and guidance to the City on these matters. Such organizations include the De Pere Area Chamber of Commerce and the De Pere Historical Society.

## **Forestry**

Among the services the City of De Pere Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department provides for its citizens is tree orders and tree planting along the boulevards and terraces in front of residential and business districts. The department also plants trees within its parks and parkways and offers education and training to citizens about such issues as proper tree maintenance and pests. The City of De Pere participates in and has been designated a Tree City USA community for the past 13 years.

## **Planning**

The City of De Pere prepared its third and latest comprehensive park and open space plan in 1998 and was most recently updated in 2007. That plan, entitled City of De Pere Comprehensive Park & Outdoor Recreation Plan, was a comprehensive inventory and assessment of parks, outdoor recreation, and open space in the City. It also provided goals and objectives for the protection, maintenance, and acquisition of new sites and facilities. Its recommendations covered a gamut of topics from general upkeep and maintenance to new acquisition.

In accordance with the recommendations of various plans, including the City of De Pere Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan, the East River Trail Extension Plan, and the East River Parkway Plan, the City is currently working with the communities of Allouez, Bellevue, and Ledgeview on an expansion of the East River Trail. The City of De Pere, together with the Village of Allouez, applied for and received a stewardship grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the expansion of the trail from the

vicinity of Lebrun Street into the City of De Pere. Work on this trail extension is completed. The Town of Ledgeview to the south is also constructing the first portions of its segment of the East River Trail. Continuation of these efforts will establish a continuous trail along the East River from the City of Green Bay through the Village of Allouez and the City of De Pere through the Town of Ledgeview. The City should continue its efforts to establish a continuous parkway and trail along Ashwaubenon Creek from the new Southwest Park to The Preserve and establish a comprehensive trail system throughout the City.

To capitalize upon the benefits provided by the City's numerous and high quality park, recreation, and open space sites, it is recommended that the City continue its efforts to plan, acquire, develop, and maintain its park, recreation, and open space system. This would include continuation of its 5-year Capital Improvement Program. As residential neighborhoods continue to be developed within newly annexed portions of the City, land for small neighborhood parks should also continue to be set aside. This would also help address the issue of maintaining De Pere's small town atmosphere, an often-raised issue in the visioning session for this plan.

It is also recommended that the City maintain its close ties with and support of its many local nonprofit and volunteer organizations. With such assistance, the City can accomplish more with its park and recreation system than it could otherwise. For the same reasons, the City should also continue to expand, where possible, its current practice of sharing facilities and joint planning with the school districts. This is particularly appropriate as participation in baseball, softball, and soccer leagues continues to increase within the City.

Because of the value and benefits associated with cooperation and sharing of services and facilities (not the least of which is potential cost savings and efficiencies), the City should pursue extending its joint cooperative efforts to its neighboring communities and to private schools, such as St. Norbert.

The City should continue its cooperative efforts with Brown County regarding the County fairgrounds. In this regard, the City's development/enhancement of the boat launch and shoreline should be coordinated with the County, and the City should be involved in any County planning efforts regarding the future of the fairgrounds.

Because of the importance of the City's park system, the provision of adequate funding is vital. Therefore, the City's park impact fee, which was created to ensure an equitable system for the acquisition, development, maintenance, and replacement of its parks and outdoor recreation sites and facilities, should be continued and periodically reviewed. It is also recommended that the City continue its cooperation with the many nonprofit and volunteer organizations.

To provide recreational services in an efficient and effective manner and to maintain eligibility for state and federal recreational grants, most communities identify planning principles and guidelines as an integral element of recreation and open space programs. That process is typically formalized in a park and open space plan. The City's park plan was last updated in 2007. To maintain eligibility for state and federal park, open space, and outdoor recreation grants, such plans must be updated and adopted by the

community every five years. To adequately determine the park and recreation needs of the community and to meet such needs in as efficient and cost-effective manner as possible, such plans should also be updated whenever population or growth trends change. Such plans should be coordinated with the natural and cultural resource protection and preservation efforts of the community. As the park and recreation plan was most recently updated in 2007, there is not a pressing need to update it in the immediate future. However, the plan should be reviewed within the next year to ensure it continues to meet the City's needs. As the plan has been updated a number of times since its original adoption, the City should consider a comprehensive public input process and rewrite of the plan to account for the multitude of changes experienced by the City.

