
Chapter VI: Utilities, Community Facilities, and Civic Organizations

- Provide and promote the City's quality municipal utilities and services to enhance economic development and quality of life.
- Recognizing the essential link between education and community health, collaborate with educational providers to strengthen education, increase youth opportunities, and improve Beloit's overall quality of life.
- Implement the recommendations in the City's 2006-2010 *Parks and Open Space Plan*, with a focus on the maintenance of existing facilities.
- Address City department space needs through implementing the recommendations of the current space needs study.
- Develop and implement a municipal sustainability plan to guide City practices, operations, and construction of new facilities.

Public utilities and community facilities comprise the framework for servicing people, existing development, and future growth in the Beloit area. This chapter describes local utilities and community facilities, including water, sewer, municipal buildings, libraries, police and fire services, schools, and parks. It also contains goals, objectives, policies, and recommended programs to guide their future maintenance and development—along with possible new directions. Finally, this chapter describes key civic organizations operating within the City.

A. Existing Utilities, Community Facilities, and Civic Organizations

1. Water Supply

The City purchased the water supply utility from Alliant Energy in 2003 and now owns the distribution system that supplies water to the Beloit area including the City of Beloit, Town of Beloit, Town of Turtle, and the City of South Beloit. The system is comprised of seven wells, three water towers with plans for a fourth, and numerous distribution mains.

The existing system is sufficient to meet the demands of future development, including the Gateway area and an off-reservation casino proposed in the southeast part of the City by the Bad River and St. Croix bands of Native Americans.

2. Sanitary Waste Disposal Facilities

The City of Beloit Wastewater Treatment Plant, completed in 1991, is located north of State Line Road and west of Interstate 39/90. This facility's highest treatment day in 2005 was 11.7 million gallons. Average daily flow over the past three years was between 4.6 and 5.2 million gallons. Peak daily capacity is approximately 21 millions gallons per day.

Some properties in the City are served by individual on-site wastewater treatment systems, often referred to as septic systems, which generally discharge the wastewater to underground drainage fields.



Similar to water supply, the existing treatment plant will be sufficient to meet future needs through the 20-year planning period.

3. Solid Waste Disposal

The City of Beloit provides garbage and recycling collection services for single-family homes and multi-family homes with four or fewer units. All city collected waste is transported to the Mallard Ridge Landfill in Delavan. City of Beloit residents may take yard waste to Leaflan Compost Center located at 6711 West Lawrence Avenue.

Private companies that are licensed to collect garbage from multiple family, commercial, industrial, and institutional uses in Beloit include Waste Management of Janesville, Veolia Environmental Services, Rock Disposal, Inc., Sherman Sanitation Services, LLC, and Humphrey Hauling Service.

4. Stormwater Management and Erosion Control

The City has both a stormwater management ordinance (as a separate chapter of its municipal code) and erosion control regulations (as part of the zoning ordinance). Stormwater management regulations and practices are implemented through the City's stormwater management utility. Like many cities, Beloit is currently addressing new state and federal rules requiring stricter measures for stormwater management.

The City also currently regulates erosion on construction sites through its erosion control ordinance, with the intent of requiring the use of best management practices to reduce the amount of sediment and other pollutants resulting from land disturbing construction activities.

5. Municipal Facilities

The Beloit City Hall is located at 100 State Street and currently houses general government administrative staff (e.g. manager, attorney, clerk, and finance), the offices of Community Development, and the Municipal Court.

This facility may need to be remodeled during the planning period to include space for training, meeting rooms, and service counters. At the time of writing, the City was completing a space needs study for administrative and police protective functions, also presently housed in City Hall. The Municipal Court is also in need of technological updates.

6. Law Enforcement and Protection

The Beloit Police Department is currently located in City Hall at 100 State Street. The Police Department has 78 uniformed officers, 3 community service officers, and 18 administrative and records support staff.

The Department will likely have the need for a new facility in the planning period. The Department prefers a single facility rather than several satellite stations. In order to maintain service levels in the face of community growth, the Department also projects the need to hire an additional 9 officers and 2 support staff by 2016. Also, the Department is considering hiring a liaison for the proposed casino.

