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DRAFT

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. CA-737-280

CITY OF WAUKESHA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Chapter 6

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

This chapter provides an inventory and descriptive analysis of the City of Waukesha's community facilities and utilities and presents related goals and policies in accordance with the utilities and community facilities element required by State law.⁶⁰ It describes water supply service, sanitary sewer service, and solid waste management in the City. It also presents data on electric and gas utilities and telecommunications infrastructure. In addition, information on the City and County administration, public safety, libraries, education, childcare, health care, and cemeteries is provided.

The inventory data in this chapter are similar to those in the utilities and community facilities element of the City's 2009 comprehensive plan. One significant difference pertains to the source of the City's water supply, which transitioned from groundwater to Lake Michigan water as this report was being prepared. This change addresses several key concerns identified by the prior plan, while creating some additional considerations which are discussed and analyzed in this report.

WATER SUPPLY SERVICE

The Waukesha Water Utility has provided water supply service for the City for over a century. Like many communities in the County, the City has historically relied on groundwater for its water supply. Groundwater is present within three major aquifers underlying the City, including two shallow aquifers and a deeper

⁶⁰ *Requirements for the transportation element of a comprehensive plan are set forth in Section 66.1001(2)(d) of the Wisconsin Statutes.*

sandstone aquifer.⁶¹ Over time, increased development overlying these aquifers both within and outside of the City resulted in increased demand on the aquifers, which limited groundwater recharge and led to greater reliance on the deep aquifer for water supply. Over time, the water supply began to show higher concentrations of radium,⁶² which eventually exceeded levels deemed acceptable under Federally established safety standards. The water utility worked to address radium levels using expensive treatments and processes prior to pursuing the potential to secure Lake Michigan water as an alternate water supply source, the use of which as such is regulated by the Great Lakes Compact.

Adoption of the Great Lakes Compact (Wisconsin Act 227) in 2007 established new requirements for public water supply systems statewide.⁶³ Under the law, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is required to administer the water supply planning process and regional planning commissions within the State are authorized to assist with preparing such plans. In accordance with the law, the Waukesha Water Utility solicited the Commission's assistance to prepare a water supply plan in 2008. The resulting plan set forth a water supply area that encompassed the City of Waukesha and surrounding lands within the Towns of Delafield, Genessee, and Waukesha, which were later excluded from the City's water service area.

The City's current water supply area is shown in Map 6.WSA [to be completed]. Area boundaries were established following approval of the City's application to source water from Lake Michigan by the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council,⁶⁴ or Compact Council, in June 2016 and subsequent diversion approval from the DNR⁶⁵ in June 2021. The water service boundary essentially halts annexations from adjacent towns unless an amendment is approved by the Compact Council.

⁶¹ Chapter 3 of this report contains information on groundwater and aquifers.

⁶² A naturally occurring element in bedrock throughout the Southeastern Wisconsin Region.

⁶³ The law requires that a water supply plan be prepared by any public water supply systems that serve a population of 10,000 or more as well as by specified smaller systems needing approval for certain new or increased withdrawals from the Basin.

⁶⁴ The Compact Council, comprised of the governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, was established in December 2008 when the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact became State and Federal law. The Compact provides a framework for the States to enact programs and laws and details how the States will work together to manage and protect the Basin.

⁶⁵ As required by the Compact Council.

The resulting Waukesha Great Lakes Water Supply Project involves construction of necessary infrastructure to obtain, store, and distribute the new water supply, which the City will purchase from Milwaukee Water Works.⁶⁶ Underway as this report was being prepared and expected to be complete in 2023, The project also involved construction of a booster pumping station, water reservoirs, and a water tower on the City's east side as well as the necessary infrastructure to return used and treated water to Lake Michigan via the Root River. These facilities will enable the City to store 18 million gallons and distribute 8 to 10 million gallons of water for use per day. The City anticipates that this capacity will be sufficient to meet the City's needs as presented in this comprehensive plan update, including additional development and redevelopment at higher densities.