### **Telecommunication**

AT&T provides landline phone service to the City of De Pere. This includes internet access by cable modem and DSL. Current trends in the telecommunications industry point to a greater demand for high-speed Internet access and cellular communications in the future. Before any cellular communications facilities are approved, the City should continue to ensure that all possible efforts are undertaken to collocate them and to ensure that adequate easements or other necessary rights-of-way are available, as well as adequate design standards for the associated infrastructure.

As the field of telecommunications continues to grow with the advent of smart phones and increasing reliance on instantaneous communication for business, it is critical that the infrastructure associated with these services be continually upgraded. This is particularly important with regard to high-speed Internet access and wireless phone coverage to businesses within De Pere's growing business parks. The City will need to strongly encourage the telecommunications providers to continue to expand their services along with the growth of the business parks.

### **Power Generation**

Electricity and natural gas are provided in the City of De Pere by Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS). WPS provides electricity and natural gas to all of Brown County, as well as most of northeastern Wisconsin, including all or portions of 24 counties. In 2004, WPS converted all electric and gas meters in the City to new automated meters resulting in better accuracy, fewer estimated readings, and a quicker response to outages.

It is anticipated that this service will continue to be provided by the private sector and will continue to meet the demands of the City.

### **Cemeteries**

There are two cemeteries within the City of De Pere: the Erie Street and Mount Olivet cemeteries. In addition, two large cemeteries are located in the Village of Allouez approximately two miles north of the City.

While additional demands for this service should continue to be addressed by the private sector, the City should encourage such uses within its own community when properly designed and located.

### **Healthcare**

The City of De Pere provides a wide range of healthcare services to City residents through its health department. While many services are state mandated, some programs are provided voluntarily by the City. All of these services are provided to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of De Pere. Programs and services offered by the health department include:

- Communicable diseases investigations. For instance, tuberculosis testing is often free to City residents.
- Immunization clinics. Immunizations for childhood illnesses, including diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles/mumps/rubella, hepatitis, and chickenpox, are provided to City residents (primarily children) in accordance with Wisconsin's immunization laws.
- Adult health clinics/chronic disease management. This includes blood pressure screening, health assessments and monitoring, and flu clinics, including home and office visits.
- Maternal/child health promotion. Includes education/assessment for children with special needs, childhood lead poisoning, and a parenting newsletter.
- School health promotion. This includes vision, hearing, and scoliosis screenings, health assessments, classroom education, and health counseling for the private schools located within the City.
- Occupational health promotion for City employees.
- Environmental services. Includes food, beverage, and lodging licensing, inspections and education, rodent, insect, and pest control, and human health hazard investigations. The City has recently established a full-time position in order to provide these services in a more efficient and coordinated manner.
- Animal control.

The City of De Pere Health Department also works closely with other departments and agencies regarding health and safety issues by providing staff and other support for these efforts as needed.

It is anticipated that these services will be adequate for the time-frame of this comprehensive plan.

The City of De Pere also relies on private healthcare providers. St. Vincent Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Aurora BayCare Hospital, and the Bellin Health Hospital Center are all located in the City of Green Bay about four miles north of De Pere. Two large general practice clinics are located adjacent to the City in the Town of Ledgeview and Village of Allouez. In addition, two general medical clinics, approximately seven chiropractors, and approximately seven dentists are located within the City of De Pere.

While additional demands for hospitals and medical clinics should continue to be addressed primarily by the private sector, the City should encourage such uses within its own community when properly designed and located and some services may warrant provision by the City.

### **Elderly Care**

Numerous elderly care facilities are located within the City. These include at least four nursing homes, two assisted living projects, and two residential care facilities.

While additional demands should continue to be addressed primarily by the private sector, the City should encourage such uses within its own community when properly designed and located. However, some services may warrant provision by the City.

### **Childcare**

De Pere has approximately seven childcare/preschool facilities located within the City.

Additional demands should continue to be addressed by the private sector, and the City should encourage such uses within its own community when properly designed and located.

### **Emergency Services**

The City of De Pere provides a full range of emergency services, including its own Police Department and Fire Rescue Department.

