

Chapter 5 – Utilities and Community Facilities

State of Wisconsin Statute, *Comprehensive Planning*, 66.1001 (2) (d), states the Utilities and Community Facilities Element of a community's comprehensive plan is intended to be:

"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, storm water 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, shall include an approximate timetable that forecasts the need in the local governmental unit to expand or rehabilitate existing utilities and facilities or to create new utilities and facilities and shall assess future needs for government services in the local governmental unit that are related to such utilities and facilities."

5.1 Introduction

Providing not only for basic needs but also for a high level of service to all residents is the main goal when planning community utilities and facilities. Quality water, health care options, emergency services, a reliable supply of energy, sufficient police and fire protection, quality educational opportunities, together with ample recreational and civic public facilities help shape the quality of life within the Town of La Prairie.

The existing utilities and facilities and potential location and capacity of future utilities and facilities have vast implications for the location and type of the Town of La Prairie's future development. Understanding utility and community facility needs and carefully planning for the phasing and siting of those needs, will aid in achieving a desirable community development pace and pattern.

This chapter describes the existing and planned utilities and facilities that are and/or will be available in or near the Town of La Prairie. Included are sanitary sewer and water facilities (private systems), storm water management, solid waste disposal, recycling facilities and programs, cemeteries and parks, telecommunications, utilities, health services, police, fire and rescue, libraries, schools and higher education, child care, worship, libraries, and Town and County government. This chapter provides a description of the location of each facility together with a timetable for any planned expansion or rehabilitation of each as well as an assessment of governmental services and agencies that manage and operate utilities and facilities.

5.2 Utilities and Community Facilities Inventory

The following inventory and analysis of the Town's existing utilities and community facilities will provide information that is critical to the development of goals, objectives, policies, and strategies for future needs.

Sanitary Sewer Service

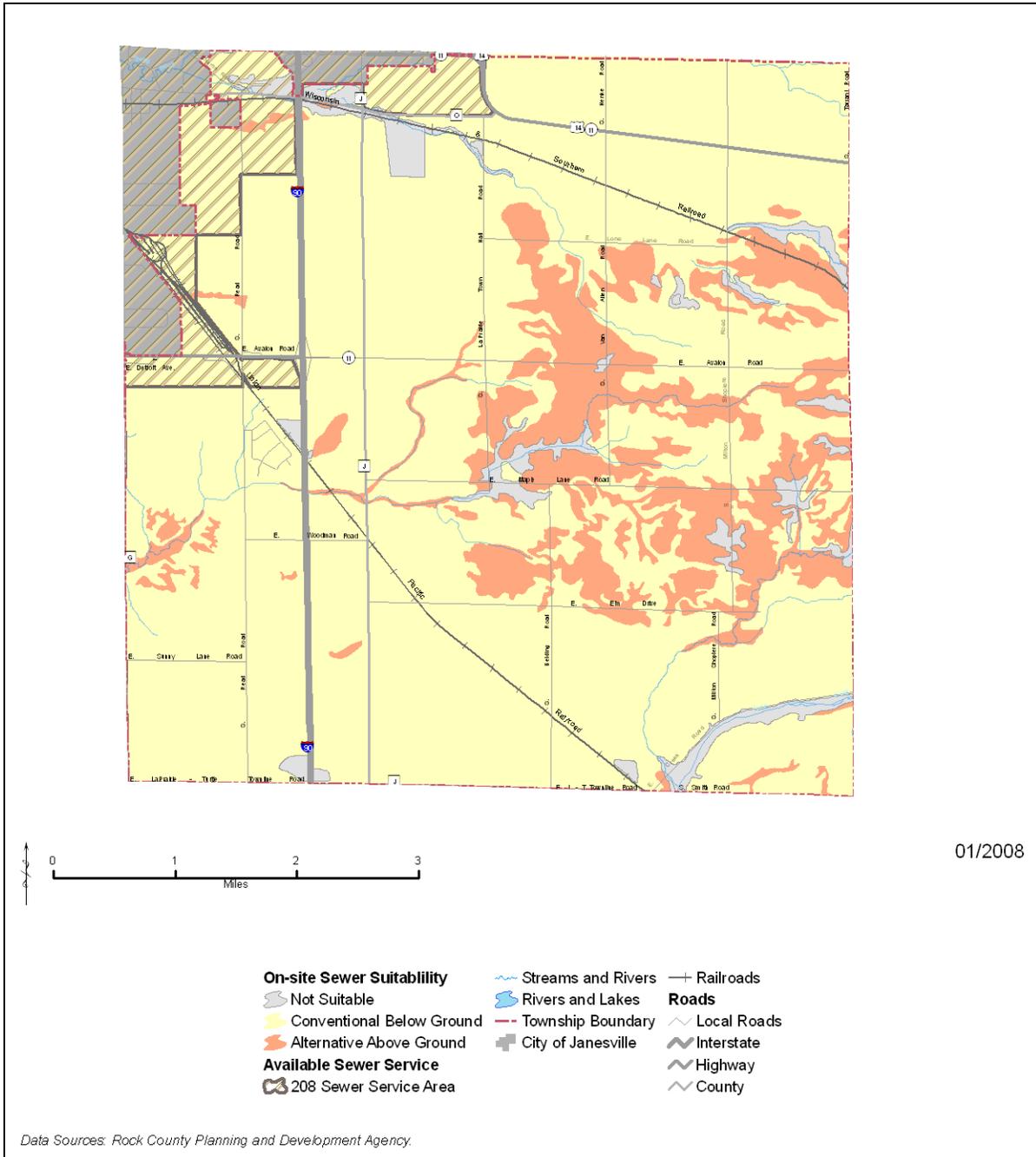
Except for a few businesses located along Delavan Drive that are hooked up to the City of Janesville, all other properties within the Town of La Prairie are on private septic systems that are subject to permitting and standards set forth by the Rock County Health Department. It is the responsibility of landowners to

maintain and upgrade their septic systems as necessary. Bergendal, and Collins provide private septic pumping within the Town. Part of the Town of La Prairie currently lies within the expansion boundary of the City of Janesville sewer service area. Whenever the sewer service area boundary is expanded, the City acquires the power to plan for extending its sewer service into that area. Properties that are required to hook up to city sewer are required to annex into the City prior to hook up. Extension of the sewer service area is the first indication that the properties within that area are likely to be annexed into the City at some point in the future.