7. Fire Protection

The City of Beloit Fire Department Headquarters is located at 1111 Church Street with satellite stations at 2111 Cranston Road and 1048 McKinley Road. The Department has 61 protective full time employees, 3 administrative support staff, and 3 fire inspectors.

In order to better serve City of Beloit residents, the Department is projected to add a fourth fire station in or near the Gateway Business Park by 2011; a specific location has yet to be determined. Overall, an additional 6 full time firefighters would be needed to provide services. The Department is also favorable towards greater regionalization of Beloit area fire services during the planning period.



8. Emergency Medical Services

The Fire Department provides emergency medical services to the City of Beloit and the Town of Turtle. Beloit was the first city in the U.S. with a population under 50,000 to have personnel trained at the paramedic level (started in 1974).

Additional full time emergency medical personnel are projected to be needed in the near-term, specifically to staff the planned Fire Station 4.

9. Library

The Beloit Public Library is located at 409 Pleasant Street. In addition to books, the library loans videos, DVDs, and audio books, and provides access to several online databases. Wireless connectivity to the

Internet is also available. The Library is part of the Arrowhead Library System. Under an agreement with all Rock County libraries, each must be reimbursed for loans they make to residents of cities in Rock County outside their service area.

The City is currently planning for a new library facility. It will be relocated to the new Eclipse Center (former Beloit Mall site), southeast of the intersection of Highway 51 and Henry Avenue. The new facility will greatly expand the space of the existing library, and likely provide increased seating, shelving, a public access computer lab, study rooms, larger meeting rooms, and improved staff work space.

10. Telecommunication and Power Resources

There are several telecommunication towers in the City, providing good coverage. The following is a list of the general locations of towers in the City:

- Lathers Road north of Interstate 43
- Gateway Boulevard and Eagles Ridge Drive
- Kennedy Drive and Cranston Road
- Willowbrook Road and Kennedy Drive
- Bushnell Street and Pleasant Street
- 6th Street and Maple Avenue
- Park Avenue and Henry Avenue
- Post Road and Park Avenue
- Ute Court
- Trevino Court
- Mill Street and Shirland Avenue

Alliant Energy provides Beloit's electric services. The American Transmission Company owns and operates the electric transmission lines and substations in the eastern portion of Wisconsin. Its 10-Year Transmission System Assessment Summary Report, Zone 3, which includes Beloit, identified numerous system limitations such as low voltages, transmission facility overloads and transmission service limitations. Numerous projects are planned in Zone 3 to address these issues, including rebuilding a transmission line from the City's west side to Janesville.

There are several power facilities in the area. The Blackhawk Generation Station is located in City Center just north of the Rock River Dam and it is operated by Alliant Energy. The Riverside Generation Station is located in the Town of Beloit and is operated by Alliant Energy. The Riverside Energy Center is a natural gas-fired electric generating facility located north of the City in the Town of Beloit. Two combustion turbines are routed to two heat recovery steam generators, which provide steam to one steam turbine. The construction of the plant was coordinated and managed by Calpine. Calpine sells electricity to Alliant under the terms of a nine-year tolling agreement and also provides capacity to Madison Gas & Electric under a nine-year power sales agreement.

11. Education

The majority of children residing within the City of Beloit attend the School District of Beloit; however, there are small pockets that are served by the Beloit-Turner School District. Enrollment, shown in Figure 25, for the School District of Beloit and the Beloit-Turner School District has been relatively stable for the last few years. Figure 26 illustrates area school district boundaries.

Located in the heart of the City, Beloit College was founded in 1846. It is the longest continuously running liberal arts college in Wisconsin. Today, this small college of around 1,200 students offers over fifty majors, thirty minors, and a number of dual-degree and pre-professional programs. The College's wooded forty-acre campus includes twenty-eight buildings in a range of architectural styles; four buildings are listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places. The campus is marked by winding pathways, expansive lawns, displays of public art, and ancient Indian mounds.