#### **Police**

The City of De Pere Police Department is a full service, community-oriented law enforcement agency. It is located within the City Hall Complex Building. It consists of an appointed police chief, 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 9 sergeants, 22 patrol officers, 1 community resource officer, 1 business manager, 5 secretaries, 2 community services officers, and 25 crossing guards. The department is managed by the police chief and is divided into three divisions.

The administrative division is responsible for department records, employment, and technology issues.

The field services division is responsible for patrol, crossing guard, parking, and internal affairs issues.

The support services division is responsible for investigation, school liaison, and crime prevention issues.

The Police Department provides protection on a 24-hours-a-day seven-days-a-week basis for the entire City and coordinates with numerous other emergency services agencies, including the Brown County Sheriff's Department, neighboring police departments, and

the Brown County Department of Public Safety Communications (which operates the Public Safety Answering Points 911 service for all of Brown County).

The De Pere Police Department has identified only routine maintenance and upkeep are anticipated for the next 20 years for its buildings and facilities. However, it can be noted that increasing population levels, a more diverse population, and a desire of City residents to establish and maintain closer ties to the Police Department, have warranted a change in philosophy in how the De Pere Police Department serves the community. This community based/team approach to policing is intended to assign officers to geographic portions of the City so that the officers and department can form deeper and more lasting connections and relationships with the neighborhoods they are assigned to.

It is also envisioned that the Police Department will continue its mutual aid agreements with its neighboring communities and the school districts. It is recommended that the City maintain communication between the Police Department and the school districts to ensure that appropriate police service can be arranged for any new schools that may be constructed over the next 20 years.

## **Fire**

The City of De Pere Fire Rescue Department provides high quality proactive and reactive fire and rescue services. It includes two fire stations, one located on each side of the City. The east side station, Fire Station No. 1, is located in the City Hall Complex building. It consists of an appointed fire chief, one assistant fire chief, three captains, three lieutenants, 17 firefighters, three mechanics, and one secretary. The department is managed by the fire chief and provides fire and rescue services to the entire City, as well as rescue services to the Town of Lawrence and to the western half of the Town of Ledgeview.

The department's services consist of public education, fire protection, inspections, enforcement, emergency medical services (including advanced life support care), staff training and education, incident response, and mutual aid. The fire and police departments also provide joint educational programs such as a citizens academy, a driver awareness program, and open house events.

The De Pere Fire Rescue Department has identified a number of improvements that will be needed to maintain and enhance fire and rescue services within the City. These include provision of a new fully equipped and staffed fire station on the City's southwest side, which is to be constructed at about the same time as the southern bridge is constructed.

The following recommendation concerns both the police and fire departments equally:

- The provision of police, fire, and rescue services should continue to be provided in a cost-effective and equitable manner to meet the needs of all components of the City's population. This includes not only continuously re-evaluating these services to ensure their cost-effectiveness and appropriateness but also ensuring that the expansion of these services to a larger area and larger population can occur in a planned fashion as the City continues to grow. In this regard, identification of sites



and acquisition of land for future additional police or fire stations must be addressed as soon as feasible. Discussion has already begun on the possible need for a new fire station in the southwest portion of the City.

### **Libraries**

The City of De Pere relies upon the public not-for-profit Brown County Library system to meet its library needs. Of the nine libraries that make up the Brown County Library system, one (and the newest) is located within the City. The Kress Family Branch Library, located near the east side of the Fox River in downtown De Pere, was completed and opened to the public in July 2003. It is 24,000 square feet in size and includes special reading rooms, community fireplace, view of the Fox River, children's area, and outdoor reading porch and terraced garden. The Brown County Library system provides a local history and genealogy department, various adult programs, and numerous children's programs. All of these services are available to City residents.

It is anticipated that the current Brown County Library system will continue to meet the needs of the City of De Pere during the 20-year planning period.

Additionally De Pere residents have access to the Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library on the St. Norbert College campus.

### **Schools**

The City is located within two separate school districts: the Unified School District of De Pere and the West De Pere School District.