As of this writing, the sewer service area boundaries for the City of Janesville extends into the north half of Section 4, the west half of Section 5, the east half of Section 6, the northeast and southwest of Section 7, and the north half of the south half of Section 18. (See map 5.1)

Map 5.1 also depicts general soil characteristics that indicate whether private sewage systems would be conventional, above-ground or not suitable at all.

Map 5.1: Sanitary Sewer Service Area: City of Janesville



Wells

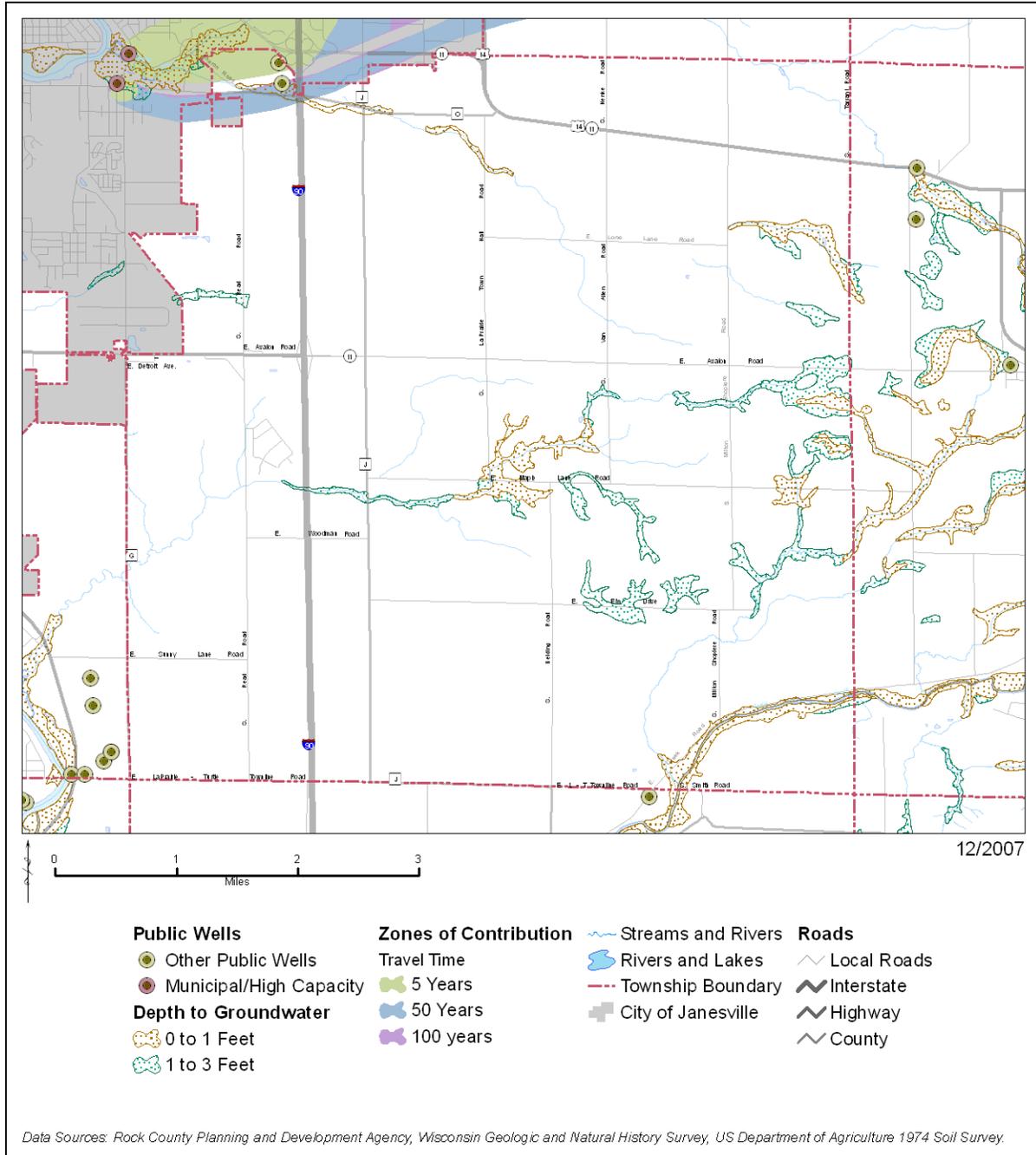
All businesses and residential properties in the Town of La Prairie get their potable (drinkable) water from private wells.

There are five categories of wells found in Rock County. They are:

1. ***Municipal*** - wells directly supply nine (9) municipal water districts in Rock County. They include, The City of Beloit (9), The City of Janesville (9), Milton (6), Edgerton (5), Orfordville (2), Clinton (2), Evansville (3), Footville (3), and Fulton (1).
2. ***Other Than Municipal*** - wells supply 13 mobile home parks located throughout the county.
3. ***Transient Non Community*** - wells primarily supply a number of businesses, parks, churches, and taverns. There are 154 Transient Non Community wells found in the county. There are two such wells located within the Town. They are associated with commercial or industrial businesses (Ryan Incorporated).
4. ***Non Transient Non Community*** - wells serve nine (9) stand alone school buildings located throughout the county.
5. ***Private*** - wells are generally owned and operated by residential property owners. No permits were needed from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to construct these wells. Currently, the Rock County Health Department has permitting authority in rural areas and estimates that there are approximately 16,000 to 17,000 private wells within the county. Areas in the Town that are within the City Of Janesville sewer service area are subject to City review.