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE

State legislation adopted in the late 1970s in response to the Federal Clean Water Act effectively established requirements for areawide water quality management planning for specific urbanized areas within the State (including all of southeastern Wisconsin) and that such plans must include a sanitary sewer service area planning component. The sewer service area plans are required to define the outer boundary to which a municipality's sanitary sewers may be extended.⁶⁷ As the State-designated areawide water quality planning agency for southeastern Wisconsin under Section 208 of the Federal Clean Water Act, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was responsible for developing plans to comply with the legislation. The Commission prepared a regional water quality management plan (RWQMP)⁶⁸ establishing initial planned sewer service areas for numerous municipalities within the Region, including the City of Waukesha. Sewer service areas established by the RWQMP were designed using the general urban land use pattern set forth in the year 2000 regional land use plan and therefore did not reflect detailed local planning considerations. State legislation enables designated areawide water quality planning agencies such as the Commission to address local and areawide planning concerns by preparing a sewer service area plan

⁶⁶ <https://city.milwaukee.gov/water/about>

⁶⁷ *The plans also identify the extent of environmentally sensitive lands within each sewer service area, wherein sanitary sewer extensions will be approved only on a special exception basis.*

⁶⁸ *SEWRPC Planning Report No. 30, A Regional Water Quality Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000, (September 1978), was endorsed by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board in 1979.*

amendment for adoption by the local community, the Commission, and for administrative approval by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.⁶⁹

First refined in an amendment to the RWQMP adopted by the City in March 1999,⁷⁰ the City's planned sewer service area has been refined via numerous subsequent amendments through 2007. The City's planned sewer service area as of 2023 is shown on Map 4.SSA [to be completed].⁷¹ Sewer system maintenance in the City is the responsibility of the Public Works Department.

Insert Map 4.SSA

► **Recommendation: Sewer Service Area**

This plan recommends that the City consider an amendment of the City's sewer service area to match the water supply service area and any existing agreements that the City has entered into for the provision of sewer service.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

Urban development throughout the City generates stormwater runoff that is accommodated by the City's stormwater management system, which includes curbs and gutters, catch basins and inlets, manholes, culverts, storm sewers, swales, and open channels. The system also contains water retention and detention ponds which serve to attenuate peak runoff following rainstorms and to help improve the water quality of the runoff. Some redevelopment sites have also utilized underground storage due to site constraints, which will likely continue with the City's water service boundary.

⁶⁹ *The Commission is also required to review and comment on each proposed sewer extension as to its relationship to the approved plan and sewer service areas.*

⁷⁰ *SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 100, Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the City of Waukesha and Environs (March 1999).*

⁷¹ *As noted in Chapter 2 of this report, the Town of Waukesha incorporated as a Village under Section 66.02162 of the Wisconsin Statutes on May 12, 2020, limiting the City's ability to annex and potentially provide sanitary sewer service to former adjacent township lands.*

Chapter 32 of the City's Municipal Code, which dictates the City's stormwater management requirements, stipulates that runoff rates for new development shall not exceed pre-development discharge rates and new stormwater facilities must be covered by a stormwater maintenance agreement. The City is authorized to conduct periodic inspections of facilities to monitor performance and maintenance and to notify responsible parties of needed repairs or improvements in accordance with these stormwater maintenance agreements.

Green Infrastructure

The City contains some green infrastructure to promote water stewardship to supplement water conservation efforts promoted through a variety of programs and incentives. Green infrastructure in the City includes permeable pavements in rights-of-way, including alleys and medians. Ongoing pavement reduction efforts are designed to reduce impermeable surfaces by narrowing unnecessarily wide streets.⁷² In addition, the Waukesha Water Utility works with customers to disconnect and reroute downspouts to prevent rainwater from draining directly into City storm sewers. Disconnecting downspouts can help to prevent flooding and icing issues by directing water into rain barrels, permeable areas, or rain gardens, like the one at City Hall.

Call Out: Focus group attendees indicated some interest in green infrastructure to manage stormwater in the City and cited a desire to ensure proper maintenance of such facilities in the City's rights-of-way.

► Recommendation: Green Stormwater Infrastructure

This plan recommends that the City consider implementing green stormwater infrastructure guidelines into its zoning code and development standards. Green stormwater infrastructure uses sustainable nature-based solutions to control runoff and improve water quality, while also providing aesthetic benefits and reducing infrastructure costs.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The DNR is responsible for issuing solid waste licenses and permits for landfills, solid waste transfer facilities, recycling facilities, composting facilities, and other solid waste management facilities and activities. In 1990, a State law related to solid waste reduction, recovery, and recycling banned the disposal of certain materials and delegated to local governments the responsibility for managing the proper disposal of those banned

⁷² City streets constructed in the 1980's and 90's were designed wider than required under more modern standards.

materials. Designated local governments, including the City, are required to accomplish this task, in part, by implementing municipal recycling programs.

As of 2023, the City was under contract with Waste Management to collect residential solid waste and recycling. Solid waste from the City is directed to two active landfills: the Parkview/Orchard Ridge Landfill in Menomonee Falls and the Emerald Park Landfill in Muskego.

