

Utilities and Community Facilities

Top Issues & Opportunities

- Access to Amenities
- Park Preservation vs. Expansion
- Flooding & Stormwater Management
- Sustainability and Renewable Energy

Voices from the Community

The Community Survey indicated a strong desire for more connecting trails in the community, with 34% of respondents indicating a need for more off-road walking and biking trails, and 23% indicating a need for more on-road bicycle facilities. Overall, 75% of respondents support or strongly support more public investment in connecting/recreational trails. There is also strong support for increased community facilities, with the majority of residents indicating a need for higher levels of access to teen facilities and programming, after school programs, activities for families with small children, adult programming, etc. publicly available in their communities. Safety and low-crime is the 2nd most influential reason residents reported choosing to live where they do (75% rated as influential or highly influential), and 72% of respondents indicated they would support or strongly support an increase in taxes to improve and expand public safety in the City.

Challenges - Focus group discussions and the Community Survey identified challenges and concerns:

- *There is a desire for more variety in and overall amount of community facilities and amenities*
- *Parks can be expanded, improved, and activated to ensure all residents have access to recreational amenities*
- *There is sometimes confusion as to City direction with multiple plans, exploratory committees, and other planning efforts for the same area – causing “planning fatigue”*
- *Some residents indicated they did not feel engaged in larger City decisions of planning, access, or development of public and community facilities (parks, service centers, etc.)*

UTILITIES

GOAL #1: The City of Fond Du Lac will have a high-quality, cost-effective, well-planned and efficient system of public utilities.

Policies

1. Make efficient use of City funds by applying standardized criteria to each spending decision. Ask what is the goal of the investment, and is spending this money going to achieve that goal? Are there any other sources of funding available?
2. Serve all urban development within the City of Fond du Lac with the full array of urban services including municipal sewer, water, and electric, stormwater management facilities, municipal police and fire protection, refuse removal, urban street and bicycle/pedestrian facilities, etc.

3. Maintain and improve the utility infrastructure to ensure adequate capacity and integrity to serve existing users and accommodate new service areas. The first priority will be maintaining the reliability of existing systems and services.
4. All new development proposals shall be reviewed by all City departments to ensure that essential utilities can be provided to the subject development area in a timely and efficient manner.
5. Avoid environmentally sensitive areas when planning the location of utilities to minimize adverse impacts, to the greatest extent possible.

Actions

1. Promote available incentives, energy audits and appliance recycling offered through Focus on Energy, Alliant Energy, or other sources to assist individuals and businesses with energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.

GOAL #2: Utility system planning and implementation will occur in coordination with land use and transportation plans and projects.

Policies

Land Development

6. Maximize the use of existing utility systems by encouraging infill development that uses existing infrastructure investments.
7. Discourage suburban development served by septic systems (i.e. residential densities greater than one unit per 35 acres, non-agricultural commercial, industrial and institutional) within the Planning Area, unless allowed by an adopted cooperative plan.
8. Consider methods to recover the costs of new City utility facilities necessitated by new growth. In general, the City shall require new growth to pay its fair share of the costs associated with providing essential City utility infrastructure.
9. Discourage inefficient “leap frog” development that results in infrastructure constructed before there is adequate customer base in place to support its maintenance.
10. Adhere to the City’s annexation policies and consider the Fond du Lac Long Range Transportation and Land Use Plan when determining the feasibility of serving possible annexation lands with utilities.

Electrical System

11. Continue to bury existing utilities, where feasible, as redevelopment and street reconstruction occurs, and continue to require utilities in new developments to be underground.
12. Continue to support public/private partnerships to co-locate telecommunication facilities (e.g., antennas on a water tower, small cells on street lights, etc.).
13. Encourage private use of renewable energy systems to reduce demand on public utilities and the need for expansion.

Water Supply

14. Municipal wells shall be located in areas where there will be minimal impact on groundwater and groundwater recharge, including outside of capture zones for springs.
15. Encourage the use of no-flush restroom fixtures in commercial businesses.
16. Encourage the replacement of older fixtures with low-flow fixtures through public education and awareness.

Sanitary Sewer

17. Parcels within the City on septic systems shall be connected to the public sewer system in accordance with the City's ordinances when such utilities are made available.
18. Work to mitigate excessive infiltration and inflow, as defined in s. NR 110, in the sanitary sewer system.

Surface Water & Stormwater Management

19. Improve the quality of surface water runoff by continuing to implement stormwater best management practices, maintaining the stormwater management system and expanding facilities as necessary in accordance with the City's policies and ordinances.
20. Continue to enforce the Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Ordinance.
21. Continue to encourage residential and nonresidential properties to implement additional stormwater management techniques to reduce the impacts of stormwater discharge (e.g. rain gardens, rain barrels, green roofs, bioretention basins, oil and grease filters) on surface and groundwater resources.
22. Encourage the protection of existing vegetation on new development sites to the greatest degree possible in order to minimize soil erosion during and after construction.

