

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."* This document adheres to these guidelines while utilizing a 25-year planning horizon.

Introduction

A community's utilities and facilities, and the associated services they provide, fill the basic, vital needs of a community's residents. A clean water supply, sufficient healthcare options, reliable energy supplies and emergency services, quality educational institutions, and appropriate recreational/gathering areas are some of the many amenities provided, directly or indirectly, by a community's utilities and facilities.

The existing and potential location and capacity of a community's utilities and facilities have vast implications for the location and type of a community's future development. Understanding the utility and community facility needs of a community, in concert with suitable siting, will aid in achieving a desirable community development pace and pattern.

Goal and Objectives

Utilities and Community Facilities Goal

Ensure that necessary utilities and community facilities, and their associated services, are available and provided by the County, Town, and/or private entities, to Town residents at adequate levels and in suitable locations, in a timely, efficient, equitable, and affordable manner.

- Objective:* Continue to ensure the provision of utilities and community facilities, and associated services, to Town residents.
- Objective:* Continue to foster productive working relationships with other municipalities and private entities that provide utilities and community services to Town residents.
- Objective:* Recognize the importance and necessity of emerging utility and community facilities technologies, specifically as they relate to

increasing energy efficiency, and develop regulatory measures to ensure benefit to the Town.

Existing Utilities and Community Facilities

This section inventories the Town's existing utilities and community facilities, utilizing the following inventory categories: Water, Energy, Care, Emergency, Education, Communications/Media, Trash/Recycling, and Recreational/Gathering Areas.

Water

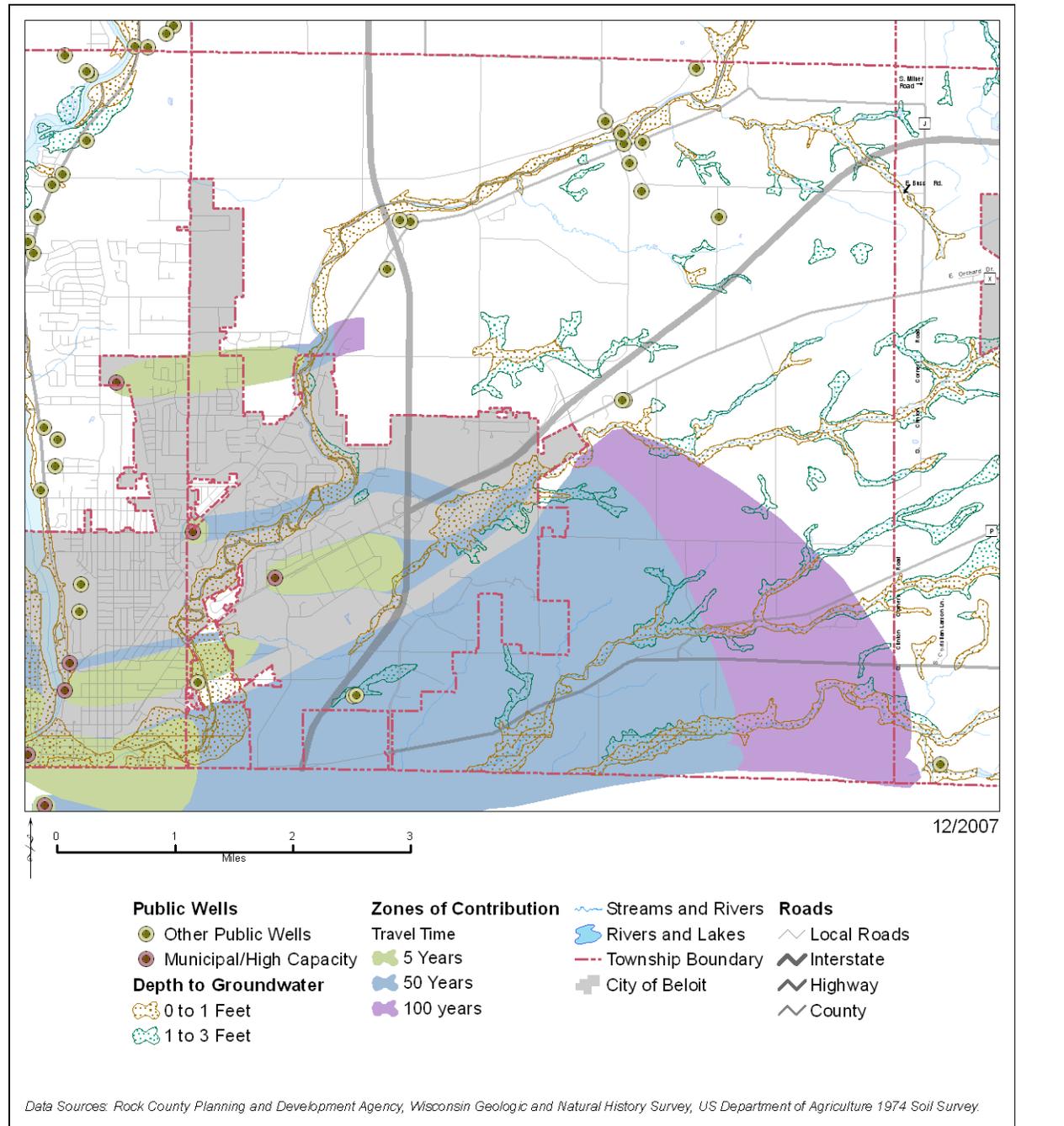
The Town's water supply comes from various well sources (Map 5-1). There are three well source categories present in the Town, including:

- **Private** - servicing residential properties
- **Transient non-community** - servicing businesses, parks, and churches
- **Municipal** (City of Beloit) - servicing the City of Beloit and Lindale Subdivision, the East Ridge area, and the Sherwood Drive area in the Town

Some lots in Town subdivisions, surrounded by the City of Beloit, are hooked into the City's sanitary sewer service. It is estimated that only approximately 10 such lots exist. The vast majority of the Town utilizes private septic systems.