#### **Unified School District of De Pere**

The Unified School District of De Pere encompasses an area approximately 60 square miles in size and includes the City of De Pere east of the Fox River, a portion of the Village of Bellevue, a majority of the Towns of Glenmore, Ledgeview, Morrison, and Rockland, and a small portion of the Town of Wrightstown. Approximately 62 percent of the District's students currently live within the City of De Pere, while about 22 percent reside within the Town of Ledgeview, 8 percent reside within the Town of Rockland, 4 percent reside within the Town of Glenmore, 2 percent reside within the Town of Morrison, and about 1 percent each reside within the Town of Wrightstown and the Village of Bellevue.

Currently, the school district has an enrollment of 3,741 students. The school district provides a comprehensive K-12 grade educational program with three elementary schools (K-4), one intermediate school (5-6), one middle school (7-8), and one high school (9-12). Most non-City students are bused to and from school. The school district consists of:

- Alt Mayer Elementary School. This facility is located in the far southeastern portion of the City of De Pere, at the northeast corner of Ryan Road and Diversity Drive. The school houses kindergarten through fourth grade with an enrollment of 419 students

and is situated on approximately 24 acres of land. The school district owns an additional 44 acres of vacant, buildable land immediately south of Diversity Drive.

- Dickinson Elementary School. This facility is located immediately west of the De Pere High School at the northeast corner of Merrill Street and South Washington Street in the east-central portion of the City. It currently houses kindergarten through grade 4 with an enrollment of 481 students. The facility encompasses about 30 acres, of which the school building and parking lots encompass about 6 acres of the site, and the remainder is comprised of outdoor recreational facilities.
- Heritage Elementary School. This facility is located at the northwest corner of Swan Road and Heritage Road in the western portion of the Town of Ledgeview immediately adjacent to the City of De Pere. It currently houses kindergarten through grade 4 with an enrollment of 444 students. The facility encompasses about 23 acres, of which the school building and parking lots encompass about 10 acres of the site, and the remainder is comprised of outdoor recreational facilities.
- Foxview Intermediate School. This facility is located at the southwest corner of Merrill Street and Broadway Street in the central portion of the City. It currently houses grades 5 and 6 with an enrollment of 605 students. The facility encompasses about 6 acres, of which the school building and parking lots encompass about 4 acres of the site, and the remainder is comprised of outdoor recreational facilities.
- De Pere Middle School. This facility is located immediately southeast of the high school west of Swan Road in the western portion of the Town of Ledgeview immediately adjacent to the City of De Pere. It currently houses grades 7 and 8 with an enrollment of about 577 students. The facility encompasses about 28 acres, of which the school building and parking lots encompass about 14 acres of the site, and the remainder is comprised of outdoor recreational facilities.
- De Pere High School. This facility is located between Chicago Street and Merrill Street west of Swan Road in the east side of the City. It currently houses grades 9 through 12 with an enrollment of about 1,215 students. The facility encompasses about 38 acres, of which the school building and parking lots encompass about 12 acres of the site, and the remainder is comprised of outdoor recreational facilities.

Altmayer Elementary School was constructed to account for a projected continued increase in student population and relieve capacity issues at the other two elementary schools. The school district will have to closely monitor the large elementary school-age population as they reach Foxview Intermediate School to ensure adequate room continues to be available. In addition, routine maintenance and repair of the existing school sites should continue. Such maintenance and repair typically includes replacement of old plumbing, HVAC systems, and roofs.

Because of the anticipated continued growth within the City of De Pere and adjacent communities, it is strongly recommended that the Unified School District of De Pere work closely with the communities within the district in order to address future demands of population growth in terms of school facilities, joint recreational facilities, and school district boundary changes.

