

### Utilities and community facilities element

A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the local governmental unit such as sanitary sewer service, stormwater management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment technologies, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunications facilities, power-generating plants and transmission lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities and other public facilities, such as police, fire and rescue facilities, libraries, schools and other governmental facilities. The element shall describe the location, use and capacity of existing public utilities and community facilities that serve the local governmental unit.

### Sanitary Sewer System

All wastewater generated in the City of Columbus is pumped to and treated at the Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility, located at 537 River Road, and eventually discharged into the Crawfish River. The Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility currently serves 2,260 customers. Residential customers comprise 89.7 percent of the customers for the Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Facility was built in 1983 with a design flow of 1.265 Million Gallons Per Day (MGD). Currently the Facility is operating at 85% of the design flow.

The Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility also handles waste water from Elba Sanitary District No 1 and the Village of Fall River. The city has intergovernmental agreements with each entity that identifies the responsibilities of each entity in regards to the Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The sewer system consists of 33 miles of pipe ranging from 8 to 27 inches. The various collector and interceptor sewer lines are made of Clay, Concrete, PVC and Iron. The city owns ten lift stations that contributes to the sewer system and the city monitors one lift station that is operated and maintained by the Town of Elba.

In 2019, the Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility earned a perfect 4.0 rating on the Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR) annual report. The CMAR is an annual self-evaluation-reporting requirement for publicly and privately owned domestic wastewater treatment works. The State of Wisconsin requires an annual submittal of an electronic CMAR form (eCMAR) no later than June 30. The purpose of the eCMAR is to evaluate the wastewater treatment system for problems or deficiencies

There are also several private septic systems within the City of Columbus. There are three homes and one business connected to a private septic system on N. Spring St; there is one home connected to a private septic system on N. Ludington St; and there is a facility on N. Lewis St, that is connected to City sewer but still utilizes a mound system.

### Stormwater Management Infrastructure

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines stormwater management as the effort to reduce runoff of rainwater or melted snow into streets, lawns and other sites and the improvement of water quality. Detaining stormwater and removing pollutants is the primary purpose of stormwater management. When storm water is absorbed into the soil, it is filtered and ultimately replenishes aquifers or flows into streams and rivers

Stormwater management typically includes the collection, cleansing, and controlled release of storm runoff to natural receiving systems, typically through detention and/or retention facilities. The City of Columbus uses a complex system of culverts, pipes, and drains in order to store and channel water to specific areas, diminishing the impact of non-point source pollution. After moving through the system the catch basin discharges it into the Crawfish River. The City maintains their system by cleaning catch basins and using a street sweeper to collect contaminants.

Two chapters of the Columbus Municipal Code deal explicitly with stormwater management regulations: CH 90.289 and CH 114.158-169. The City may require a variety of different stormwater drainage facilities, including sump pump laterals, curbs and gutters, catch basins and inlets, storm sewers, road ditches, and others; however, the necessity of these facilities is determined on a case- by-case basis.

### Water

The Columbus Water and Light Department operates a public potable water supply system. The system relies entirely on groundwater, and consists of three operating wells, 2 reservoirs, an elevated storage tower, water mains, and 342 public fire hydrants. The system is approximately 34 miles of water mains range in size from 4 inch to 16 inches. In 2018, the system served 1,973 residences, 215 commercial customers, 8 industrial customers and 26 Public Facilities.

Approximately 139 million gallons of water was used in year 2018. The total capacity for the system is 790,000 gallons with a pumping capacity of 1.44 Million gallons per day. The water tower has a capacity of 250,000 gallons. The capacity of the water system is able to accommodate the existing and future development needs of the community.

There are several private wells within the City of Columbus. Properties within the planning area that are located outside of the City limits rely on private wells for all of their water needs. Wells are regulated by NR 812, Wisconsin's Administrative Code for Well Construction and Pump Installation, and is administered by the DNR. The Well Code is based on the premise that if a well and water system is properly located, constructed, installed, and maintained, the well should provide safe water continuously without a need for treatment. Refer to the Wisconsin DNR or the Columbia County Zoning Department for more information on water quality and well regulations.

### Solid Waste and Recycling

The city has a contract with Columbia County Recycling and Solid Waste Department for recycling and solid waste pickup. This service provides weekly trash and curbside recycling pick-up for residential properties of 4 or less units. In 2017 the city implemented an automated garbage collection system. For collection residents must place all garbage and recyclables in the provided carts and place them on the tree border as early as dusk the night before scheduled pickup.