23. Continue to require maintenance plans for stormwater drainageways, ponds, and detention facilities.
24. Consider implementing best management practices with respect to stormwater management and erosion control measures, including the use of rain gardens, at City facilities.
25. Continue to be an active participant in the Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium, which keeps residents informed about stormwater quality and measures that they can take to reduce pollutants in our stormwater runoff.
26. Continue to explore and consider alternative winter maintenance methods to reduce rock salt usage (e.g., salt brine) to protect water quality and the natural environment.

(CALL OUT BOX) Adopt-A-Storm-Drain Program. In 2020, Fond du Lac Public Works Department established an Adopt-A-Storm-Drain Program where interested residents, service groups, businesses, etc. sign up to keep a storm inlet clear of debris and obstructions. This program is aimed at preventing localized flooding, protecting wildlife by keeping pollutants out of the water, keeping neighborhood litter-free and attractive, and enhancing community awareness of stormwater pollution prevention.

Actions

2. Update the 2001 Fond du Lac Sewer Service Area Plan in collaboration with East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
3. Update the 2000 Fond du Lac Wastewater Agreement between the City and the Outlying Sewer Group.
4. Implement recommendations contained in the latest Master Plan and Facilities Overview for Sanitary Sewer Collection and Conveyance System. Update this plan periodically.
5. Conduct a formal review of City stormwater management requirements for new development to evaluate their adequacy to prevent flooding and sediment runoff based on the increase in large storm events.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

GOAL #1: The City of Fond du Lac will have high quality community facilities for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

Policies

General

1. Coordinate community facility planning with land use and transportation planning. Require all new development proposals to be reviewed by all City departments and agencies so that essential City services and facilities can be provided to new developments in a timely and efficient manner.

2. Require new development to pay for the costs associated with the City providing or expanding utility infrastructure to the development.
3. Require fiscal impact analyses of all major capital projects considered for funding. Such analyses should include, but not be limited to, one-time capital costs, life-cycle operating and maintenance costs, revenues from the project, and costs of not doing the project.
4. Make major project specific capital decisions by the City Council through the adoption of the City's operating budget and the Capital Improvement Program and budget.
5. Collaborate with private organizations that are serving the recreation needs of families, especially those that focus on the needs of lower-income families.
6. Promote the co-location of facilities and services to maximize the efficient provision of services, reduce capital costs and operation costs.
7. Prioritize the incorporation of green building technologies, energy saving measures and renewable/alternative energy technologies into all new and remodeled City-owned buildings. Seek grant opportunities to support this.
8. As feasible, locate public-use community facilities where they are accessible to a majority of their expected users by walking, bicycling, and/or public transit.

Parks & Trails

9. Develop and maintain parks facilities that meet a wide range of recreational needs, both passive and active.
10. Consider the recommendations of the adopted City of Fond Du Lac Recreation Plan 2020-2024 when planning and budgeting for future infrastructure improvements. The City will also support the periodic update of the plan to maintain grant eligibility.
11. Continue to work closely with the school district to identify and explore options for sharing recreation facilities. The Advisory Parks Board should include a representative of the school district.
12. Consider the use of renewable energy systems at park facilities, including solar lighting and heating.
13. Preserve and improve water-related recreational opportunities and facilities.

Emergency Services

14. Continue to evaluate the need for expanded public safety services and facilities (police, fire and EMS) to respond to the needs of the community as it grows.

15. Ensure that public safety facilities are located to provide acceptable response times to existing development and can accommodate future growth areas.

Waste Management Services

16. Continue to manage solid waste disposal and recycling in a manner that is environmentally sound and cost-effective.
17. Consider additional opportunities to reuse waste materials generated by City processes as new options and uses become available.
18. Continue to encourage recycling and minimize waste by charging additional fees for curbside collection of excessive amounts of waste.
19. Consider subsidizing costs for purchase of composting bins by city residents, and provide public education/awareness regarding the benefits of composting.
20. Continue to provide public education and awareness of recycling opportunities for all waste streams, including computers, electronics and appliances (e.g. hazardous waste and e-cycle pickup).

(CALL OUT BOX) Clean Effluent Reuse. As of 2020, the City uses clean effluent and/or filtered greywater to clean City infrastructure (streets, sewers and park furniture), and in watering City landscaping/trees.

Coordination with Non-Government Organizations

21. Consider the use of public/private partnerships and maintain communication with private organizations to avoid the duplication of facilities and services and increase efficiencies.
22. Encourage and support the provision of private recreation, daycare and other facilities and services to serve the needs of the youth, the elderly and those with special needs.
23. Continue to be supportive of charitable organizations in the community that provide services and programs for families, seniors and individuals needing assistance.
24. Strive to maintain strong communication between the City and the Fond du Lac Area School District regarding development within the city. Ensure coordination of school facilities planning with land use and utility planning.