Insert graphic: In 2021, the amount of solid waste landfilled from City of Waukesha residents was 14,255.24 tons and the amount collected for recycling was 4,933.42 tons.

The City also operates a drop off center that accepts limited solid waste from City or County residents. The center allows City and County residents to drop off recyclables ranging from cardboard, paper, bottles, and cans to scrap metal, used oil/antifreeze, and cooking oil. The center also allows City residents to drop off yard waste and limited solid waste for landfill disposal.⁷³

In 2014, the City started a municipal compost operation, licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, through which residential yard waste and fall leaf collection materials are composted by the City. The composted material is used by the City and made available to City residents at no cost. The City also collects brush in the spring and after large storm events, which is turned into wood chips for use on City-owned property and made available to City residents at no cost.

Insert graphic text: Trends indicate that the per capita generation of solid waste is continually increasing.

Call Out: Trends also indicate a heightened public awareness of the need to process and dispose of solid waste in an environmentally sound and cost-effective manner.

ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES

The electric system is comprised of three components: power generation facilities, transmission lines and distribution facilities. The City's electric power is generated by We Energies, a subsidiary of WEC Energy Group. We Energies, with power generation facilities utilizing coal, oil, and natural gas-based plants as well as wind, hydroelectric, and biomass-based, cogeneration facilities, generate electricity for Wisconsin and

⁷³ A collaboration between the City and other local governments in the County that utilized composting to manage residential yard waste ended in 2013.

Michigan residences and businesses. The utility has increased production over the years preceding publication of this report to ensure customers can receive adequate service and offers a variety of services and programs to promote energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy usage.

Call Out: We Energies electric services and programs include Energy for Tomorrow, a voluntary renewable energy program through which We Energies produces or purchases renewable energy for participants. We Energies also allows customer-owned power generation systems, including wind turbines, solar photovoltaic systems, microturbines, or fuel cells owned by State residents and businesses, to interconnect with We Energies' distribution system. An EV charger pilot program aims to reduce potential cost barriers for We Energies customers wanting to install EV charging equipment at their place of residence or business.

The American Transmission Company (ATC), a privately owned, public utility headquartered in Pewaukee, provides electric transmission service to the City and other portions of Wisconsin and adjacent states. ATC extends 138-Kilovolt (kV) single and multiple circuit transmission lines through a substation in the City to deliver local and regional power. We Energies⁷⁴ also provides natural gas service to the City.

Insert Image: ATC substation [To be provided by City].

An assessment completed in 2006 identified potential energy transmission issues in Southeastern Wisconsin, including transmission service limitations and facility overloads. The assessment also identified low voltages in an area around the City, which has been vulnerable to facility overloads. The low voltages may be attributed to low probability substation outages and may indicate that the existing network may be insufficient without significant reinforcements.

On average, electricity consumption increases by a rate of 2.5 to 3 percent per year due to population growth, business expansion, and higher usage among all customer segments. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin projected in 2003 that Wisconsin would require an additional 7,000 megawatts of electricity in 2016 to keep pace with increasing demand.

Call Out: The Region and State have faced an emerging electricity shortage. Purchasing outside power is not a viable future option due to increasing demand in other areas and limitations of the transmission line grid.

⁷⁴ The trade name for the Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Gas LLC.

Because other areas of the country are facing the same supply situation, purchasing power is not a future option due to limited supplies and the need for an improved transmission line grid.