Map 5.2 (Below) depicts location of public wells in the vicinity of the Town and depth to groundwater. Also shown in the northwest corner of the Town are zones of contribution which indicate the surface area that contributes rainfall to the groundwater for a particular well site and the approximate period of time it takes to reach the well site.

Map 5.2: Water Supply Town of La Prairie



Storm Water Management

There are no storm sewers in the Town of La Prairie, however Rock County adopted the *Rock County Storm Water Management Ordinance* in 2004 (Chapter 28 of the *Rock County Municipal Code*) to manage storm water in unincorporated areas. Properties in the Town of La Prairie are subject to these regulations. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the County, preserve natural resources, and protect the quality of the State's waters. The intent of this Ordinance is to establish long-term, post-construction runoff management requirements to reduce the amount of post-construction storm and associated pollutants reaching the State's waters or adjacent properties. The Rock County Land Conservation Department is responsible for enforcement, monitoring, and updating of this Ordinance. The Town of La Prairie should continue to apply and utilize the most current Best Management Practices as set forth by the State of Wisconsin.

For more information regarding the Rock County Storm Water Management Ordinance please see: <http://www.rockcounty.org/agency/stormwater.pdf> and <http://www.co.rock.wi.us/Dept/Planning/documents/Stormwater%20Management%20Ordinance.pdf>

Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling

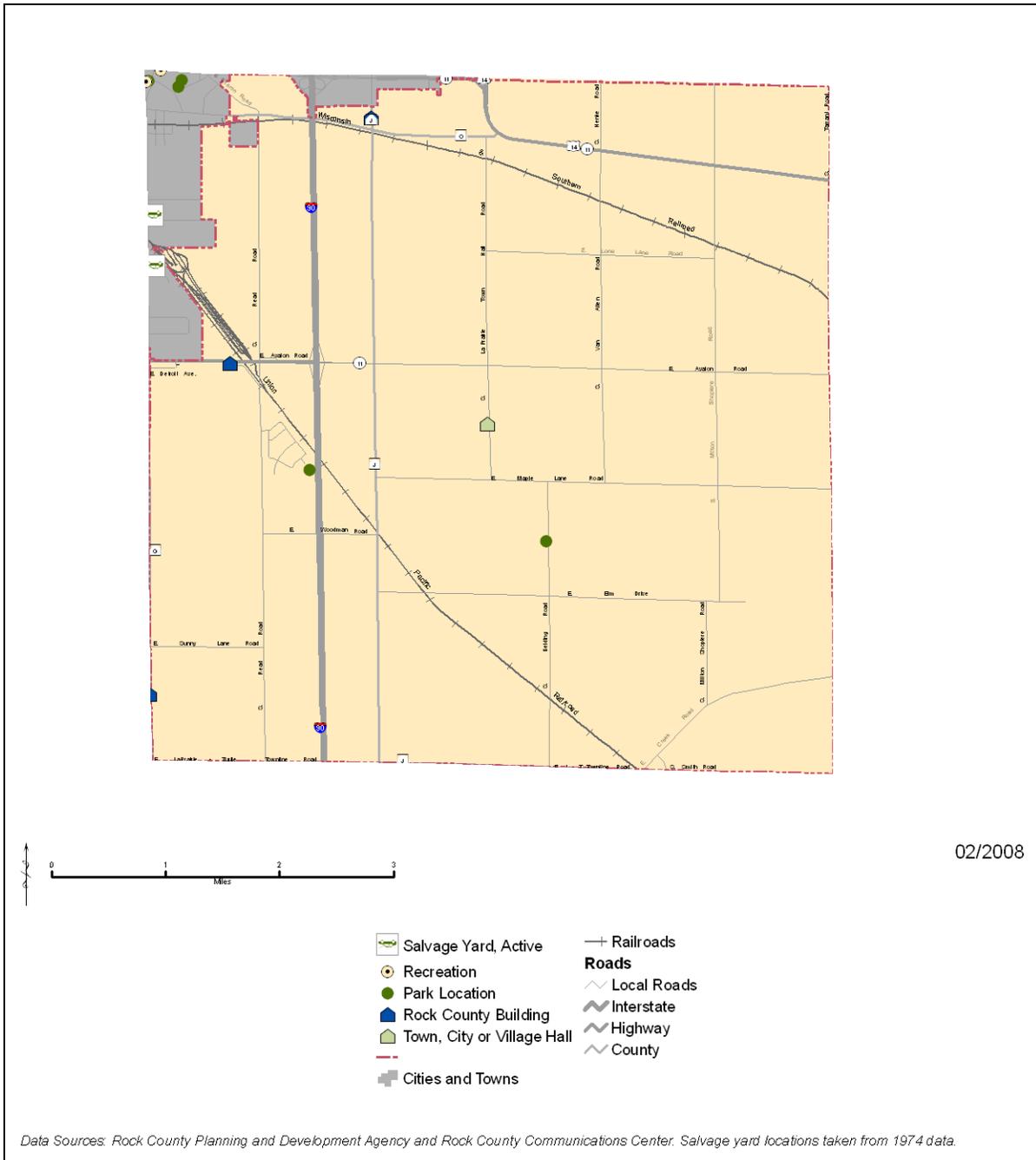
Oveolia Environmental Services out of Fort Atkinson provides weekly solid waste collection, transfer, recycling and disposal for the Town of La Prairie. The Town has no solid waste disposal facilities (landfills) within its boundaries. The City of Janesville, however, owns and operates a landfill, located on Black Bridge Road between Highway 51 and Milton Avenue that is available for use to Town residents.