The Blackhawk Technical College District covers Rock and Green Counties, including the City of Beloit, with campuses in Monroe and the Town of Rock—midway between Janesville and Beloit on Prairie Avenue. There is a satellite center in Downtown Beloit. Blackhawk Technical College offers associate degree programs in a variety of fields including accounting, culinary arts, information technology, and nursing. Diploma, certificate, and apprenticeship programs are also available.

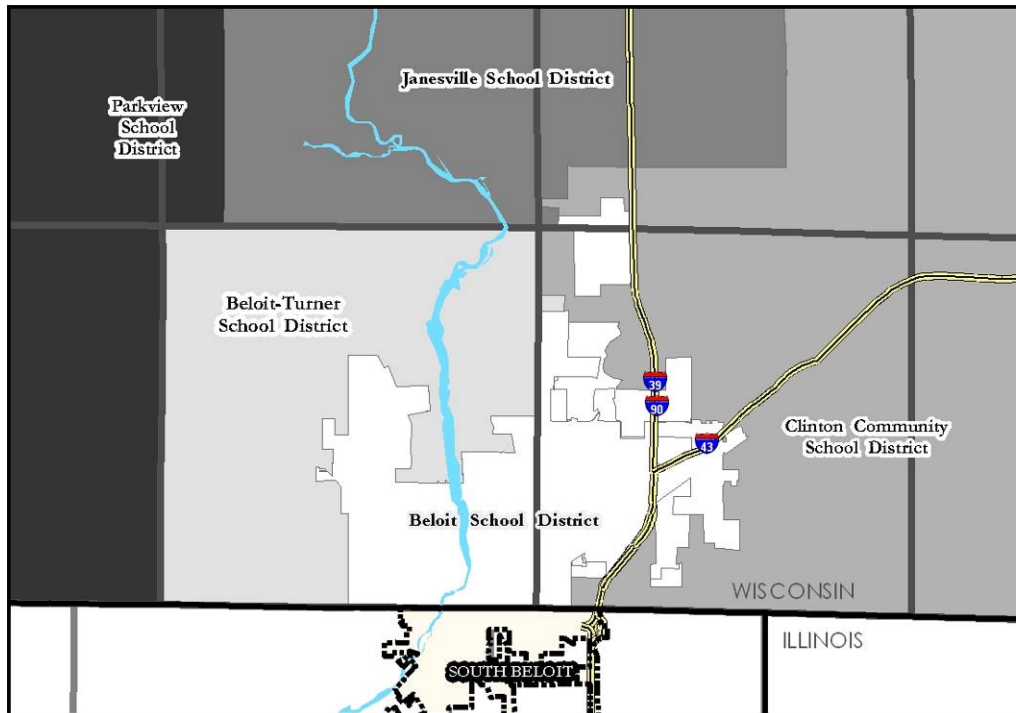
Cardinal Stritch University has a satellite campus in Beloit, located at the Eclipse Center, which offers courses in business and management.

Figure 25: School Enrollment, 2001-2005

School Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
City of Beloit School District					
Elementary School (K-5)	3,450	3,403	3,252	3,313	3,442
Middle School (6-8)	1,478	1,603	1,653	1,634	1,563
High School (9-12)	1,841	1,864	1,797	1,938	2,079
District Total	6,880	6,967	6,799	6,941	7,113
Beloit-Turner School District					
Elementary School (K-5)	508	500	496	523	567
Middle School (6-8)	265	301	319	290	307
High School (9-12)	357	388	382	377	400
District Total	1,130	1,189	1,197	1,193	1,274

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Figure 26: Area School District Boundaries



12. Parks and Recreational Facilities

The City recently completed its 2006-2010 *Parks and Open Space Plan*, which includes detailed recommendations for the parks system. The following is a description of existing facilities:

Big Hill Memorial Park

A scenic community asset with wooded hills and river views, this park sits atop a high point on the north edge of Beloit along the west bank of the Rock River. The park has 187.7-acres and is a destination for group and individual picnicking, hiking, and natural interpretation. The historic site is graced with 1930's Civilian Conservation Corp stone fireplaces and log cabin picnic structures, and was home to the first ski jump in Wisconsin.

