

Volume 2: Goals, Policies & Actions

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ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES



The quality of utility services and community facilities in Sun Prairie supports the quality of life in the community and the long term viability of the city.

The City's current infrastructure, described in Volume 1 of this Plan, is generally meeting the needs of existing users. It is critical to strategically plan for expansion and improvement of utilities and community facilities to support the growth of the community while continuing to meet the needs of current users.

The goals, policies and actions in this chapter are based on input from the public, City staff and various City committees and elected officials. The chapter begins with a summary of critical issues and opportunities. Several of the policies and actions are bolded to signify high priority.

The planning process includes a review of data that describe utility and community facilities conditions (See Volume 1) and many forms of input from stakeholders throughout the community. The following issues and opportunities stand out as most relevant to the goals, policies and actions in this chapter.

Underground Directional Boring



Many utility systems are located underground, including stormwater, wastewater, water supply, natural gas, and sometimes electric and telecommunications service too. It is a common practice to upgrade certain underground systems with a process known as directional boring, with equipment that can pull a new cable or pipe through the ground without the disruption of an excavated trench. An error in the marking of an underground gas line resulted in a major explosion in downtown Sun Prairie in July 2018 that destroyed several buildings

and killed one fire fighter. Following this event there has been increased concern about and scrutiny of directional boring practices.

Telecom Technology Changes



At some point during the next 10 years, wireless communications systems are expected to be upgraded from "4G" to "5G" technology. This change will enable dramatically more data to be transmitted via mobile devices to support things like high-quality streaming video. It will also require many more antennas, because the supported range is lower. The Sun Prairie Utilities Commission anticipates a flood of requests from multiple private service providers to locate 5G antennas on utility poles and other

features throughout the City, and desires a proactive approach to accommodate this new need without creating a new clutter of such devices.

Flooding Risks



Compared to other communities in Dane County, Sun Prairie has experienced flooding, but has managed to avoid severe flood events. Through a combination of careful design and meteorological luck, rainfall events have not typically resulted in major property or infrastructure damage here. However, there is evidence that weather patterns are shifting toward more frequent storms with heavy rainfall. The City's regulations on the design of stormwater

management systems may not be adequate to protect people and property from these large storms, as they are based on data from a time with fewer such storms.

Sustainability Initiatives



Sustainability is about considering the economic, social and environmental impacts of various decisions and investments. The City's greatest opportunity to implement changes are in its own facilities, services and infrastructure. See the side bar for the top five things the City can do to be more sustainable based on the 2018 Community Survey. Policies and actions related to sustainability are tagged with this



leaf symbol. Several community groups have noted that Sun Prairie lacks an indoor, general purpose venue that can accommodate 100+ people. This is of particular interest to ethnic groups within the community.

Public/Private Event Venue



VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Improvement Needs

The 2018 Community Survey asked if the City should invest more tax dollars to improve any of a series of 17 types of public services and infrastructure systems. The only system with greater than 50% support for greater investment was "street maintenance". A lesser number of respondents supported greater investment in other utilities and community services, including police protection (31%), drinking water quality (29%), recycling services (28%), and fire protection (21%).

Sustainability

The 2018 Community Survey asked people to indicate their support for up to five things the City can do to be more sustainable. The top five options were: energy efficient street lighting (62%), use of "green" building technologies in public buildings (57%), build a public market to sell locally-grown foods (48%), fill gaps in the bike and pedestrian network (48%), and encourage recycling of construction waste in public projects.