Parks and Cemeteries

There is one park located in Prairie Estates Subdivision and maintained by the Homeowners Association and another located at the Belding School site within the Town. There are no County Parks in the Town of La Prairie. Rock County Public Works does occupy a salt shed at the intersection of Read Road and State Highway 11. (See Map 5.3 below)

There are no cemeteries located in La Prairie Township.

**Map 5.3:
Parks and Open Space:
Town of La Prairie**



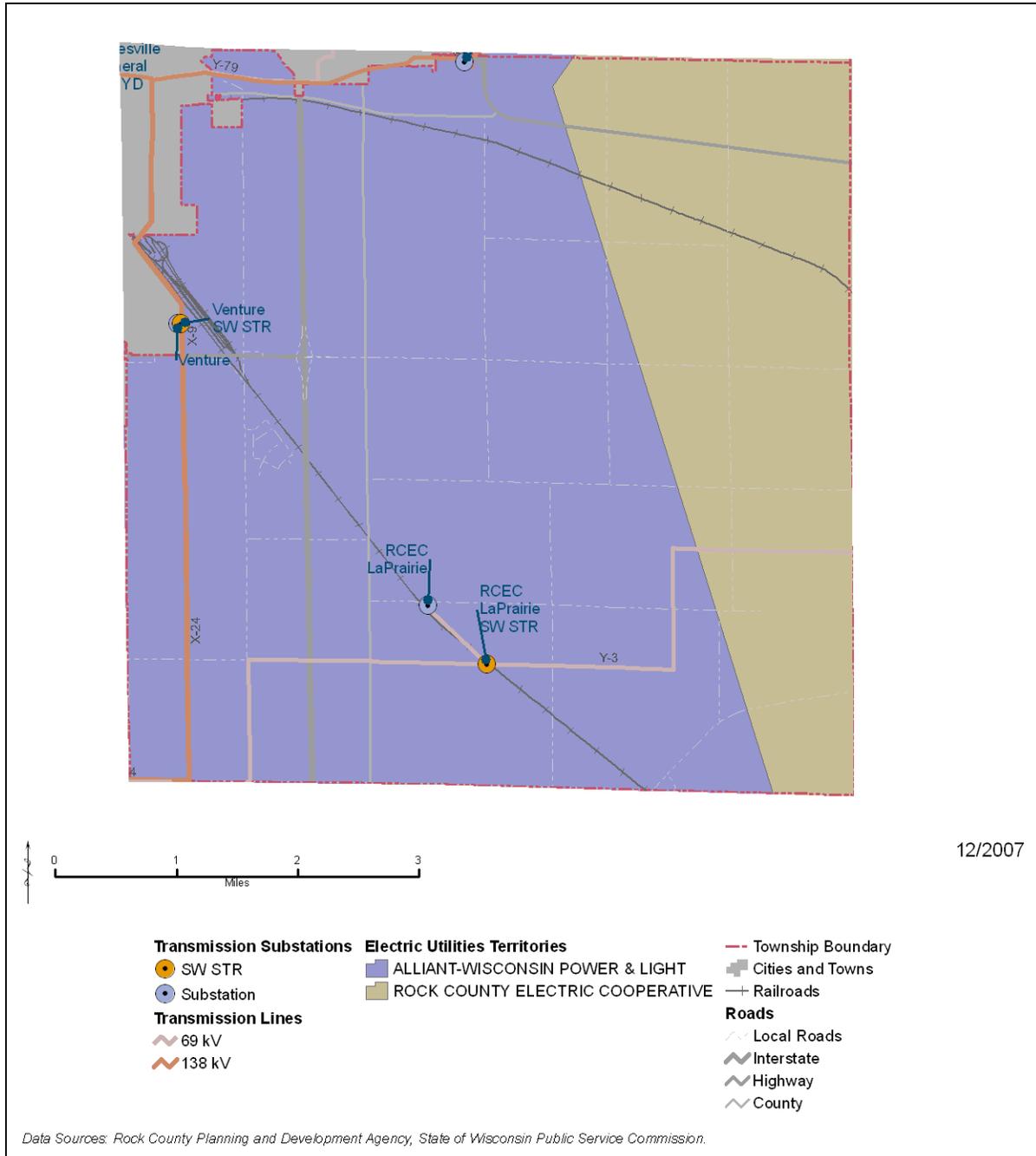
Cable, Telephone and Cell Phone Services

SBC Ameritech provides telephone service in the Town. There is no cable, or high speed Internet services available within the Town.