Primarily used for nature interpretation, the park contains walking and cross country ski trails, group picnic shelter sites, a historic stone amphitheater, a scenic river overlook, a sand volleyball court, an informal ball field with backstop, and playgrounds. The site also is home to the Girl Scout of Badger Council Program Service Center, which has a long-term lease on land within the park.



Krueger Recreation Area

This 15.7-acre special use community park is uniquely located in an old stone quarry. It contains the City's only municipal pool, which charges user fees. Other facilities include play equipment, a softball field, tennis courts, a basketball court, restrooms, and a picnic shelter. The aging pool facility has inherent maintenance problems, which merit long term consideration of either complete renovation, or phasing out of the pool use entirely. New uses for the pool area would need to be determined.

Leeson's Park

This 41.5-acre community park contains two lighted baseball fields, concessions, restrooms, play equipment, picnic shelters, a sledding hill, and open space. Located on the east side of the City, Spring Brook Creek winds through the park before entering the Spring Brook Creek Floodplain natural area.

Riverside Park

This 24.9-acre riverfront park is a centerpiece for downtown Beloit. Its scenic location on the Rock River, and dramatic sequence of inviting park spaces and amenities makes it a natural for a variety of civic events, as well as for daily active park use. The Riverwalk meanders through the site, linking a number of cultural amenities such as the Turtle Island play area, the Harry Moore Pavilion, Rotary River Center, Jones Pavilion, the Angel Museum, and picnic shelters. The Riverside Lagoon is a special feature of the park with decorative fountains, and small gazebos highlight scenic overlooks of the river. Riverside is also the site of Riverfest and hosts a number of free, outdoor concerts as well as private events. This park is also home to the City's best tennis facility, a complex of four lighted courts. Public art is prominently located throughout the park.



Telfer Park

This 28.8-acre site is a special use community park on the northeast side of the City, adjacent to a new firehouse. The site is home to Harry C. Pohlman Field and the Beloit Snappers, a Class A minor league baseball farm team for the Minnesota Twins. The Pohlman baseball complex includes a ball field, grandstands, concessions, and offices. The park also houses the Edwards Sports and Activity Center, which has indoor and outdoor ice rinks, locker rooms, and offices. In summer the rink is transformed into the Edwards Pavilion, available for reservation. Telfer Park also has one lighted softball field, a sand volleyball court, new play equipment, a new skate park, and extensive parking.

Riverwalk

This 5 kilometer multi-use paved trail is a popular attraction connecting the east and west sides of the Rock River with downtown Beloit. The Riverwalk travels the length of Riverside Park on the east side of the river, across the Wood Family Fishing Bridge and up to Portland Avenue including a section behind Beloit Memorial High School and Wootten Park.

Turtle Creek Floodplain

In addition to flood relief, this 278.6-acre natural area provides a mowed grass path used for walking and jogging and cross country skiing. A trailhead on Milwaukee Road and easements in the adjacent neighborhoods also provide access to the trail. There are issues concerning public versus private space in residential areas. While boundaries and trail limits are difficult to distinguish, the Parks and Leisure Services Division is attempting to delineate space by leavening an un-mowed 10-foot buffer between adjacent residential properties and the natural area. Parking and public access to the Creek is available at the southern end of the Floodplain, off Milwaukee Road.

The following neighborhood parks range in size and include improvements such as play equipment, informal ball fields, picnic shelters, and restrooms:

- Christilla Park
- Eagles Ridge Park
- Freeman Park
- Hilliard Park
- Hinckley Park
- Horace White Park
- Mechanics Green
- Pride Park
- Roosevelt Park
- Strong Park
- Summit Park
- Townview Park
- Turtle Creek Park
- Vernon Park
- Brooks Street Vest Pocket Park.
- Brown-Hanchett Park
- Field Park.
- Hope Park
- Lee Lane Park
- Merrill Street
- Ritsher Street
- Schellenger Park
- Tremont Park
- Water Tower Park
- Zonta Memorial Park
- The Landing
- Fifth Street Trail
- Krueger-Haskell Municipal Golf Course
- Wood Family Fishing Bridge
- Wootton Park.
- Spring Brook Creek Floodplain
- Lenigan Creek Greenway
- Westside Detention Pond
- Leuty Park
- Totem Mound