► **Recommendation: Renewable Energy Sources**

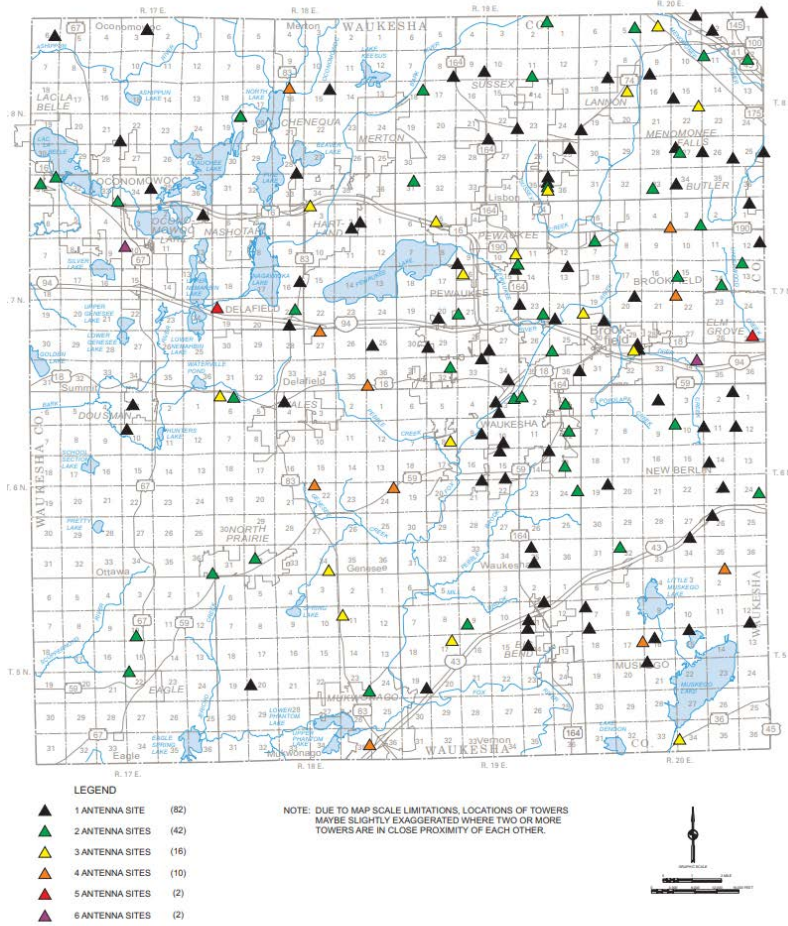
The City should consider the installation of renewable energy sources, such as solar energy systems, at City-owned facilities. The use of sustainable energy sources has the potential to reduce the City's operating costs and carbon emissions over time.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Residents of the City have access to broadband internet, with service coming from Spectrum, or AT&T. Cellular tower antenna sites within the City were documented in a regional broadband telecommunications plan designed to develop a high level of telecommunications service within the Region that promotes economic competitiveness and helps meet growing needs in relation to public safety, emergency response, and home health care.⁷⁵

⁷⁵ SEWRPC Planning Report No. 51, A Wireless Antenna Siting and Related Infrastructure Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 2006.

ANTENNA SITE LOCATIONS IN WAUKESHA COUNTY, WISCONSIN: 2005



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety within the City is the primary responsibility of the Waukesha Police Department (WKPD), which works to prevent and detect criminal activity through three service divisions: Patrol, Special Services and Criminal Investigation. Each WKPD division has specialties designed to enhance community engagement and supplement traditional patrol units.

Call out: Specialties within divisions of the Waukesha Police Department (WKPD) include the Neighborhood Engagement Unit and the Public Safety Cadet Program. Another specialty, the Crisis Response Unit (CRU), is a collaborative effort with the Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that focuses on solutions-based outreach through response and prevention.

Public safety service provided by the City of Waukesha Fire Department includes emergency medical response, fire prevention and inspections, fire suppression, hazardous materials mitigation, technical rescue service, juvenile fire education, special rescue services, and other community programs. Fire Department

services are not limited to the City; the department provides technical rescue service to 16 communities overall and provides hazardous materials mitigation to all Waukesha County communities through an intergovernmental agreement.

Call out: State-licensed emergency medical technicians (EMTs) with the Fire Department provide emergency medical services and pre-hospital medical care including basic life support (BLS) and advanced life support (ALS).

WKPD and the Fire Department are also responsible for providing City weather and other emergency warnings and alerts, including testing and activating weather warning sirens and managing the emergency alert system to transmit verbal information via local cable television system overrides.

Insert map: Showing City and County administrative and operational facilities, public safety facilities, health care facilities, and cemeteries [To be completed by Commission staff].

CITY AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

The City's elected officials and staff are housed in City Hall, a new facility completed in 2021 on the same site as the previous facility. Located one half-mile northwest of the City's historic downtown, City Hall is directly connected to the City's Transit Center and parking garage. City Hall houses the Mayor's office, Council chambers, municipal court, emergency operations center, data center, various City departments, and a public service counter.

As the County seat, the City is also home to County administrative facilities. These facilities are clustered in a campus setting known as the Waukesha County Administration Center, which houses the County Executive office, courthouse, and numerous County departments that are essential to managing and providing State-mandated programs and services.

► Recommendation: Shared Services Agreements

This City should consider studying its municipal services in comparison to those provided by the County or neighboring communities and explore the possibility of entering into shared services agreements if appropriate. Shared services agreements can potentially provide operational cost savings and enhance the level of service for residents while fostering strong intergovernmental cooperation.