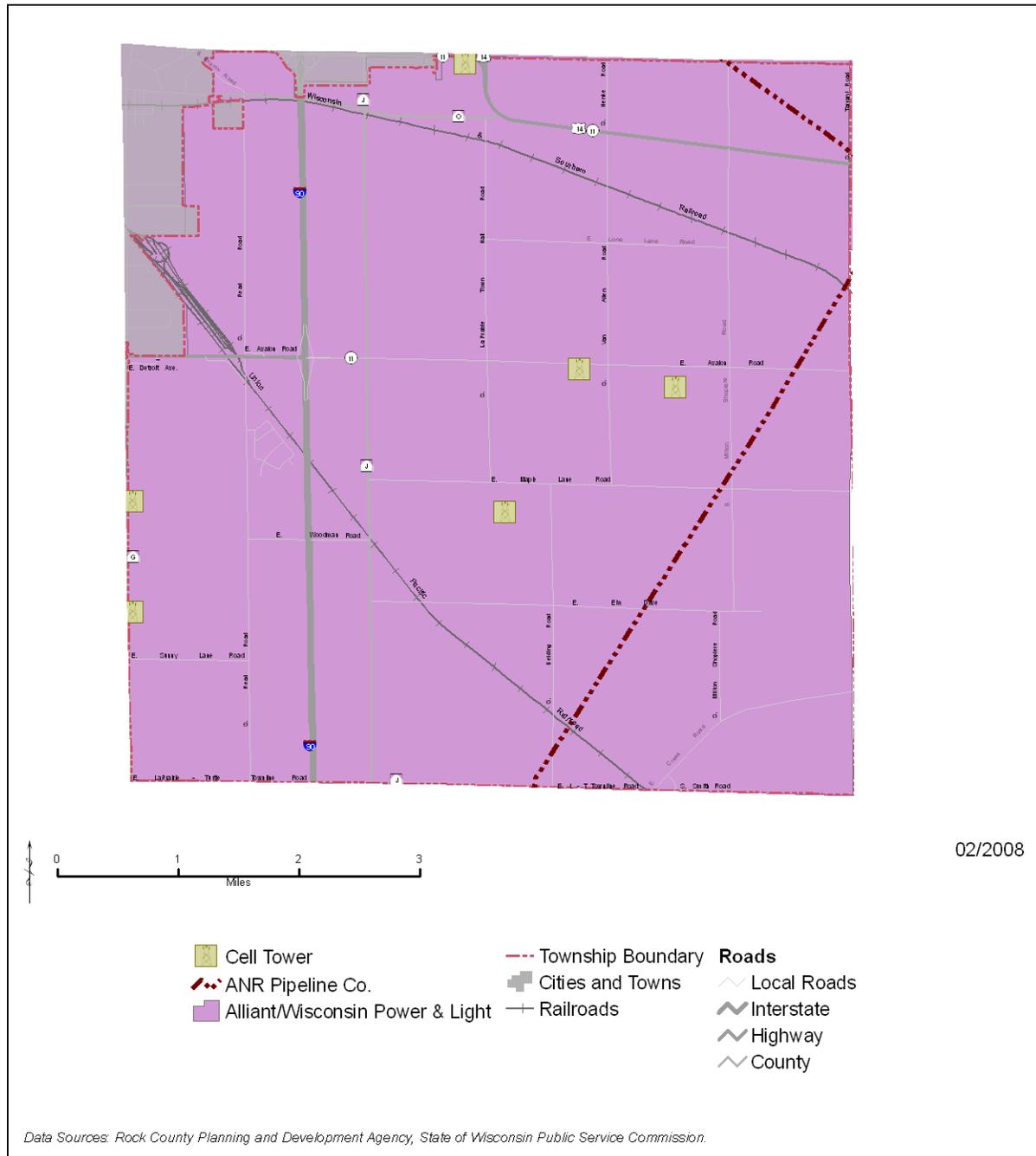
Natural Gas and Electricity

Wisconsin Power and Light, a subsidiary of Alliant Energy Corporation, and REA provides the Town's electric and natural gas services. Alliant, headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin, was formed in 1998 through the merger of WPL Holdings, Inc. (Madison, Wisconsin), IES Industries (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) and Interstate Power Company (Dubuque, Iowa). (See Maps 5.4 & 5.5)

**Map 5.4:
Electric Utilities
Town of La Prairie**



**Map 5.5:
Natural Gas and Cell Towers
Town of La Prairie**



County Health Services and Child Care

The Rock County Health Department began operations in 1919 and was expanded to a full-service health department in 1979. The Department’s mission is to promote, protect and enhance the health of the

community and environment thorough quality service. The Department has a North Office in the City of Janesville and a South Office in the City of Beloit. The Department is designated a level III agency, the highest level awarded by the State.

The Department provides the following services:

- **Adult and child immunizations** - available at worksites, senior citizen centers, group homes, clinics, churches, town halls, and other community settings)
- **Special health care for children** - informs, supports and assists families and providers of children with special health care needs.
- **Communicable disease investigation and prevention** - investigates and inspects reported cases of communicable diseases
- **Food protection** - investigates and inspects of public food and lodging facilities
- **General sanitation** - protects citizens from human health hazards and unhealthy conditions such as radon and asbestos
- **Health education** - provides education activities to help improve the health of all Rock County residents
- **HIV testing and sexually transmitted disease clinic** - provides testing and consultation services
- **Lead poisoning education and testing** - provides information to parents and testing for children between the ages of 1 - 6
- **Private sewage disposal** - ensures all private sewage systems are properly installed, repaired and maintained
- **School nursing services** - provides consultation services to all County schools, including contracting with five County school systems for a broader service
- **Groundwater contamination prevention** - conducts programs that protect ground water for drinking and other uses
- **Well water education and testing** - provides lab services/materials for testing of private well water for contaminants and water specialists for education and interpretation

There are several health care facilities located within easy travel distance in City of Janesville that are available to Town residents. These include the Mercy Health System, Dean Riverview Clinic, and Janesville Occupational Health and Medical Center. Emergency health care can be conveniently obtained at Mercy Hospital and Beloit Memorial Hospital.

Law Enforcement and Fire/Rescue Services

Law Enforcement

The Rock County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services on a per call basis to the Town. The County Sheriff's Department currently employs approximately 90 full-time officers and has a main and remote office, both located in the City of Janesville. The Department also manages the County Jail, ensuring a safe, secure, and humane environment for those persons committed to the County's custody.

Fire/Rescue

The City of Janesville and Town of Turtle Fire Department serve the Town. The fee is based on assessed value. The Departments responds to all emergency fire alarms or calls as well as calls for ambulance/paramedic services, 24 hours per day. In addition to emergency call responses, Department activities include public instruction, job training, building and vehicle maintenance, safety inspections and a variety of other customer services and other specialty services.