13. Health Care and Child Care Facilities

Beloit is served by several health care facilities, with the major facilities located in the Prairie Avenue corridor. Beloit Memorial Hospital, located at 1969 West Hart Road near Prairie Avenue, provides a full range of medical services. Mercy Beloit Medical Center, located in close proximity at 2825 Prairie Avenue, provides a variety of services including family medicine, obstetrics, occupational therapy, and urgent care. Beloit Clinic, located at 1905 Huebbe Parkway, provides a range of services including family and internal medicine, general surgery, and physical therapy.

The City of Beloit is also served by multiple child care facilities including the following: Rainbow Station Nursery School at 617 Saint Lawrence Avenue, the Stateline Family YMCA at 1865 Riverside Drive, and the Kiddie Ranch Day Care & Learning at 1230 House Street.

14. Cemeteries

The City owns two cemeteries, both located on the east side, managed by the Division of Parks and Leisure Services. Eastlawn Cemetery is located on Milwaukee Road, adjacent to Leeson's Park, and Oakwood Cemetery on Clary Street, adjacent to Strong Park. These are self-supported facilities that generate their own revenue for operation. There are other private cemeteries in Beloit.

15. Civic Organizations

Civic organizations are the backbone of any community. The City of Beloit is fortunate to have numerous organizations that serve area residents including the following:

Stateline Boys and Girls Clubs

The Stateline Boys and Girls Clubs, working with area schools, serve more than 2,000 children annually with quality supervised programs at several locations. The Beloit Boys and Girls Club, located at 1851 Moore Street, offers youth football, basketball, girls softball, summer camp, and an after school program. The South Beloit Boys and Girls Club, located at 1161 Dorr Road, offers youth dance, basketball, cheerleading, Torch Club, summer camp, and an after school program.

Stateline Family YMCA

The Stateline Family YMCA serves the area with two locations. The Beloit YMCA is located at 1865 Riverside Drive. Facilities include a pool, fitness equipment, gymnasiums, and locker rooms. The Roscoe-Rockton YMCA offers a range of organized sports and recreation.

Merrill Community Center

The Merrill Community Center is located at 1428 Wisconsin Avenue. As an agency of the Stateline United Way, the Center's mission is to strengthen the community by providing programs and resources that build strong families, sustain neighborhoods, and celebrate diversity. The Center offers after school programs for children as well as programs for seniors. A juvenile diversion program in conjunction with Rock County Probation & Parole and an Alternative High School in collaboration with the School District of Beloit is housed at the Center

Grinnell Senior Center

Located at 631 Bluff Street, the Grinnell Senior Center offers a variety of activities for those 55 and older Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Senior-oriented programs include education, recreation, arts and crafts, and exercise and health.

Beloit has several religious and fraternal organizations including American Legion, Eagles, Masons, the Knights of Columbus, Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Optimists, Zanta, JCs, VFW, Marine Corps League, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and numerous churches. Beloit is also home to charitable organizations that focus on poverty reduction, the arts, and riverfront improvements including the Stateline Community Foundation and the Beloit Foundation.



B. Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies

1. Goals

- a. Coordinate utility and community facility systems planning with the land use, transportation, natural resources and recreation needs of the City.
- b. Maintain the City's high quality of life through access to a wide range of sustainable public services and facilities.

A compact growth pattern, particularly focused on redevelopment and infill, is cost-effective to serve with public utilities and services.

2. Objectives

- a. Provide adequate government services and facilities necessary to maintain a high quality living and working environment.
- b. Provide community services and facilities in a logical, reliable, energy-efficient and cost-effective manner to serve a compact development pattern.
- c. Assure that the costs for new community services, facilities, and utilities are distributed equitably.
- d. Respect natural features and conditions in the design and location of orderly utility extensions.
- e. Work with educational institutions on community facility and service issues of mutual interest.