MUNICIPAL COURT

The Waukesha Municipal Court serves as the judicial body responsible for is responsible for non-criminal violations that occur within the City. The court conducts all municipal trials, maintains court records and collects payments of municipal fines and forfeitures. Its primary functions and responsibilities include presiding over legal matters such as traffic citations, parking violations, local ordinance infractions, and other municipal violations. The court is responsible for ensuring due process and fair hearings, while also assessing fines and penalties when necessary. The Municipal Court is an essential component of the local government's duty to uphold public safety and order by addressing these lower-level infractions, contributing to the overall administration of justice at the local level, and ensuring compliance with city regulations and ordinances.

PUBLIC WORKS

The City's Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining much of the City's infrastructure, including street surfaces, streetlights, traffic signals, sidewalks, and sanitary and storm sewer systems. The Department also conducts snow removal and garbage, recycling, and residential brush and leaf collection. Engineering and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services are provided by the Department. The City's municipal parking facilities, transit system, and wastewater treatment plant are also managed by the Department, which is structured into six divisions: Clean Water Plant, Engineering, GIS, Municipal Parking, Streets, and Transit.

The Clean Water Plant (CWP) is the water treatment plant for the City. The CWP is capable of handling an average of 18.5 million gallons of wastewater per day and a peak flow of 23 million gallons per day. As this plan was under preparation, the CWP treats an average of 10 to 12 million gallons per day, removing impurities and pathogens so that water can be returned safely to the environment. The Engineering Division oversees the development and design of City systems, including the sanitary and storm sewer systems, City streets and sidewalks, traffic signals, streetlights, street signs, and garbage and recycling collection. The City's GIS division analyzes, manages, and stores geographic data and provides up-to-date information to the public and to City staff.

The Municipal Parking division manages on-street and off-street public parking services. The Streets Division, also home to the City Garage, provides preventative street maintenance and repair service, snow plowing and performs maintenance work on City vehicles, equipment, sanitary and storm sewers, traffic signals, streetlights and street signage. The Transit division is responsible for coordinating the City's public

transit services with Waukesha Metro Transit to provides safe, reliable, convenient and economical public transportation services.⁷⁶

LIBRARY SYSTEM

Public libraries are hubs for community engagement and information that provide the general public with access to a variety of educational resources. Built in 1904, the Waukesha Public Library is centrally located in the City's downtown area at the south end of Cutler Park. The library is part of the Bridges Library System,⁷⁷ which includes 15 public libraries in other Waukesha County communities and eight public libraries in communities within neighboring Jefferson County. The library provides additional service and support for all Bridges Library System staff and users, including technical support with digital library platforms and reference service and support as the system's primary resource library.

Insert graphic text: The library was staffed by a team of 46.5 full time equivalent (FTE) employees, was visited by approximately 208,000 patrons, and had a total circulation of over 745,000 items in 2021.

The library has undergone four major renovations and has provided new and updated services and programs to meet the community needs as societal shifts, innovative resources, and advanced technologies present public library systems nationwide with new demands and opportunities.⁷⁸ The library's 2021 and 2022 renovations modernized the building's first floor and resulted in significant updates to the library's original Carnegie Room. The renovation also helped to expand library services and created more meeting space, including a commercial/demonstration kitchen and a new makerspace. Additional new and adapted services and programs include the Library Memory Project⁷⁹ and free access to virtual continuing education courses, Wi-Fi hotspots, passes to local and regional institutions, and other specialty items.

⁷⁶ Additional information on the City's streets and transit services is provided in Chapter 5 of this comprehensive plan.

⁷⁷ The Waukesha County Federated Library System was established by the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors under Chapter 43 of the Wisconsin Statutes in 1981 and was renamed in 2016 as the system transitioned to add service for Jefferson County, a change that earned Bridges an award for intergovernmental cooperation.

⁷⁸ Bridges Library System 2018-2021 Strategic Plan.

⁷⁹ The Memory Project is a partnership between libraries in the Bridges Library System and additional public libraries within Racine and Washington Counties, which provides social and educational programs on memory loss and brain health to individuals directly and indirectly affected by memory loss, Alzheimer's disease, and other forms of dementia.

Challenges attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic have emphasized the role of libraries in ensuring equitable public access to a variety of educational resources. Temporary pandemic-associated relief enables Libraries to provide increased public access to resources that are essential for learning, working, and daily life. Library systems in the State may, however, be inhibited from continuing to meet people’s ever-changing needs, including the provision of services required under State law, due to long-term reductions in funding.⁸⁰

Call Out: Appropriations for the Bridges Library System, and for other library systems in the State, were reduced by 10 percent in 2011 and had not been restored to previous funding levels prior to this plan’s publication.