Dispatch

The Rock County Telecommunications Center (911 Center) provides 24-hour dispatching services for all County law enforcement, fire/rescue and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies. The center serves all of Rock County's 150,000 plus residents spanning an area of 720 square miles. The center is designed to provide the most efficient method for County residents to obtain fast, effective public safety services 24 hours per day throughout the year.

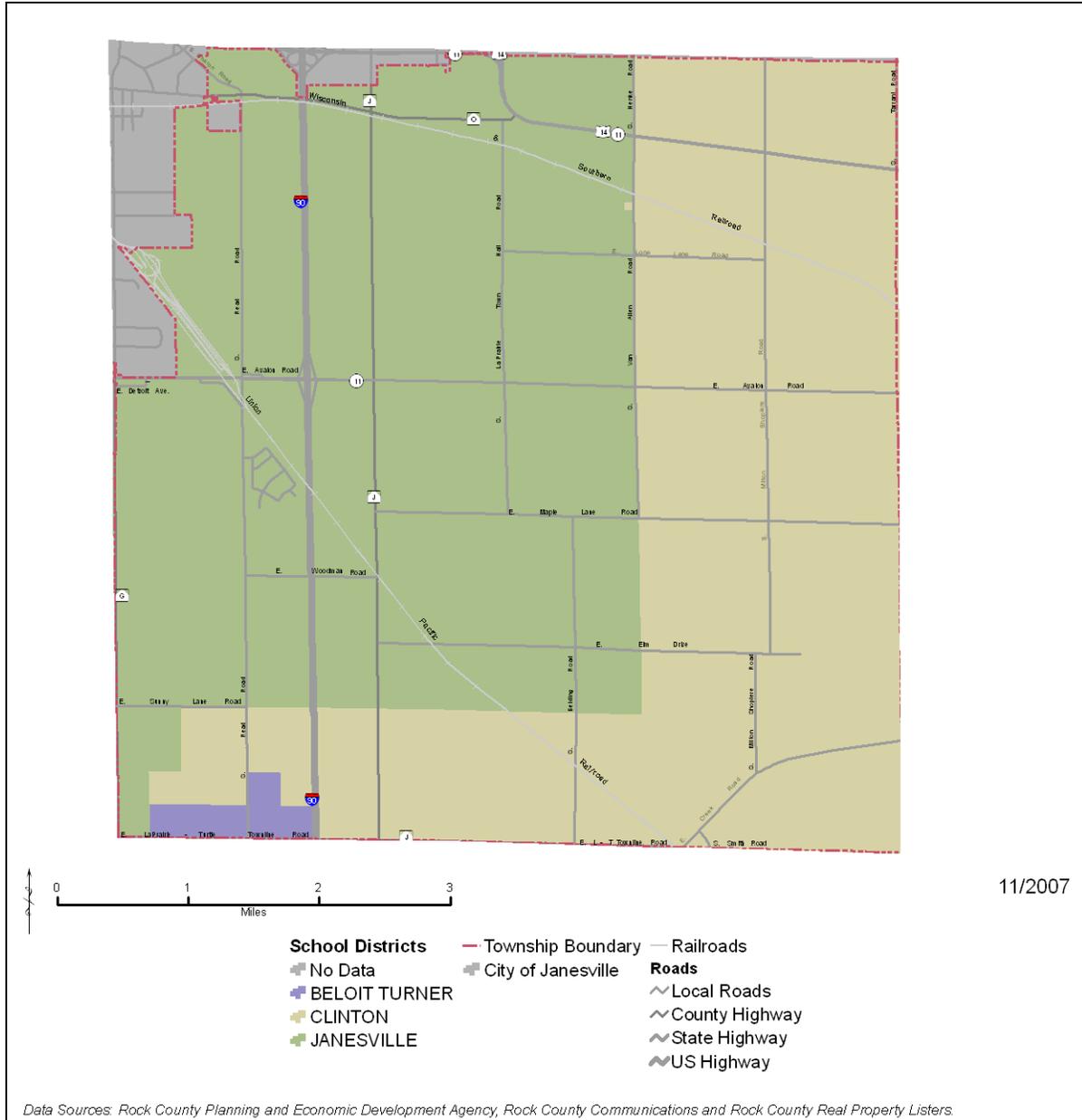
Telecommunications operators perform various duties such as receiving emergency and non-emergency calls for public service via computerized E-911 equipment, dispatching appropriate resources utilizing a computer aided dispatch (CAD) system and automated mapping system, maintaining activity status records of resource units, providing emergency medical pre-arrival instructions, serving as an information resource to response units and the general public, operating radio transmitters in accordance with FCC rules and regulations, communicating by computer with mobile data computers and maintaining electronic data files.

Schools and Education

Public Schools

The Town of La Prairie is in the Janesville, Clinton and Beloit Turner school districts. The majority of children living in the Town of La Prairie attends school in either the Janesville or Clinton School District and generally travels by bus. (See Map 5.6)

Map 5.6: Districts, Schools and Educational Facilities: Town of La Prairie



Higher Education Institutions

Blackhawk Technical College – provides “Education for Employment” based learning by offering comprehensive occupational skills training which enables students to participate in the work force through Associate Degree, Technical Diploma, Certificate, and Apprenticeship programs. Blackhawk Technical College has a wide range of student services that assist and support students in fulfilling educational and occupational life goals as they relate to current and future demands in the work force.