3. Policies

- a. Maximize the use of existing utilities (such as public water, sanitary sewer, solid waste disposal, and power lines) and facilities within the City, and plan for an orderly extension of municipal utilities and facilities within the areas identified for future growth on Map 10: Future Land Use.
- b. Ensure that the City's utility system has adequate capacity to accommodate projected future growth; avoid overbuilding that would require present residents to carry the costs of unutilized capacity.
- c. Ensure the property ongoing maintenance of existing on-site wastewater treatment systems in the City and continue to work with property owners to connect to sanitary sewer when appropriate.
- d. Ensure that the City's services, including fire/EMS, police, library, and parks, have adequate staffing, facility, and equipment capacity to accommodate projected future growth, and that the City has the ability to capture the value associated with such growth to pay for required City service increases.
- e. Emphasize sustainability, energy-efficiency, and cost effectiveness in the delivery of public facilities and services, such as municipal equipment purchases.



- f. Work with educational institutions to ensure adequate school facilities and educational services for Beloit area, on joint park and recreational programming, and to engage youth in municipal processes and community activities.
- g. Provide space for City services in a manner that enhances services to Beloit residents, provides a comfortable working environment for City employees, contributes to an attractive community image, uses tax dollars in an efficient manner, and follows the recommendations of objective space and facility studies.
- h. Identify locations for new public facilities, such as roads, sanitary sewer lines, water lines, storm sewer lines, trail extensions, and parks on an updated Official Map for the City. This will be particularly important for the growth areas identified on Map 10.
- i. Follow the City's *Park and Open Space Plan* when making decisions related to the park system, and update that plan every five years.
- j. Site new parks in areas to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide common neighborhood gathering places. All new residential development should be within walking distance of an accessible park.
- k. When possible, acquire park and open space lands in advance of or in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning. Parklands in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications, where feasible.
- l. Design public buildings and parks to be accessible to persons with disabilities.
- m. Reevaluate park impact fee requirements to reflect the current demand for parkland.
- n. Make revisions to other ordinances and codes as necessary to implement the recommendations in this *Plan*, including City building codes, mechanical codes, housing codes, and sanitary codes.

C. Utilities, Community Facilities, and Civic Organizations Recommendations and Programs


1. Implement Results of Municipal Space Needs Study

At the time of writing, the City was conducting a space needs study for the existing City Hall building and the services it houses. As a result of study, the City will ensure that various departments and facilities have sufficient capacity to meet future service demands of the community, keeping multiple community objectives in mind, including cost-effectiveness.

Over the planning period, the City will explore expansion or relocation of the Police Department, as well as construction of a new satellite fire station in the Gateway or near area, as represented in Map 12.

Additionally, the City has recently relocated certain municipal facilities, including the library, to the Eclipse Center.

These new facilities create an opportunity for increased energy-efficiency and environmental sustainability. The City may consider construction of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified buildings. LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance "green" buildings. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.



The City can be a leader in sustainable building design with new and remodeled public buildings over the planning period.

2. Implement the Recommendations in the City's 2006-2010 Parks and Open Space Plan

Over the next 20 years, to maintain its current park standards, the City will likely acquire and/or develop an additional 170 acres of parkland and make improvements to several existing parks. The City's 2006-2010 *Parks and Open Space Plan* provides a comprehensive evaluation and recommendations to address the interest in park space, and should be referred to as the guide for future park system recommendations.

Still, each *Park and Open Space Plan* focuses particularly on the next five year period, while this *Comprehensive Plan* identifies proposed growth patterns over the next 20 years. General proposed locations for future parks to serve longer-term growth are depicted on Map 12: Community Facilities. Some of these future parks are not yet identified in the current *Parks and Open Space Plan*. With the next update of the *Parks and Open Space Plan* in 2010, ideas regarding the park and recreational needs of future growth areas—as presented in Maps 10 and 12—should be considered.

One recreational improvement of particular note and popularity is the Riverwalk. The Riverwalk and associated recreational facilities along the Rock River are key assets for the City of Beloit—not only allowing for recreation but also contributing to aesthetic beauty and economic development. The City will continue maintenance and enhancements along the riverfront, in partnership with civic groups like Friends of Riverside Park. Further recommendations are included in Chapter Eight: Economic Development.