CHILDCARE

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) regulates childcare facilities in the State. Childcare providers can operate within two types of settings: family childcare and group childcare centers. Childcare providers in both settings are required to have completed training prior to providing service and must complete annual continuing education. Childcare providers in each setting are, however, subject to different limitations on the number of children they can care for based on the children’s ages. Group childcare centers licensed under Chapter DCF 251 provide care for nine or more children while family childcare providers, which generally care for a smaller number of children within a provider’s home, may be certified or licensed under Chapter DCF 250 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*.

Family and group childcare establishments can provide different benefits to meet guardians’ diverse needs. Family care centers may be able to fill gaps in service by providing more personalized, culturally appropriate, conveniently located care in a home-like setting. Family care providers operating as home-based businesses may require minimal start-up and operating costs. However, the small size of family care centers may make it difficult to ensure a substitute may be available when a primary care provider is not. Licensed group childcare centers, meanwhile, may provide standardized care for larger groups of similarly aged children. As they are subject to more stringent requirements and require greater investment, licensed group childcare centers may be more permanent fixtures within a community.

⁸⁰ *Library systems that provide services required under State Statutes receive funding calculated based on a formula involving population, geographic area, and local funding levels and appropriated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction through the Division for Libraries and Technology.*

DCF maintains up-to-date data on group and family childcare centers throughout the State. This publicly accessible information can assist City residents and workers and guardians in nearby areas to locate childcare providers that meet their needs.

*Insert Map: Showing library, schools and SDDW properties, and group childcare centers in the City as of 2023
[To be completed by Commission staff]*

EDUCATION

Primary and Secondary

City of Waukesha residents are served by the School District of Waukesha (SDW), the seventh largest public school district in the State. SDW provides basic education services to students within six additional municipalities, including the Towns of Brookfield, Delafield, and Genesee, the Village of Waukesha, and the Cities of Brookfield and Pewaukee. Private schools offer additional opportunities for primary and secondary education within the City.

Call Out: According to the National Center for Education Statistics, about 12,340 students were enrolled in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in SDW schools in 2021-2022.

Post-Secondary

Post-secondary educational facilities within the City include Carroll University, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) at Waukesha, and Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC). These post-secondary facilities are shown on Map 6.X. Carroll University offers undergraduate programs, graduate programs, professional development resources and courses, and pre-college programs. UWM at Waukesha offers youth classes, bridge programs, two-year associate degrees, four-year bachelor's degrees, and continuing education for professional development or personal enrichment. Within its Waukesha campus and its nearby Pewaukee campus, WCTC offers associate degrees, technical diplomas, apprenticeships, and certificates in 176 programs as well as high school completion and dual enrollment options.

Insert Chart showing Carroll University 2022-2023 Enrollment (more are full-time undergraduates than part-time)

Graphic text: In 2022-2023, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at Waukesha had 810 students enrolled within 29 areas of study.

HEALTH CARE

Health care facilities can provide a community with access to essential services including preventative and routine care as well as treatment to help address health issues. The adequacy of a community's access to health care may be determined by considering a variety of factors. The proximity of transportation network elements serving health care facilities can affect the ease by which residents can travel to and access care. The adequacy of health care may also depend on the type and affordability of services provided and the capacity of facilities providing those services in relation to the area's population and needs.

Health care for City residents is available through hospitals offering a full range of medical services as well as at clinics supporting non-specialized medical services,

► Recommendation: Efficient Development Pattern

This plan recommends that the City promote an efficient development pattern whereas various land uses are spatially distributed and connected to promote the efficient provision of services and utilities while also encouraging active transportation, which can proactively promote health and wellness and ease the burden of care on health care facilities.

Graphic text: As the proportion of City residents 65 years of age and older increases, so will the demand for health care and for access to land use patterns that support overall wellness/increase quality of life.

CEMETERIES

There are two cemeteries or mausoleums within the City. The smallest, Northview Cemetery, is less than 5 acres in size. The inactive, County-owned cemetery is located adjacent to the Waukesha County Airport, and features a memorial constructed in the early 2000s.⁸¹ Prairie Home Cemetery officially opened in 1849 and is now the City's largest, encompassing 62 acres in the south-central portion of the City. Prairie Home is a City-owned cemetery and is managed by the City of Waukesha Cemetery Commission.