The City of Columbus Recycling Center, located at N3642 River Road, will accept leaves, grass clippings, brush, yard waste, oil, and vehicle batteries at no cost to residents. In addition, the center will accept washers, dryers, stoves, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers and air conditioners provided that residents pay all applicable fees in advance of disposing of said item.

### Telecommunications

There are a variety of methods which internet service is provided within the planning area. Spectrum and AT&T provide wireline access for internet service. Netwurx provides fixed wireless access in the planning area. Satellite access is provided by ViaSat Inc., Skycasters and HughesNet in the planning area.

The primary provider of cable and internet service in the Columbus planning area is Spectrum Brands. Satellite TV service is also available within the planning area. In addition, some internet services are fast enough to allow for internet streaming tv providers within the city.

There is one cellular tower within the city limits located at 455 S Ludington Street. Wisconsin Department of Transportation also maintains tower at 402 Industrial Drive but it is not a public cell tower. There are several cell towers within the planning area along US 151, so service is adequate. Several telephone service providers supply telephone service for the City with AT&T being the primary provider for landline phone services.

### Power Plants and Electric Service

The City of Columbus owns its own electrical utility, the Columbus Water and Light Department. Natural gas power is available to residents through WE Energies. There are three substations with the City, located on River Rd, Hwy 89, and Maple Ave. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is the branch of Wisconsin State government with the overall responsibility of regulating electric utilities.

The Columbus Water and Light Department currently serves 2,881 electrical customers. Over 84% of the total number of customers were residential customers. All of the customers consumed 77,709,034 kWh; however, only 25% of the total consumption was from residential customers.

### Parks

Parks and recreational resources are important components of a community's public facilities. These resources provide residents with areas to exercise, socialize, enjoy wildlife viewing or provide opportunities for environmental education for adults and children. Increasingly, parks and recreational resources can contribute to a community's local economy through eco-tourism. In addition, these resources are important for wildlife habitat and movement. Taken together, it is clear that the protection, enhancement, and creation of parks and recreational resources are important to the quality of life and character of a community. Below is a listing of City Parks.

- Fireman's Park is a 32 acre park that has many active and passive facilities, including ball fields, tennis courts, shelters, grills, walking baths, playgrounds, a concession stand, and the grand historic Fireman's Park Pavilion.
- Kiwanis Park is a 13.4-acre park located on the Creek south of Park Avenue. It has six (6) baseball fields, plus an enclosed batting cage. There is also a walking path, a shelter, playground , and bathroom facilities.
- Meister Park is a 7 acres park that boasts soccer fields, softball fields, playgrounds, and a concession stand.
- Rotary Park is located on the eastern edge of the City along the Crawfish River. The park is 1.4 Acres and has a canoe/kayak launch, playground equipment, and picnic tables.
- Meadow Lane Park is a 1.2-acre park located on the Creek in the south central portion of the City with a picnic table, and benches.
- Avalon Park is located on Avalon Road in the southern portion of Columbus. The park is approximately 1.8 acres and has a basketball court, a sand volleyball court, playground equipment, picnic shelter, gazebo, and bathroom facilities.
- Park at Enerpac playground is located off Warner Street on the west side of the city. The park is approximately 3 acres and has an open field and playground equipment.
- Washington Park is located on the corner of Park Ave. and Fuller St. This 0.7 acre park has an open play field and playground equipment.
- Davies Park is located north of Ludington St. This 0.2 acre park has a shelter and 2 picnic tables.
- Butterfly Trails Volunteer Park is approximately 5 acres and located along River Road on the Southeast side of the city. The park will be completed in 2021 and will include pedestrian trails, butterfly garden, and a canoe/kayak launch on the crawfish river.

Figure 3-1 shows the total city owned parkland in acres per population. The City of Columbus has 12.7 acres of park space per 1,000 people. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends that municipalities provide 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. In addition, the NRPA field report from 2016 shows the average community provides 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. The City of Columbus exceeds the recommended and average parkland per 1,000 people ratios from the NRPA.

An analysis of the city parks in comparison to the FEMA Floodplain was completed for this plan. The analysis shows that approximately 52.1 acres of the 65.7 acres of parkland is located in the FEMA floodplain. Which means approximately 79.3% of city owned parkland is in the flood plain.