3. Enhance Coordination with the Beloit School District and other Educational Institutions

The health of the City and the health of the School District are closely intertwined. A high quality school district enhances the overall quality of life for City residents, increases positive opportunities for the City's youth, and is a large factor in workforce and economic development. Several initiatives to ensure close collaboration among the School District, City, and higher educational institutions in the Beloit area are strongly advised. Ideas and advice include the following:

- To encourage awareness and ongoing communication between the City and the School District, the City should continue to involve the School District in review of residential development as well as other issues of mutual concern.
- The City desires to continue regular City Council-School Board meetings to discuss and try to resolve policy issues of mutual concern, including the impact of new development on schools and on new focuses and vision for curriculum and joint services.
- The City will continue to collaborate on a staff/department level to assure that shared facilities and overlapping areas of concern—such as student safety—are addressed in an efficient and effective manner.
- As the community grows, the location of future school sites will become an important planning issue for the City and the District. School siting decisions will be influenced by the locations of new neighborhoods. The ease of access and availability of safe transportation routes should also influence siting decisions. The City encourages the School District to prepare a long range facilities plan to forecast facilities needs based on the development activity, population growth, neighborhood turnover, and student enrollment trends.
- The City encourages the District to work with community leaders and high school students to establish a mentoring program for younger students, and would partner on such an effort.



- The City supports dialogue and joint educational programming among the School District, Beloit College, and Blackhawk Technical College to expand educational opportunities for students who are bound for college and for students who are more directed towards further technical education and the trades.

Other collaborations to strengthen education and career training services in the Beloit area are described in Chapter Eight: Economic Development.

4. Develop a Municipal Sustainability Plan

The City of Beloit acknowledges the importance and interconnectedness of the economic, social, and environmental health of the community. The City intends to explore the development of a sustainability plan to develop options for improving energy-efficiency and sustainability of municipal operations. Components of such a plan could be similar to those currently being implemented in other communities (see side bar). An example of sustainable practices may extend to altering the City’s purchasing process to promote “green purchases (e.g. not always low bid).

5. Consider Reestablishing the Neighborhood Resource Officer Program

In the past, Beloit’s Police Department administered an effective neighborhood policing program. In this program a Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO), a Beloit Police Officer, was assigned to a geographic area of the City within their division and was responsible for coordinating problem solving efforts that are identified in their areas. NRO officers worked with neighborhood and business groups to educate and train citizens to police their own neighborhoods and identify problems more quickly. NROs also partnered with other citizen groups, city, county and state agencies and officers to solve problems in high crime areas, locations with high calls for police service and resolve issues in neighborhoods and communities that affect the quality of life for those who live there.

While funding for this program is not longer available, the City should consider reestablishing this program if funding becomes available. It was viewed by participants in the comprehensive planning process as an effective tool to improve City neighborhoods. The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee strongly recommended this as a component of neighborhood revitalization.

6. Continue Neighborhood and Housing Improvement Initiatives

The City will continue to work to improve challenged neighborhoods in the community through the provision of community services, particularly housing and neighborhoods enhancements, as described more fully in Chapter Seven: Housing and Neighborhood Development.

“Green” Municipal Practices

Several communities in Wisconsin are currently incorporating sustainable practices into municipal activities. For example, Madison and Milwaukee are pursuing multiple approaches.

Madison’s efforts include:

- Implementing the “Building a Green Capital City” plan, adopted in 2004
- “Natural Step” training completed by 40 employees
- Conducts energy audits of municipal buildings
- Purchases green energy from utility
- Uses “green” cleaning products
- Provides commuting options for employees
- Uses alternative energy such as photovoltaic and solar hot water systems in service buildings

Milwaukee’s efforts include:

- Improve fleet efficiency through use of biodiesel and hybrid vehicles
- Conducts energy audits of municipal buildings
- Purchases green energy from utility
- Uses “green” cleaning products and recycled products in bathrooms
- Proposal for all new municipal buildings to meet LEED silver standard
- Proposal for all departments to reduce energy use and stormwater runoff 15 percent by 2012

Staff in both cities have noted the following challenges to implementing “green” practices: employee education, key employee leadership, and cost of some initiatives.