⁸¹ The last burial in Northview Cemetery, which was often used to bury unidentified or unclaimed bodies, occurred in 1951.

GOALS AND POLICIES

Utilities and community facilities provide essential services which enhance the health, safety and general welfare of City residents and visitors. The goals and policies presented in this chapter are intended to provide a framework to guide the future development of the City's utilities and community facilities. This framework should be used by the City to create and evaluate objectives and standards, ensuring that specific programs and projects are consistent with this comprehensive plan.

The levels of service provided by existing community facilities and utilities are seen by the City as sufficient to serve the City's current and projected population at the time this plan was under preparation. It is anticipated that the City will continue to monitor the need for services and will consider any possible changes as may be appropriate in the future.

GOAL 6.1

Communicate with City residents and businesses regarding the implications of Lake Michigan as the source of the City's water supply.

Call Out [Opportunity]: The City's water supply transition will establish a new relationship between the City and the Great Lakes and may provide health, economic, and other advantages for residents and businesses.

Policy 6.1.1

Continue to promote water stewardship and conservation, including maintaining and updating the City's water conservation plan.

Policy 6.1.2

Monitor health impacts of the new water supply.

GOAL 6.2

Provide the highest quality potable drinking water to City residents and businesses.

Policy 6.2.1

Monitor changes to water mains and private pipes due to any changes in water chemistry and be proactive about addressing any issues that arise.

Policy 6.2.2

Explore creation of programs and incentives to promote replacement of lead pipes and fixtures on private property.

Policy 6.2.3

Prioritize water quality in City schools through regular testing and necessary action to ensure all potential contaminants are below the maximum acceptable level safety threshold.

Policy 6.2.4

Work with the State and County to cease any release of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)⁸² into surface waters and groundwaters, monitor PFAS levels, and work to remediate any PFAS contamination. Encourage Waukesha County Airport to use fire testing methods that do not require the release PFAS.

Policy 6.2.5

Meet the requirements and conditions of the City's Great Lakes Compact Diversion Application.

GOAL 6.3

Provide cost-efficient and consistent sanitary sewer service to homes and businesses and return treated wastewater to Lake Michigan via the Root River per the City's agreement with the DNR.

Policy 6.3.1

Consider the implications of the City's sanitary sewer service area in relationship to the City's municipal boundaries and reallocate fiscal resources from horizontal expansion to increased capacity to serve higher density infill and redevelopment.

Call Out [Issue]: The cost of providing sewer service and other municipal services in relation to the taxable value of development is linked to development density among other factors. Big box stores, strip malls, and residential development on larger lots often bring the City less in tax revenue than downtown business areas and walkable residential areas for instance, which have a higher tax density per acre.

⁸² PFAS are a group of over 5,000 chemicals used in industrial and consumer applications that are of concern due to their high persistence in the environment, accumulation in the tissue of organisms, and links to adverse health effects in humans and animals.

Call Out [Challenge identified by attendee of Mayor's Breakfast]: "Maintaining quality of services with limited ability to expand residential, commercial and industrial development."

Policy 6.3.2

Remove all areas of the Village of Waukesha not currently served by City sewer and water from the sewer service boundary.

Policy 6.3.3

Monitor and repair sewer lines to address any leaks and prevent inflow and infiltration.

Policy 6.3.4

Continue to consolidate and reduce the number of pump stations throughout the city to reduce energy usage and mechanical failures. Seek opportunities with the City of Pewaukee to consolidate pump stations to reduce duplication of services and costs.

GOAL 6.4

Improve the City's stormwater management system and stormwater management policies in partnership with State and Federal agencies and guidelines.

Policy 6.4.1

Prepare for an increase in major storm events with heavy downpours that challenge the stormwater conveyance capacity.

Policy 6.4.2

Work with the DNR and Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to prepare emergency response management procedures and update floodplain regulations due to climate change.

Policy 6.4.3

Update regulations on stormwater management for new and existing development to institute best practices to reduce runoff quantity and velocity.

Policy 6.4.4

Improve surface water quality by mitigating pollution sources, restoring stream banks, and retrofitting stormwater facilities in older parts of the City.

Policy 6.4.5

Minimize stormwater runoff impacts by constructing stormwater treatment facilities, including green infrastructure, as part of new development and redevelopment projects.

Policy 6.4.6

Enact policies and programs to reduce the amount of impervious, unused surface parking lots and improve existing parking lots with more green areas to reduce runoff and heat islands.

Policy 6.4.7

Seek opportunities to retrofit aging stormwater ponds to improve stormwater quality.