## **West De Pere School District**

The West De Pere School District encompasses an area approximately 43 square miles in size and includes the City of De Pere west of the Fox River and portions of the Villages of Ashwaubenon and Hobart and the Towns of Lawrence and Oneida. As of 2009, the school district's total enrollment was 2,719 students. The school district provides a comprehensive K-12 grade educational program with two elementary schools (K-5), one middle school (6-8), and one high school (9-12). Most non-City students are bused to and from school. The school district consists of:

- Hemlock Creek Elementary School. This is the district's newest school, which opened in 2007 and is located at the southwestern corner of Williams Grant Drive and Potter Drive in the Town of Lawrence. It currently houses kindergarten through fifth grade with a 2009 enrollment of 579 students. The school is located on approximately 44 acres of land.
- Westwood Elementary School. This facility is located adjacent to the West De Pere Middle School at the southwest corner of Westwood Drive and Suburban Drive in the western portion of the City. It currently houses Early Childhood (EC) education, Title I, and kindergarten through grade 5 with an enrollment of about 668 students. The facility encompasses about 22 acres, of which the school building and parking lots encompass about 6 acres of the site, and the remainder is comprised of outdoor recreational facilities.
- West De Pere Middle School. This facility is located adjacent to the Westwood Elementary School at the northeast corner of Westwood Drive and Ninth Street in the western portion of the City. It currently houses grades 6 through 8 with an enrollment of about 531 students. The facility encompasses about 40 acres, of which the school building and parking lots encompass about 9 acres of the site, and the remainder is comprised of outdoor recreational facilities.
- West De Pere High School. This facility is located at the southwest corner of Grant Street and Sixth Street in the west-central portion of the City. It currently houses grades 9 through 12 with an enrollment of about 796 students. The facility encompasses about 28 acres, of which the school building and parking lots encompass about 10 acres of the site, and the remainder is comprised of outdoor recreational facilities. The West De Pere School District has recently expanded the high school.

Because of the anticipated growth within the City of De Pere and adjacent communities, it is strongly recommended that the West De Pere School District work closely with the communities within the district in order to address the demands of this growth in terms of school facilities, joint recreational facilities, and school district boundary changes. An example of such cooperation could include the provision of outdoor recreational facilities at Southwest Park, which should be designed to meet the needs of both the general public and the West De Pere School District.

In addition, routine maintenance and repair of the existing school sites should continue. Such maintenance and repair typically includes replacement of old plumbing, HVAC systems, and roofs.

The following recommendations concern both school districts equally:

- In keeping with the results of the City of De Pere Comprehensive Plan visioning session (particularly encouraging greater cooperation between the City's two school districts and maintenance of the City's low tax rate), cooperation, redistricting, and/or consolidation that promote these issues should be considered. The schools located within the City serve many functions, only one of which is the provision of education. Therefore, it is important for both school districts to continue to research opportunities for cooperation with each other as well as other school districts and units of government in providing these critical services.
- It is further recommended that these schools continue to allow access to their facilities, most notably the recreational facilities, to the residents within their districts and to coordinate this cooperation with the local communities.

### **Other Schools**

In addition to the 10 public schools noted, the City contains a private college, public special education school, three parochial schools, and one private school. They are St. Norbert College, Syble Hopp School, Notre Dame School (Elementary and Middle), Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Creekside Christian Montessori School, and Wisconsin International School.

St. Norbert College is a private catholic liberal arts and sciences institution located in downtown De Pere along the west side of the Fox River. It provides an internationalized curriculum that emphasizes leadership and service and includes both undergraduate and graduate level programs. It has an enrollment of about 2,200 students and a staff of about 525. The college consists of about 40 buildings on approximately 90 acres of land. It contains state-of-the-art telecommunication technology, including computer laboratories, technology-based classrooms, and auditoriums. The college represents a very important economic and cultural component of the City of De Pere.

Syble Hopp School is a public school operated by Brown County and is located in the west-central portion of the City of De Pere. It delivers exceptional educational services to students with developmental disabilities (cognitive and early childhood) from 3 to 21 years of age in the school districts of Ashwaubenon, Denmark, De Pere, Howard/Suamico, Pulaski, West De Pere, and Wrightstown. It has an enrollment of about 150 students.

Notre Dame Catholic School is a private catholic school comprised of an elementary school located at 100 South Huron Street and a separate middle school located at 221 South Wisconsin Street. These two schools house grades K-8. They have an enrollment of about 330 students.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is a private catholic school adjacent to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church located at the southwest corner of Lourdes Avenue and Suburban Drive in the northwestern portion of the City. It houses grades K-8 and offers preschool programs, as well. It has an enrollment of about 350 students and a staff of about 25.

Creekside Christian Montessori School is located at 133 South Superior Street in De Pere and offers pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes to enrolled students.