7. Enhance Access to Technology in the Community

Communities across the country are recognizing the importance of wireless and high speed internet access to quality of life for residents, and as an economic development tool to attract and retain technology-based employers and employees. The City is currently considering creating a publicly accessible wireless fidelity (wi-fi) network in collaboration with Janesville.

The City may also choose to work with private utility companies to develop a Technology Master Plan for the Beloit area. A Technology Master Plan would study what the current and emerging technology needs are, and identify how to most efficiently provide these services. One purpose is to form a telecommunications “fiber ring” around the City, including the industrial and office/business parks, schools, and libraries.

The City may also consider revising the land division ordinance to include provision for installation of high-technology communications infrastructure, such as fiber optic lines, in new subdivisions.

8. Support Quality, Affordable Childcare Facilities

Quality, affordable childcare is an important ingredient to attracting and retaining a quality workforce, as well as creating a healthy and stable community. The non-traditional schedules for today’s high-tech workforce, the number of employers with after hour shifts, more commuters, and the growing number of households with two working parents and single parents will require childcare facilities with hours of operation that complement employee shifts and a wide range of childcare options (infant care, day care centers, family day care). The City encourages local businesses to offer childcare services as part of the benefits package for their employees, and will support the creation of child care centers in and near places of employment.

9. Generally Follow the Timetable Shown in Figure 27 to Create, Expand or Rehabilitate Community Facilities and Utilities

Figure 27: Timetable to Expand, Rehabilitate, or Create New Community Utilities or Facilities

Utility or Facility	Timeframe for Improvements	Description
Water Supply	Ongoing	Improve water storage capacity and the distribution system as necessary to serve development.
Sanitary Sewer	Ongoing	Extend interceptors as necessary and cost feasible to serve development.
On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems	Ongoing	Continue to work with property owners to connect to sanitary sewer when appropriate.
Solid Waste Disposal	Ongoing	Continue to provide municipal garbage and recycling collection service for single family and two-family residences. Continue to require mixed residential dwellings and nonresidential uses to contract with a private waste disposal company for collection service. (See also Economic Development chapter.)
Stormwater Management	Ongoing	Continue to require compliance with quantity and quality components for all developments to mitigate flooding concerns and improve overall ground and surface water quality.
	Ongoing	Update stormwater management plan, ordinance, and/or utility as needed.
Police Protection	2008-2009	Ensure that new location meets long term needs.
	2010-2013	Consider reestablishing the Neighborhood Resource Officer program if funding becomes available.
Fire Protection and EMS Services	2008-2009	Identify and obtain a location for a fourth Fire Station on the City's east side; build the station.
Housing and Neighborhood Services	Ongoing	Continue Neighborhood Development Initiative program; explore measures of success and timing to expand to new neighborhood areas. (See also Housing and Neighborhood Development chapter.)
Library	2008-2009	Ensure that new location meets long term needs.
Municipal Building and Operations	2008-2013	Implement recommendations of facility needs study.
	2009	Explore developing a municipal sustainability plan.
Medical Facilities	Ongoing	Encourage improvements to existing facilities as needed, and improved medical services for the City's west side.
Schools	Ongoing	Continue to coordinate and communicate with the School District on issues of mutual concern.
Parks & Recreation	2007-2010	Implement recommendations of <i>Parks and Open Space Plan</i> , focusing on the maintenance of existing parks and expansion and improved access to Turtle Creek greenway, and the <i>Stateline Area Bike and Pedestrian Plan</i> .
	2010, 2015	Update <i>Parks and Open Space Plan</i> .
Telecommunication Facilities	2010-2013	Develop and implement a Technology Master Plan.
Power Plants/Transmission Lines	Ongoing	Continue to work with ATC on issues related to the location or upgrade of transmission lines or power substations in the City.
Cemeteries	Ongoing	Private parties will add to cemeteries as needed. City does not expect expansion of City cemeteries.
Child Care	Ongoing	Area child care facilities are projected to expand to meet needs, serving new development and employment areas. Recommend expanded opportunities in and near employment centers.

Map 12: Community Facilities