UTILITIES



Sun Prairie HWY 151 Substation

GOAL #1

The City of Sun Prairie will have a **high-quality, cost-effective, well-planned and efficient system of public utilities.**

Policies

1. Plan City capital investments strategically. This process includes defining desired outcomes of capital investments, evaluating potential investments on a citywide basis, applying standard criteria for assessing alternative investments, and making more efficient use of all potential resources.
2. Serve all urban development within the City of Sun Prairie and the Sun Prairie Urban Service Area 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. Any development that requires urban services should be located within the City of Sun Prairie corporate limits. The City shall not provide urban services, facilities and utilities, with the exception of electric service, to lands that are located outside of the City's corporate limits.
4. Maintain and improve the utility infrastructure to ensure adequate capacity and integrity to serve existing users and accommodate new service areas. All new development proposals shall be reviewed by all City departments and agencies via the Technical Review Committee process, and by Sun Prairie Utilities to ensure that essential utilities can be provided to the subject development area in a timely and efficient manner. The first priority for utility capital expenditures will be maintaining the reliability of existing systems and services.
5. Maintain high standards for underground boring operations in the City.
6. Avoid environmentally sensitive areas when planning the location of utilities to minimize adverse impacts, to the greatest extent reasonably possible.
7. Promote environmental stewardship in meeting utility service needs and encourage the efficient use of resources by utility customers.



Indicates a policy or action that supports community sustainability

*Policies and actions in **bold text** indicate high priority*

Actions

- 1. Develop a schedule to regularly meet with all locally active telecommunication utilities to discuss their future needs and interests for new equipment in the City.**

GOAL #2

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

Policies

Land Development

- 8. Maximize the use of existing utility systems by encouraging infill development that uses existing infrastructure investments.**
9. 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 intergovernmental agreement.
10. Plan for the short and long term orderly extension of urban services to strategic city expansion areas. This should be based on the Residential Development Staging Plan when reviewing annexation petitions, land divisions, zoning map amendments, urban service area amendments and residential development proposals, and when the City considers the location and timing

of capital improvement projects.

11. 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 services, facilities and utilities to such growth.
12. Discourage inefficient “leap frog” development that results in infrastructure constructed before there is adequate customer base in place to support its maintenance.
13. Adhere to the City’s annexation policies and consider the Capital Area Regional Plan Commission’s Urban Service Area status when determining the feasibility of serving possible annexation lands with utilities.

Electrical System

- 14. Work with telecommunication utilities to ensure co-located facilities are aesthetically acceptable to the City, including light pole design standards (including incorporation of 5G equipment).**
15. Continue to bury existing utilities, where feasible, as redevelopment and street reconstruction occurs, and continue to require utilities in new developments to be underground.
16. Continue to support public/private partnerships to colocate telecommunication facilities.
17. Support the addition of renewable energy to the Sun Prairie

Utilities’ energy portfolio, by means of the continued purchase of renewable energy and the use of renewable energy and energy conservation technologies for the operation of utility facilities. Continue to offer utility users the option to buy a block of renewable energy each month.

18. Encourage private use of renewable energy systems to reduce demand on public utilities and the need for expansion.

Water Supply

19. 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. New city wells within the Token Creek Watershed shall be avoided if possible. 
20. Preserve mineral resource areas until their value and usefulness as regional infiltration and groundwater recharge is investigated and ruled out.
21. Enforce the Wellhead Protection Plan.
22. Implement the detailed water system recommendations contained in the 2018 Sun Prairie Water Supply and Distribution Study, prepared for SPU. Support an update of the plan based on the assumptions adopted with this Comprehensive Plan update and support future updates as necessary.
23. Encourage the use of no-flush restroom fixtures in commercial businesses. 

30%

of survey respondents feel the City should provide education and awareness on benefits of energy efficient fixtures/equipment, plus incentives available.

- 24. Encourage the replacement of older fixtures with low-flow fixtures through public education and awareness. 
- 25. Consider offering City incentives through the Utility to encourage the conservation of water. 

Sanitary Sewer

- 26. Parcels within the City on septic systems shall be connected to the public sewerage system in accordance with the City's ordinances when such utilities are made available.
- 27. Implement the detailed recommendations contained in the Master Plan and Facilities Overview for Sanitary Sewer Collection and Conveyance System, June 2018, prepared for the City. Update this plan periodically.
- 28. Consult engineering staff and utilize the City of Sun Prairie Interceptor and Lift Station Map (to be updated; see Action #7) when reviewing proposals for annexation, land divisions, zoning map amendments, urban service area amendments and related development approvals.