Wisconsin International School is a private school located 405 Grant Street in De Pere. Wisconsin International School offers preschool and provides college preparatory classes for grades pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

Cooperation between the City and these schools, similar to that recommended for the Unified School District of De Pere and the West De Pere School District, should also be pursued.

### **Post Office**

There is one US Post Office and four contract stations within the City of De Pere. The post office is located southwest of the corner of Main Avenue and South Ninth Street in the northwestern portion of the City.

It is anticipated that this service will continue to meet the needs of the City.

### **Government**

City government buildings include City Hall Complex, the Municipal Service Center, and the De Pere Community Center.

The De Pere City Hall is located at the northeast corner of South Broadway and Chicago Street in the central portion of the City near the east side of the Fox River. The City Hall was initially built in 1970 and was expanded and remodeled in 2003. It is adjacent to and now shares a common foyer with the Public Safety Building. Parking for both City Hall and the Public Safety Building are immediately adjacent to the buildings and are also shared. It contains an elevator and is handicap accessible. City Hall contains staff offices and is used for governmental meetings and gatherings. It contains the offices of the administrator, assessor, attorney, building inspector, clerk-treasurer, council chambers, finance manager, Health Department, Human Resources Department, municipal judge, Planning and Economic Development Department, and the Water Utility Department. It is anticipated that this building could be expanded in the future, if necessary.

The Public Safety Building is also located at the northeast corner of South Broadway and Chicago Street in the central portion of the City, adjacent to City Hall. The two-story structure was built in 1972, was expanded and remodeled in 2003, and is now approximately 40,500 square feet in size. Additional living areas, offices, and training facilities for the Fire Department were added. Parking for both the Public Safety Building and City Hall are immediately adjacent to the buildings and are also shared. It contains an elevator and is handicap accessible. It contains both the Fire Department (Fire Station No. 1) and the Police Department. It is anticipated that this building could be expanded in the future, if necessary.

Fire Station No. 2 is located at the northeast corner of Grant Street and South Ninth Street in the northwestern portion of the City. The structure was built in the early 1970s and is approximately 4,500 square feet in size. The City of De Pere Municipal Service Center is

located at the southeast corner of South Sixth Street and Helena Avenue in the western portion of the City near the downtown area. The structure was built in 1982, was expanded and remodeled in 2002, and is now approximately 55,000 square feet in size. It is divided into four areas: an administrative section, vehicle area, maintenance section, and cold storage section. It contains the offices of the Public Works Department and the Park, Recreation and Forestry Department.

## **Policies and Programs**

There are many approaches the City of De Pere can take to achieve the utilities and community facilities goal and objectives listed in this plan's Issues and Opportunities Chapter. They range from specific one-time actions to broad ongoing programs. A summary of those actions and programs as they pertain to the Utilities and Community Facilities Chapter of this plan is provided in this section.

In addition, while not specifically addressed within this plan, it is generally understood that the City should review its administrative practices to ensure their compatibility with the policies, programs, and actions set forth in this plan. Examples of this would include the employment of an adequate number of staff to carry out the programs recommended in this plan, the provision of continuing professional and technical education to City staff, and the division of department and individual staff duties to ensure an efficient operation.

The most important and commonly raised issue during the visioning session was to maintain the City's low tax rate. As that applies to the comprehensive plan in general and this chapter in specific, it is particularly important that City infrastructure and development policies address the impacts of premature extension of infrastructure and inefficient development patterns.

When any service or infrastructure involving physical components is extended or expanded (most commonly considered in these situations are sewer, water, and stormwater systems but can also include streets, lights, electricity, or gas), it is typically sized and located in such a manner as to take full advantage of the ultimate area it is to serve and the lifespan of its components and is incrementally installed to keep pace with the demands placed upon it. When done correctly, this means that the incremental components of the infrastructure are added only when they are needed. These incremental components are also added at about the same time as the major components are fully utilized and need to be expanded and the infrastructure has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. When this situation occurs, cost-effectiveness and efficiency are maximized: component parts were added only when needed, full use of the infrastructure was obtained, and repair and replacement of the components were kept to a minimum.