Actions

1. Investigate incorporating sustainability criteria in City purchasing policies that place a priority on sustainable business practices.

2. Codify the City's current practice of encouraging recycling of construction waste materials on publicly funded construction projects.
3. During the annual capital improvement planning process, consider budgeting for implementation of the recommendations of the adopted City of Fond du Lac Recreation Plan 2020-2024, Fond du Lac Loop Landscape Master Plan, the 2018 Bike and Pedestrian Plan and the Lakeside Park Master Plan, including planned bike and pedestrian facilities (on-street markings and off-street trail construction).
4. Consider, on annual-basis, opportunities to implement additional recommendations in the 2012 energy audits of City buildings and facilities (e.g., LED street lights).

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

2020 SNAPSHOT: Utilities and Community Facilities

Schools & Education

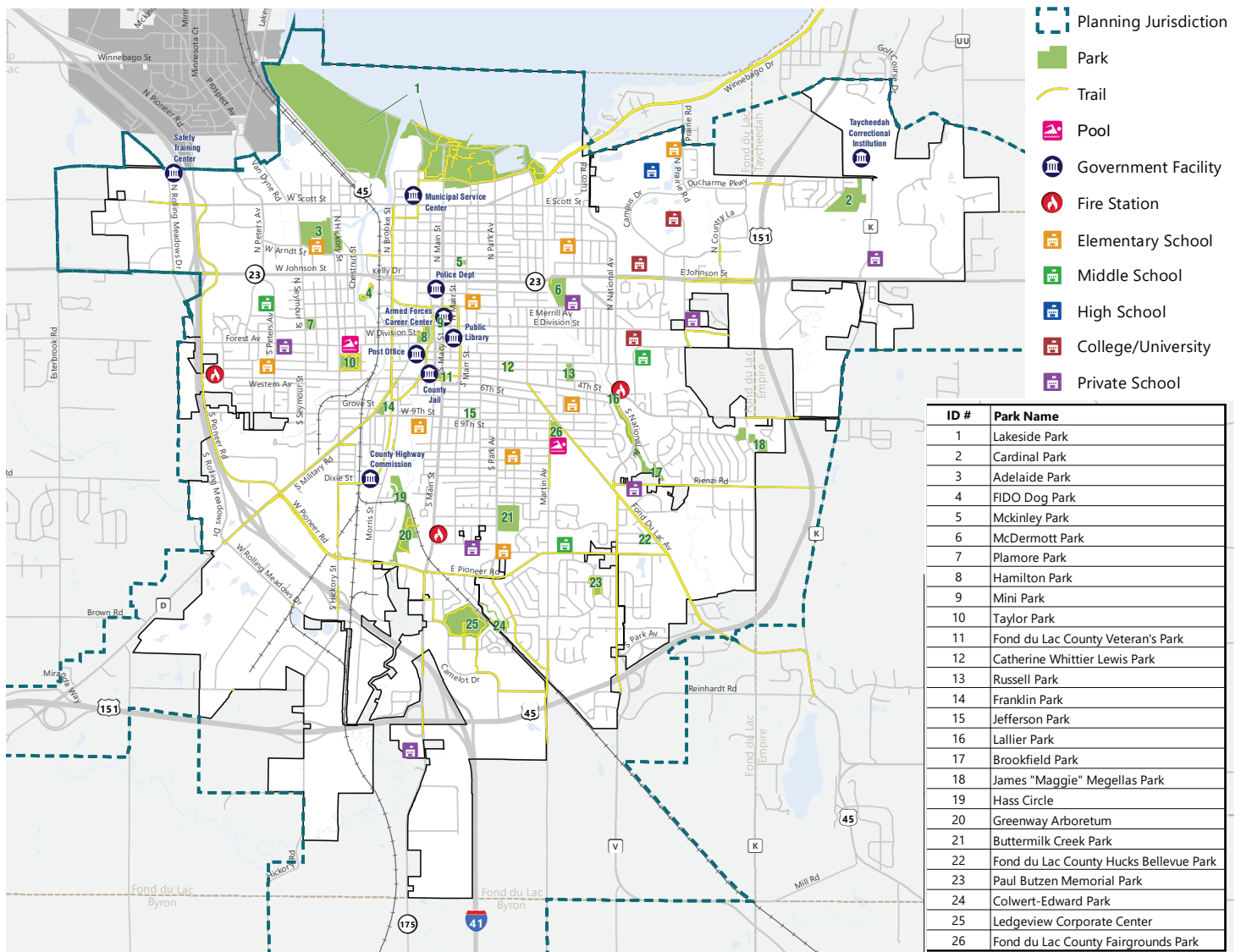
Public Schools: The Fond du Lac School District consists of nine elementary schools, three middle schools, and one high school. The district also contains two middle school STEM academies and one alternative high school. Most recent enrollment numbers (2018-2019) report 3,259 elementary school students, 1,451 middle school students, and 1,981 high school students in the district.