Surface Water & Stormwater Management

- 29. Improve the quality of surface water runoff by correcting existing stormwater problems, 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.
- 30. Continue to enforce the Stormwater Utility and Stormwater Management Ordinances.
- 31. 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 the quality of Token Creek and Koshkonong Creek and other surface and groundwater resources.
- 32. 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.
- 33. Continue to assume ownership and maintenance responsibility of stormwater facilities and systems that receive stormwater from public streets, lands, and facilities.
- 34. Through the stormwater utility, continue to provide stormwater credits for properties that implement additional stormwater management techniques to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff.
- 35. Continue to require maintenance plans for stormwater drainageways, ponds, and detention facilities.
- 36. Complete the projects contained in the City's Stormwater Utility Capital Improvement Plan.
- 37. Implement the detailed recommendations contained in the 2017 Sun Prairie Stormwater Quality Plan and support updates as needed.
- 38. Continue to implement best management practices with respect to stormwater management and erosion control measures, including the use of rain gardens and other best practices at City facilities. 
- 39. Encourage water conservation and the reduction of storm water runoff by offering stormwater utility credits for maintaining an operable rain garden, rain barrel and/or green roof. 
- 40. Continue to be an active participant in the Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership (MAMSWAP) which keeps residents informed about stormwater quality and measures that they can take to reduce pollutants in our stormwater runoff. 
- 41. Continue to participate and consider expansion of the Green Tier Clear Waters Initiative, which facilitates continual improvement techniques for erosion control/storm water management practices. 

Actions

2. Continue 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. Improve City's enforcement of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) amongst private developers and contractors.

3. Establish a guideline that encourages placement of utility boxes in locations that limits their impact on (prominent) intersections, within pedestrian zones, and along a primary building façade.

4. Promote available incentives, energy audits and appliance recycling offered through Wisconsin Public Power, Inc. (WPPI), Focus on Energy or other sources to assist individuals and businesses with energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.



5. Evaluate the City's current use of drainage districts to fund stormwater facility maintenance and analyze possibilities to eliminate duplicative services and fees.

6. Periodically poll residents regarding waste management practices and services, including the frequency of recycling collection and local options for hazardous waste disposal.

7. Update the City's Interceptor and Lift Station Map.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES



City Hall Building

GOAL #1

The City of Sun Prairie 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 essential services, facilities and utilities to the development. 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.
3. Plan City capital investments strategically:
 - Define desired outcomes
 - Apply standard criteria to assess alternatives
 - Seek efficiencies
4. Make major project specific capital decisions by the Common Council through the adoption of the City's operating and capital budgets and a Capital Improvement Program.
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. Consider incorporating sustainability criteria in City purchasing policies that place a priority on sustainable business practices such as recycling, use of recycled material and use of local suppliers.



Indicates a policy or action that supports community sustainability

Policies and actions in **bold text** indicate high priority

- 7. Promote the co-location of facilities and services to maximize the efficient provision of services, reduce capital costs and operation costs. 
- 8. Prioritize the incorporation of green building technologies, energy saving measures and renewable/alternative energy technologies into all new and remodeled buildings. Seek grant opportunities to support this. 

- 12. Consider recommendations of the adopted City of Sun Prairie Parks and Open Space Plan when planning and budgeting for future infrastructure improvements. The City will also support the periodic update of the plan to maintain grant eligibility.

57%
of survey respondents feel the City should use sustainable "green" building technologies when building/expanding a public facility.