Policy 6.4.8

Continue to meet requirements of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit to reduce polluted stormwater runoff by implementing stormwater management programs with best management practices.

Policy 6.4.9

Promote and expand the use of residential rain barrels to conserve municipal water usage and reduce stormwater runoff and inflow and infiltration into the sewer system.

Policy 6.4.10

Ensure that the City's water, sewer, and stormwater enterprise funds are financially stable and able to meet long-term costs for maintaining City infrastructure. Explore cost-saving measures and intergovernmental partnerships whenever feasible.

Call Out [Challenge identified by attendee of Mayor's Breakfast]: "Replacement of aging infrastructure."

GOAL 6.5

Provide an environmentally sound and integrated solid waste management program that promotes waste prevention and progressive goals for waste diversion and recycling.

Policy 6.5.1

Expand education and outreach initiatives and explore additional opportunities to encourage sustainable consumption, resourcefulness, recycling, and increase municipal and residential composting. Explore composting and compost collection opportunities, including promoting backyard and neighborhood composting, offering low- to no-cost residential compost containers, establishing compost collection at the Drop Off Center, and exploring the feasibility of an at-the-curb collection of compost materials.

Policy 6.5.2

Monitor technological advancements in organic waste processing, including biodigesters that produce energy from methane gas, biodiesel, and sludge dryers that produce fertilizer instead of transporting sludge off site to a landfill.

Policy 6.5.3

Implement the City's 2011 facilities plan and all subsequent amendments.

Policy 6.5.4

Implement green building regulations that require construction and demolition waste management, promote building life-cycle impact reduction, and promote the use of reused and recycled materials. Consider non-monetary incentives, such as zoning ordinance flexibility, to encourage more green building practices.

GOAL 6.6

Monitor electric and gas service and collaborate with utility providers to ensure City residents and businesses receive adequate service.

Call Out [Challenge identified by attendee of Mayor's Breakfast]: "The City's electric grid system needs upgrading as a simple rainstorm can cause large power outages."

Policy 6.6.1

Educate residents and businesses on techniques for promoting energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy usage.

Policy 6.6.2

Explore opportunities for the City to increase energy efficiency and energy conservation in its operations, including exploring the potential to utilize renewable energy sources.

Call Out [Issue]: While We Energies has increased energy production over the years preceding publication of this report to ensure customers can receive adequate service, equipment failure and other similar unforeseen circumstances have the potential to impact the City's energy supply.

Policy 6.6.3

Streamline the process for homeowners to install residential solar energy systems and other energy efficient upgrades or improvements.

GOAL 6.7

Explore opportunities for the City to expand its telecommunications network.

Call Out [Issue]: The importance of telecommunications infrastructure became evident when the global, national, and local economies were disrupted by the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, which significantly changed telecommuting, remote learning, online shopping and home delivery, and other virtual methods of communication and commerce in everyday life.

Policy 6.7.1

Establish ordinances that give careful consideration regarding the siting of new infrastructure, including cellular tower antennas and 5G infrastructure while complying with the *Wisconsin Statutes*.

Policy 6.7.2

Expand fiber optic lines to serve City-owned parks and other City-owned facilities when doing road reconstruction projects.

GOAL 6.8

Continue to support the Waukesha Police Department and City of Waukesha Fire Department by ensuring they are well equipped to handle any crime or crisis that may occur as they do the vital work of protecting individuals' safety and wellbeing within the City.

Call Out [Strength identified by attendee of Mayor's Breakfast]: "Good police and fire protection."

GOAL 6.9

Consider and implement strategies to make City operations greener and more sustainable.

Policy 6.9.1

Analyze the potential to transition the City's vehicle fleet to more efficient and lower emission technologies.

Policy 6.9.2

Encourage green purchasing, waste reduction, and recycling, including City facilities and events.

Policy 6.9.3

When updating or constructing new City buildings and facilities, explore the feasibility of adding solar panels or other energy efficient improvements.

Policy 6.9.4

Continue to retrofit less-efficient, City-owned lighting fixtures, including lighting in parks, City buildings and grounds, and streetlights, to LED technologies.

Policy 6.9.5

Explore feasibility of creating a City sustainability manager/coordinator position.

GOAL 6.10

Support educational establishments within the City as they provide opportunities for students to develop reasoning, acquire knowledge, build skills, and prepare intellectually to enable individuals of all ages to achieve their fullest potential individually and become successful citizens of their community.

Call Out [Challenge identified by attendee of Mayor's Breakfast]: "Our schools must get better. It's okay, but these should be the best schools in the State."