The Blackhawk Technical College campus is located in Janesville. The current enrollment at Blackhawk Technical College is approximately 4,500. For more information visit the Blackhawk Technical College website at: <http://www.blackhawk.edu/>

University of Wisconsin - Rock County - is one of 13 freshman-sophomore liberal arts transfer campuses of the University of Wisconsin System and offers a general education associate degree. After beginning their studies at the University of Wisconsin -Rock County, where the student/teacher ratio in most classes is 20-1, students can transfer to other University of Wisconsin System institutions as well as to colleges and universities throughout the country to complete their bachelor's degrees. Once a student has met transfer requirements, transfer throughout the University of Wisconsin System is guaranteed.

The University of Wisconsin – Rock County campus is located in Janesville. The current enrollment at the Rock County campus is approximately 950 students. For more information visit their website at <http://www.rock.uwc.edu/>

Beloit College - was founded in 1846, when Wisconsin was still a territory. The early curriculum was built on the classical tradition, but students were given an unusual amount of freedom to choose their own courses. Today, Beloit is recognized for its longstanding commitment to curricular innovation, and its first-year initiatives and international education programs.

Beloit offers more than fifty majors, more than thirty minors, and a number of dual-degree and pre-professional programs. A flexible curriculum, grounded in rigorous study encourages independent research, fieldwork, and collaboration with peers and professors. Coursework is interdisciplinary, experiential, and global in scope. With an enrollment of nearly 1,300 students the average class size is 15 students, making the Beloit College faculty-to-student ratio about 11:1.

Beloit College is located adjacent to US Highway 51 in Beloit. For more information, visit the Beloit College website at: <http://www.beloit.edu/>

University Extensions

Rock County UW Extension - extends the knowledge and resources of the University of Wisconsin, to the people where they live and work. Located in the Rock County Courthouse in Janesville, Cooperative Extension develops practical educational programs tailored to local needs and based on university knowledge and research.

Rock County Extension Educators are University of Wisconsin faculty and staff who program in the areas of agriculture and agribusiness, natural resources, family living and youth development. Extension specialists work on UW System campuses where they access current research and knowledge. Collaborations between county and campus faculty is the hallmark of Cooperative Extension in Wisconsin.

For further information on the various Rock County UW Extension programs, please visit the UW Extension website.

Public and School Libraries

The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) was established in 1974 to coordinate the County's public library services. All Rock County residents benefit from enhanced, cost-effective library services through the continued cooperation of ALS and its member libraries. Member libraries are located in the Cities of Milton, Edgerton, and Janesville. ALS is a member of the statewide library system allowing access to materials from other library systems in the State. The statewide delivery system brings interlibrary loan and other library materials directly to the Arrowhead office and the materials received are distributed to libraries in the Arrowhead system. This cooperative effort is just one of the many ways that the library system is working with other agencies to cut costs and improve service to citizens. Arrowhead pays the cost of the statewide delivery service.

Arrowhead staff transports library materials to all Rock County Public Libraries (with the exception of Clinton and Edgerton) including to the Beloit College and Blackhawk Technical College campuses. Arrowhead's delivery system connects with the statewide delivery to bring materials from throughout Wisconsin to Rock County public, school, and college libraries.

Town Government

The Town of La Prairie has an elected Town Board made up of five Town residents, one of which acts as the Chairman of the Board. It also has a Plan Commission made up of 5 members, along with a Board of Adjustment made up of 4 members. The Town also employs a part time Town clerk, and Town Treasurer. The Town Assessor, and the Building Inspector are services that the Town contracts out.

Rock County Government

A 29-member Board of Supervisors, operating under a committee and county-administrator form of government, governs Rock County. 2 Supervisors, according to current district boundaries, represent the Town of La Prairie. The Board exercises policy supervision of County activities through a committee system. The Board acts as an authoritative body, on behalf of the County, through adoption of resolutions and ordinances. The Board adopts the annual County Budget and establishes a tax rate for the support of County services. In exercising this responsibility, the County Board has many policy-making prerogatives that directly impact the level and quality of services rendered to citizens of the county. Board supervisors are elected by district on a non-partisan basis for a two-year term. No County officer or employee is eligible to be a County supervisor, but a Supervisor may also be a member of a Town Board, City Common Council, or Village Board of Trustees.

Town Buildings

The Town of La Prairie government operates out of the La Prairie Grange Hall, which the Town leases from the Grange. The only other property the Town owns is the Belding School site.

5.3 Existing Plans and Policies

Utilities and Community Facilities Issues and Opportunities

This section identifies the Town's utilities and community facilities issues and opportunities in order to develop appropriate utilities and community facilities goals, objectives, and policies. Issues and opportunities include identification of Town utilities and community facilities that are both adequate and deficient at present levels, as well as those that will require maintenance, improvement, and/or expansion through this *Plan's* horizon (2035). According to the Town Survey & visioning, in general, there was overall approval of the current level of service concerning utilities and community facilities.

Town utilities and community facilities in the Water, Energy, Care, Emergency, Education, and Trash/Recycling categories are adequate at present levels, as are the majority of utilities and community facilities in the Communications/Media and Recreational/Gathering Areas categories. Some comments concerning cost and inconsistent service during inclement weather was noted during the visioning sessions, but overall there were no major issues.

The town is currently investigating the possibility of acquiring the former Tiffany Pit that is located in the southeast corner of the Town. This 17- acre site is available for sale by Rock County. This former gravel pit could add greatly needed open space for possible future recreational development.

Regional and County growth will require maintenance, improvement, and expansion of all utilities and community facilities in all categories to maintain adequate levels through 2035. The following identifies some specific utilities and community facilities, and related issues, which may require additional focus beyond the normal maintenance, improvement, and/or expansion required by other utilities and community facilities.

Assurance of water supply and quality is an important issue in the Town. Town growth and development will require new wells to satisfy water demand. Development type should be dependent on the area's well suitability. Possible criteria to be utilized to determine well suitability include underground water and contaminant levels, and proposed well capacity, among others. Supply of groundwater is not an issue but the quality of the water is. The health department provides well-testing service that may be utilized by town residents.