Private Schools: As of the 2019-2020 school year, there are 12 private schools that serve residents of Fond du Lac. Across the City, there are eleven private options for private elementary schools, and five options for private high school. Some schools are double represented as the same institution serves K-12. Approximately 2,200 students are enrolled in private educational institutions for the 2019-2020 school year.

Technical Colleges: Moraine Park Technical College serves Fond du Lac residents in education and training for students seeking an Associate Degree, Basic Education, Community Services, Technical Diploma, or Vocational Adult classes.

Colleges / Universities: There are two colleges/universities in the City of Fond du Lac, Marian University and a UW - Oshkosh satellite campus. Marian University is a private, 4-year institution, while UW - Oshkosh FDL campus is a two-year program which operates guaranteed transfer to any 4-year university in the University of Wisconsin system.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES (See Map X in Appendix)



Parks/Recreation

City Parks: The City of Fond du Lac has 22 City parks (plus, three County Parks/Fairgrounds) serving recreation needs of residents. City-owned parks total 530 acres with Lakeside Park comprising 78% of this acreage. There are also two recreational pools within the City - the Taylor Park Pool and the Fairgrounds Family Aquatic Center. There are two dog parks with in the City providing recreational opportunities for those with pets.

City Trails: The City of Fond du Lac has dedicated park trails, as well as three dedicated trails: Greenway Arboretum Trails, Prairie Trail, and the Brooke Street Trail. The City has a Master Plan for the Fond du Lac LOOP as well as a Bike-Pedestrian Plan to expand trail development and access.

Public Safety, Health & Welfare

Police Department: The Fond du Lac Police Department consists of 73 sworn officers and 8 personnel whom provide public safety services to the City. The police department is currently undergoing a space and facilities planning effort to more efficiently utilize space in providing services to residents. Police calls in Fond du Lac displayed a slight increase from 2010-2019, averaging 58,805 calls per year. This represents an increase of 8.8% over the time period.

Fire / Rescue: Fond du Lac is a combined Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, meaning both career paramedics and firefighters serve the community in the Department. Based on most recent data, 67 persons staff the Fire/Rescue Department across three stations. The Fire/Rescue Department's service area includes the City of Fond du Lac; the Village of Brownsville; the Towns of Byron, Empire, and Fond du Lac; and Quad Graphics. Between 2015-2018, responses for the Department averaged 6,261 per year across all areas served.

Lakeside Municipal Court: Municipal court services for Fond du Lac is located at 16 Garfield Street in North Fond du Lac.

Fond du Lac County Jail: The Fond du Lac County Jail is located at 63 Western Avenue in the City of Fond du Lac, with a capacity of over 300 persons. The jail employs 73 total staff in administration, jail services, and kitchen staff.

Fond du Lac Secure Detention: One of only 13 facilities in the State, Fond du Lac County Secure Detention is located at 180 S Macy Street in the City of Fond du Lac, with a capacity of over 27 youth in need of placement.

Healthcare Facilities: There are two healthcare systems that serve the City of Fond du Lac, SSM Agnesian and Aurora Healthcare. 24-hour, seven day a week emergency medical services are provided at St. Agnes Hospital of SSM Agnesian Healthcare.

Utilities

Electric: City electric service is operated by Alliant Energy, which serves both generation and distribution. Alliant Energy has recently expanded renewable energy generation facilities in the area, notably adding a 1,000 megawatt solar generation facility outside of the City. Energy transmission in the area is owned and operated by ATC, although there are no current projects within the City of Fond du Lac.

Refuse/Recycling Collection: Waste disposal and refuse collection is provided through the City's Solid Waste Division, providing curbside collection for residents. Waste Management operates a transfer station at 1207 S Hickory Street in the City. Collection of recyclable is also contracted through Waste Management Solutions.

Natural Gas: In addition to electric service, natural gas is also provided and distributed by Alliant Energy.

Telecommunications: Cellular and mobile service is provided to residents throughout the City by Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile, AT&T, Cellcom, and U.S. Cellular. Satellite high-speed internet can be obtained through HughesNet, Skycasters, and Viasat, while traditional wired and wireless broadband internet access is available through Cellcom, Bertram, AT&T, and Charter Communications.

Stormwater: There is no stormwater utility in the City. Stormwater is addressed through the capital improvement plan and guided by City ordinance.

Other Government Facilities

- » City County Government Center
- » Fond du Lac Senior Center
- » Public Library (Main)
- » FDL Public Library Express
- » City Water Utility
- » City Wastewater Treatment
- » Downtown Parking Lots
- » Downtown Parking Ramps
- » Post Office