#1
priority for a recreation improvement is to sign/mark a City-wide bike trail, based on survey respondents. *Splash pad was #1 amongst survey responders with children.*

Municipal Facilities

- 9. 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.
- 10. When feasible, relocate the City's public works functions to the Bailey Road campus. In coordination with Sun Prairie Utilities, consider relocating their facility to this location as well.

Parks & Trails

- 11. Develop and maintain parks facilities that meet a wide range of recreational needs, both passive and active.

- 13. Plan and budget for additional splash pads (beyond the 2019 approved facility) throughout the community. Consider splash pads utilizing recycled water systems. 
- 14. Continue to work closely with the school district to identify and explore options for sharing recreation facilities. The Parks Commission should include a representative of the school district.
- 15. Work with the City of Madison and Dane County to encourage development of a County park on the former quarry site between Nelson Road and Smith's Crossing. 
- 16. Consider the use of renewable energy systems at park facilities, including solar lighting and heating. 

Emergency Services

- 17. 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.
- 18. Ensure that public safety facilities are located to provide acceptable response times to existing development and can accommodate future growth areas.

Waste Management Services

- 19. Continue to manage solid waste disposal and recycling in a manner that is environmentally sound and cost-effective. 
- 20. Continue to search for opportunities to reuse waste materials generated by City processes, such as that occurring at the Water Pollution Control Facility with the reuse of clean effluent for vehicle maintenance and the use of methane produced from the treatment process to power equipment at the facility. 
- 21. Consider the adoption of a policy aimed at encouraging the recycling of construction waste materials on public construction projects. 
- 22. Continue to encourage recycling and minimize waste by charging additional fees for curbside collection of excessive amounts of waste. 

23. Continue operation of the recycling center for use by City residents, and when appropriate consider expanding and/or improving opportunities for the recycling and reuse of materials.



24. Continue to subsidize costs for purchase of composting bins by city residents, and provide public education/awareness regarding the benefits of composting.



25. Provide public education and awareness of recycling opportunities for all waste streams, including computers, electronics and appliances.



Coordination with Non-Government Organizations

26. Consider the use of public/private partnerships and maintain communication with private organizations to avoid the duplication of facilities and services and increase efficiencies.



27. 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.

28. Continue to be supportive of charitable organizations in the community that provide services and programs for families, seniors and individuals needing assistance.

Coordination with the Sun Prairie School District

29. Work together with the Sun Prairie School District to en-

courage siting, renovation and expansion of school facilities in areas that are best equipped to accommodate growth.

30. Strive to maintain strong communication between the City and the Sun Prairie Area School District regarding development within the city. Ensure coordination of school facilities planning with land use and utility planning.

Actions

1. Continue fundraising and designing for a library expansion.

2. Conduct a study to evaluate the space needs and potential sites for a large, multi-cultural center that can be a shared space used for various community, ethnic and religious events and celebrations (e.g. Hmong funerals, Diwali, etc.), and provides programming that showcases the growing cultural diversity within the City. This could be a public or a private facility (or a joint venture) and might be located in a new community park – see the Ashwaubenon Community Center as a model. Continue to explore the possibility of a cultural center (e.g. bandshell, performing arts center, etc.) on

the lands next to the public library.

3. Work with the City of Madison and Dane County to evaluate the feasibility of a sports-plex recreation facility and/or a joint Madison/Sun Prairie community splash pad on City of Madison lands south of the Prairie Lakes commercial area.

4. During the annual capital improvement planning process, consider budgeting for implementation of the recommendations of in the adopted City of Sun Prairie Parks and Open Space Plan, including planned bike and pedestrian facilities (on-street markings and off-street trail construction), a splash pad, and improved access to and use of Patrick Marsh.

5. Conduct energy audits of existing City buildings and facilities and consider implementation of resulting recommendations.



6. Adopt the Potential Future Parks Map 4-1 as a component of the Official Map.

7. Move Sun Prairie Utilities out of the downtown. Consider retaining an office somewhere in the downtown for customer interaction.



Ashwaubenon Community Center