Figure 3-1- Park Area Compared to Population

Total Park Land (Acres)	65.7
Columbus 2019 Population Estimate	5,173
Park Space (Acres) per 1,000 people	12.70
Source: Columbia County GIS and WI DOA	

The Columbus Area Aquatic Center is located within Fireman’s park and has a capacity of 792 swimmers. The outdoor, heated pool has a water surface area of 12,731 square feet and a volume of 389,110 gallons. Its beach style "zero-depth" entry is 124 feet wide and leads to a 12 feet 6 inches diving area. It contains a one-meter diving board, a drop Vortex Slide, six lane lap area, and plunge area for the water slide. The body water slide has a length of 135 feet, a drop of 17.2 feet and an average grade of 13.89%. The interactive water activities include and SCS Arch Jet, SCS Bar Jet and an SCS Pipe Fall each with individual moveable valves. The aquatic center also provides a large Tot Slide and the individual grouped geysers designed for toddlers. The aquatic center also provides many lounge chairs with and without umbrellas for visitors to relax poolside.

In addition to the city owned parks, there is playground equipment at the Columbus Elementary School and Columbus Middle School that is open to the public to use. The schools also provide open spaces that can be used for recreational purposes.

Kestrel Ridge Golf Course and the Columbus Country Club both provide recreational opportunities within the City of Columbus. Both courses are open to public provided they pay applicable fees or membership costs.

Cemeteries

There are two cemeteries in the City: Hillside Cemetery and St. Jerome’s Cemetery. Hillside Cemetery, located on N. Lewis St, is a municipally owned and operated cemetery. There is currently vacant land to which the cemetery may expand should it become necessary. St. Jerome’s Cemetery, also located on N. Lewis St., is owned and operated by St Jeromes Catholic Church. Columbus Municipal Code regulates cemeteries.

*Health Care Facilities*

There are several health care facilities within the City of Columbus that provide a wide range of services. Prairie Ridge Hospital is a 25 bed acute care hospital located at 1515 Park Avenue. In the fall of 2019 the hospital will be rebranded as Prairie Ridge Health due the growth of the hospital and associated clinics. In addition to the hospital, there are many clinics within the City: Poser Clinic, Prairie Ridge Clinic, Parkside Clinic, the UW Health-Physicians Plus, and the Columbus Chiropractic Care Facility. Also, Columbus has several assisted living facilities that provide a wide array of services.

### Child Care Facilities

Under Wisconsin law, no person may be compensated for providing care and supervision for 4 or more children under the age of 7 for less than 24 hours a day unless that person obtains a license to operate a child care center from the Department of Children and Families. There are two primary categories of state licensed child care. The categories are based upon the number of children in care. Licensed Family Child Care Centers provide care for up to eight children. This care is usually in the provider's home, but it is not required to be located in a residence. Licensed Group Child Care Centers provide for nine or more children.

There are eight (8) licensed child care facilities within the City of Columbus, consisting of three (3) licensed family centers and five(5) group child care centers. The City of Columbus does not initiate the development or expansion of childcare facilities.

### Police and Emergency Services

Law enforcement in the City is provided by the Columbus Police Department. The City also maintains mutual aid agreement with surrounding counties. Currently, there are nine (9) sworn officers, one full-time and two part-time clerical professionals, and 6 crossing guards in the Department. The Police Department headquarters are located at 151 S. Ludington St., and staffed 24-hours a day.

The Columbus Fire Department, located at 123 West Harrison St. provides fire protection service for the City. In addition, the Columbus Fire Department serves rural areas outside of the city through the Columbus Rural Fire Group agreement. Currently the fire department serves Town of Columbus in Columbia County; and parts of the Towns of Elba, Calamus, Portland in Dodge County; Hampden in Columbia County; and York in Dane County. The agreement details responsibilities for members of the rural fire group, which includes cost sharing for the purchase, use and maintenance of equipment. There are 40 paid on-call firefighters when the department is fully staffed.

For emergency medical service, the City contracts with Lifestar Ambulance. Lifestar provides service for the Columbus Area Emergency Medical Service District which includes the City of Columbus; Village of Fall River; and Towns of Calamus, Columbus, Elba, Fountain Prairie, Hampden, Otsego, Portland and Town York

### Libraries

The Columbus Public Library, located at 223 West James Street, provides a wide array of educational and informational materials, computer/internet access, and a wide variety of programs for children. The 6,200 square foot building is in good condition, and is currently included on the National Register of Historic Places. The library houses more than 43,000 books, and has more than 96,000 items available for circulation.