However, if infrastructure is extended or expanded in a manner that does not achieve these goals, it is not nearly as cost-effective or efficient as it could have been. Such inefficiencies commonly occur when infrastructure is extended to or expanded for premature development or inefficient development patterns. This typically means that infrastructure is extended long distances with no users; is extended long distances with

an inadequate number of users; is sized or located so that more component parts eventually need to be constructed than otherwise would have been necessary; or that the component parts eventually do not achieve full utilization.

When such situations occur, the extra costs associated with these inefficient actions are borne by the community rather than the premature or inefficient development. In addition, the community also typically has to pay for the extra capacity or extra components built into the infrastructure that are eventually needed for the development of the larger ultimate area.

Based upon the anticipated growth of the City of De Pere as depicted in Chapter 2, Future Land Use Map, it can be reasonably expected City services such as police, fire, ambulance, parks and recreation, snowplowing, and garbage/recycling collection will need to expand as well to meet the needs of a growing population. In addition, the planned addition of 9,547 new residents will also result in a potential expansion of school facilities. To meet the demands of a growing population during times of extremely tight budgets, it is absolutely critical the City work with its neighboring and overlapping governmental jurisdictions to provide the needed governmental services in as efficient and cost-effective means as possible. Therefore, it is recommended that the City of De Pere actively promote the use of intergovernmental agreements for service provision when appropriate and feasible. This can include consideration of boundary agreements with neighboring towns and service agreements with all neighboring communities.

A summary of this chapter's policies and programs is provided.

### **Sanitary Sewer Service**

- The City's practice of long-range infrastructure maintenance and funding should continue to be implemented to help maintain its sewage system.
- Keep GBMSD informed as to the future growth plans of the City and any plans for large-scale industrial providers of wastewater for treatment.
- The sewerage system should be expanded in conformance with the 5-year increments set forth in this plan.

### **Water Supply**

- The City should continue to work with the Central Brown County Water Authority to provide drinking water.
- The City's practice of long-range infrastructure maintenance and funding should continue to be implemented to help maintain its water supply system.
- The water system should be expanded in conformance with the 5-year increments set forth in this plan.

### **Solid Waste Disposal**

- The City should continue to cooperate with the Town of Ledgeview on the yard waste site and Brown County Solid Waste Department for single-stream recycling.

### **Stormwater Management**

- The City should continue to monitor stormwater management mandates from the state and federal government to ensure continued compliance.
- Ensure the stormwater utility continues to collect fees adequate to maintain the growing number of stormwater ponds and other infrastructure.
- Continue membership in the Northeastern Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium (NEWSC) to meet the public educational requirements of the City's MS4 permit.

### **Parks and Recreation**

- The City should continue acquisition, development, and maintenance of the City's park, open space, recreation, and trail system.
- The City should continue implementation of its park plan, including completion of the East River Parkway and the East River Trail and additional neighborhood parks as the City continues to grow.
- The City should continue to maintain close ties with its many nonprofit and volunteer organizations and should continue to work with the Unified School District of De Pere and the West De Pere School District to maintain the joint school/park sites, facilities, and programs.
- The City should work closely with Brown County to ensure the most appropriate use of the Brown County Fairgrounds.
- The City should undertake a comprehensive revision to its park plan to better account for the significant changes in the City and park and recreation facilities.

### **Telecommunications/Power Generation**

- The City should investigate opportunities to recommend or require uniform design and location standards for telecommunication, power, and other utility facilities.
- Work with the private telecommunication providers to ensure access to high-speed internet and consistent wireless phone coverage in all areas of the City, and in particular, the City's growing business parks.
- The City should ensure that adequate easements or other necessary rights-of-way are available and maintained for such infrastructure.

### **Emergency Services**

- The City should maintain its current standard of police and fire protection. This is likely to require replacement of current facilities and the creation of new positions within the timeframe of this comprehensive plan.
- The City should explore options to share the purchase and/or use of new major fire equipment with adjacent communities.
- The City should consider construction of a third fire station in the City's southwest side.



- The City should closely monitor its fire, rescue, and police needs as it grows to maintain an appropriate level of service.

### **Schools**

- Both the Unified School District of De Pere and the West De Pere School District should work closely with the City in the preparation of facility locations, school redistricting efforts, and the sharing of resources.