The Wisconsin Department of Commerce (COMM) regulates the siting, design, installation, and inspection of most on-site wastewater disposal systems in the State. The State adopted a revised private on-site disposal system policy in 2000, COMM 83, allowing for conventional (underground) systems and alternative (above-ground) system. Per COMM 83, soil characteristics determine suitability for conventional and alternative on-site wastewater disposal systems. *Map 5.1* displays areas suitable for conventional and alternative systems, as well as areas unsuitable for any system, according to soil characteristics, in the Town. Any development occurring within the City of Janesville 208 Sewer Service Area has the option of annexing into the City if public sewer is available or utilizing a private conventional septic system.

Renewable energy sources and associated infrastructure are becoming increasingly integrated into the national energy system, due to the perception of limited quantities of contemporary dominant sources, fossil fuels, and their associated environmental and socio-economic costs. Wind energy is a popular renewable energy source due to its relatively low infrastructure development costs and environmental impact. Various municipalities in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois have been approached by companies interested in exploring the feasibility of siting wind farms of various sizes within their boundaries. Allowing wind farms in the Town, after a comprehensive feasibility/impact study, could provide the Town with additional revenue however the siting of these wind farms has become quite contentious. Regulating wind farm siting, size, and impact would need to be addressed through Town ordinance.

Tele-communication towers are currently required to apply for a conditional use permit in Town Zoning Districts A-1, A-2, M-1, and CHI. Height of the tower may also be an issue in the western part of the Town due to the proximity of the Rock County Airport. Because of the continuing emergence of cellular technologies (the town currently has 6 cell towers), the Town has recently updated the local zoning ordinance to ensure adequate cellular tele-communication service levels while concurrently regulating tower siting, appearance, and volume. In fact, the new revision requires a 110% fall down area on all new towers from existing buildings and lot lines.

Adequate public school facilities and sufficient allocation of education resources is a constant issue in growth communities. At the current time, the Janesville and Clinton school district facilities appear to be sufficient as the Janesville District is currently expanding facilities and the Clinton District recently constructed a new Senior High School. These expansion projects will ensure continued, sufficient levels of educational services to Town students through the planning period. The Beloit Turner School District covers a very small area within the Town.

According to the Janesville School Enrollment Project (Table 1 below) that utilizes four methods to determine future projections, the Janesville School District population is projected to be, on average, 9,651 by the 2017-18 school year. This is a 4% decrease over 2007-08 levels. The current student population is 10,107. This reduction in pupils could reduce teacher salary expenses in the near future.

**Table 1
Janesville School District Projections
2017-18 School Year**

Baseline	9785
Last 5-year Trend	9630
Last 2-year Trend	9289
Kindergarten Reg.	9901
Average	9651

During the last 20-year period, the Clinton School District has averaged 1,199 students. The current school year shows 1,246 students. The recently constructed Clinton High School has eliminated overcrowding at the high school level however, the elementary school has some issues concerning lack of space and the school district is currently contemplating solutions to alleviate this overcrowding.

5.4 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Utilities and Community Facilities Goal #1

To support and provide, where applicable, the efficient delivery of community services, facilities, and utilities in a manner consistent with the Town of La Prairie's expectations for a prosperous rural atmosphere.

Utilities and Community Facilities Objectives

- Coordinate the planning of utilities and community facilities with land use, transportation, and natural resource planning.
- Protect the town's public health and natural environment through proper siting of on-site wastewater disposal systems and storm water management.
- Promote the use of existing public facilities, and logical future expansion of those facilities, to serve well-planned, compact development as depicted in the Town Development Plan.
- Maintain sensitivity to natural features and conditions in the design and location of utility extension.
- Coordinate with Rock County on public works projects and recreational facilities.
- Continue to work with the City of Janesville on cooperative planning of utilities and community facilities that impact both municipalities.

Utility and Community Facilities Goal # 2

Ensure that high quality services and community facilities are available to Town residents at adequate levels and in suitable locations in a timely, efficient, equitable, and affordable manner.

- Recognize the importance and necessity of emerging utility and community facilities technologies incorporate these technologies into the Town's utilities and community facilities system, and develop regulatory measures to ensure benefit to the Town.

Utilities and Community Facilities Policies

- The Town of La Prairie will consider the objectives and policies of this comprehensive plan, as well as the public welfare, health, and safety, to determine whether new or expanded services and community facilities are necessary in the future.
- The town should direct orderly, phased development to areas with existing public infrastructure, whenever possible.

- The town should direct rural development away from areas with limited suitability for on-site waste disposal systems.
- The town will continue to work with the Rock County Health Department to ensure proper approval process and placement of new on-site wastewater disposal systems, and appropriate maintenance and replacement of existing systems as a means to protect groundwater quality.
- The Town of La Prairie will continue to provide or procure basic services for all town residents, including trash and recycling pickup, police, fire and rescue service, public road maintenance, and snow plowing.
- All new development proposals will be assessed for their ability to be served efficiently by existing public facilities.
- All Certified Survey Maps (CSM), subdivision plats, and other proposed land disturbing activities affecting more than 4,000 square feet (1,000 square feet in areas of 12 percent or greater slope) will be required by the town, to include erosion control plans meeting Rock County requirements.
- All CSM's, subdivision plats, and other proposed land disturbing activities resulting in over one acre of disturbance shall be accompanied by a storm water management plan in accord with Chapter 28 of Rock County's Code of Ordinances.
- The Town of La Prairie shall continue to monitor the superfund site located at the intersection of County Roads J and O to assure that any future development will not expose the groundwater table.
- The Town will continue to pursue an interest in obtaining the Tiffany Pit for possible future park and open space purposes.