Photo 3-1: Columbus Public Library

In addition, residents can access items from over 50 area libraries through the South Central Library System. In 1971, the Wisconsin State Legislature passed a law creating seventeen Library Systems in Wisconsin. The purpose of the library systems is to provide free and equitable access to public libraries for all residents in Wisconsin even if their community has no library. The library systems also serve to take on projects too costly or complex for individual community libraries. The funding for the Public Library Systems comes from a set percentage of the budgets of all the public libraries in Wisconsin. The South Central Library System serves libraries in Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk, and Wood Counties. For more information, visit the South Central Library System at <http://www.scls.info/index.html>.

### Schools

The City of Columbus is served by the Columbus School District. The District operates two elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school, serving a total of 1,307 students in the fall of 2018 according to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. There were 629 students enrolled in the elementary schools, 277 students enrolled in the middle school and 401 students enrolled in high school. One of the elementary schools is the Discovery Charter School, which serves grades 1, 2, 3 and kindergarten, and was opened in 2008.

This is an increase from 2005 when 1,143 students were enrolled in the Columbus School District. The total enrollment was comprised of 312 students in elementary school, 396 students in middle school and 435 students in the high school.

In addition to public schools, there are three parochial schools within the Plan Area: St. Jerome's Catholic School, Zion Lutheran School, and the New Testament Baptist School. All three are elementary schools. There is also a Seventh Day Adventist elementary school located outside of the City within the Plan Area.

Columbia County is served by the Madison Area Technical College (MATC), which has campuses in Madison, Fort Atkinson, Portage, Reedsburg, and Watertown. MATC provides training for more than 100 different careers, and is one of only three technical colleges in the state to offer a wide selection of liberal studies classes which transfer to four-year universities. The nearest four-year university or college is the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

### City Facilities

Columbus City Hall was built in 1892 and is located at 105 N. Dickason Blvd. City Hall provides offices for city administration and hosts official city meetings. In 1995, the city built an addition to city hall to provide a handicapped accessible entrance, install elevators and provide new restrooms. Columbus City Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.



Photo 3-2: Columbus City Hall

The Columbus Department of Public Works (DPW) is located at 229 E School Street. The DPW facility consists over several buildings on a 1.7-acre site. The facility is located within the Floodplain and has a history of seasonal flooding.

The Community Center is a former bank building that was purchased and moved to the site in 2009. The Community Center is located at 161 N Dickason Boulevard. The city uses the facility as extra space for community gatherings or meetings. The community center can also be rented for private events.



Photo 3- 3: Columbus Area Senior Center

The Columbus Area Senior Center is located at 125 N Dickason Blvd. The multi-purpose facility opened in 1979 and it serves the diverse needs of area seniors by providing educational activities, information, resources, programming, advocacy, health services and agency referrals. The Senior Center encourages participation and strives to create a sense of well-being for all users. The building is an adaptive reuse of a former automotive service garage and is approximately 6,150 square feet.

### Goal

1. Maintain and improve City Facilities and Service
2. Provide safe, reliable and cost effective water, electric, sewer and stormwater facilities.
3. Support high quality educational opportunities for all City residents.
4. Provide adequate recreational facilities to enhance the health and quality of life of City residents
5. Support the development of City Facilities as identified in the Roadmap 2050 Plan.
6. Minimize the impact of flooding on city parks and facilities.
- 7.

### Objective

1. Create a storm water utility for a dedicated funding source for storm water infrastructure.
2. Ensure that the City of Columbus government operates in the most effective and efficient manner possible
3. Ensure that utilities and public facilities in Columbus are upgraded and maintained meet the balance between cost and level of service desired by Columbus residents and businesses.
4. Identify city facility and utility projects that are eligible for Federal and State grant programs
5. Provide a minimum of 10 acres of park land per 1,000 residents in the City of Columbus
6. Identify and create recreational areas that are not in the floodplain
- 7.

### Policy

1. The City will maintain a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan with updates at least once every five (5) years.
2. The City will develop five (5) year Capital Improvement Program to establish funding for needed infrastructure projects.
3. Require that all new residential developments dedicate land for public parks or pay a fee-in-lieu of land dedication.
4. Ensure that all residents are within a ½-mile walking distance of a city owned park.
5. Support the School District in planning for either new or upgraded school facilities, as needed.
6. Continue to support efforts to provide excellent library service for city residents.
7. Construct New Facilities within the timeframe identified in the Roadmap 2050 plan.
- 8.