The Town does not have a storm water system. The County's Land Conservation Department manages storm water in the Town through application of the *Storm Water Management Ordinance* (Chapter 28 - *Municipal Code of the County of Rock*). This ordinance establishes long-term requirements entailing best management practices to reduce post-construction storm water and associated pollutants. The County requires a storm water management permit for any activity disturbing more than one acre of land. Additional agencies, including the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) (DNR Administrative Code Chapter NR 216 - Stormwater Discharge Permits) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (EPA Stormwater Phase II - Final Rule), regulate storm water in the Town by requiring permits/management plans on large land-disturbing projects, or those taking place in environmentally sensitive areas.

MAP 5-1

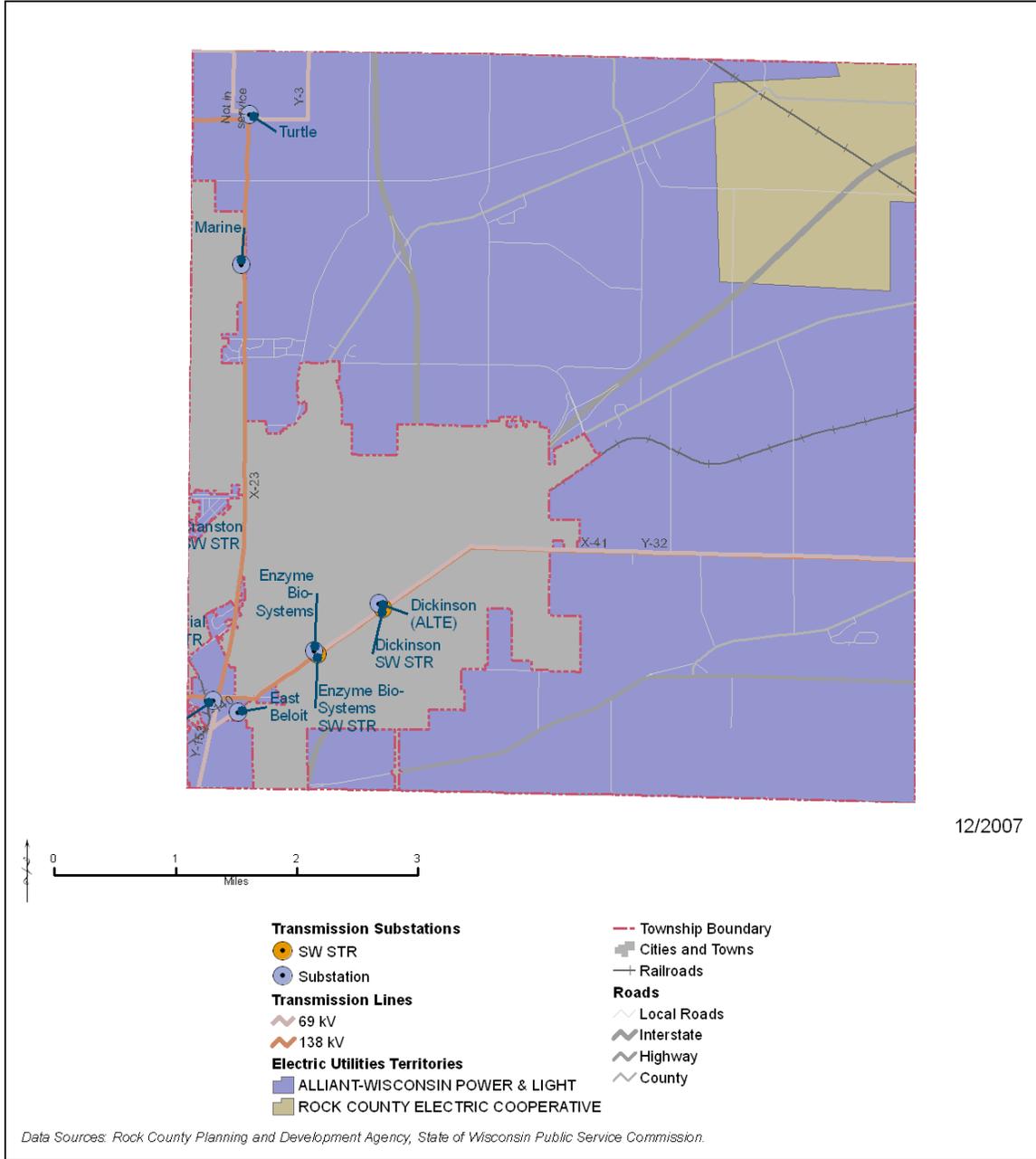


Energy

Various entities provide and deliver energy services to the Town. Wisconsin Power and Light, a subsidiary of Alliant Energy, provides electric and natural gas services. Rock Energy Cooperative (formerly known as Rock County Electric Cooperative (RCEC)), a member of the nationwide Touchstone Energy alliance, purchases and delivers electricity to RCEC members in the Town.

Various power facilities exist in the Town (Map 5-2). The Town has eight electric substations, owned by Alliant Energy and RCEC, located throughout the Town.

MAP 5-2



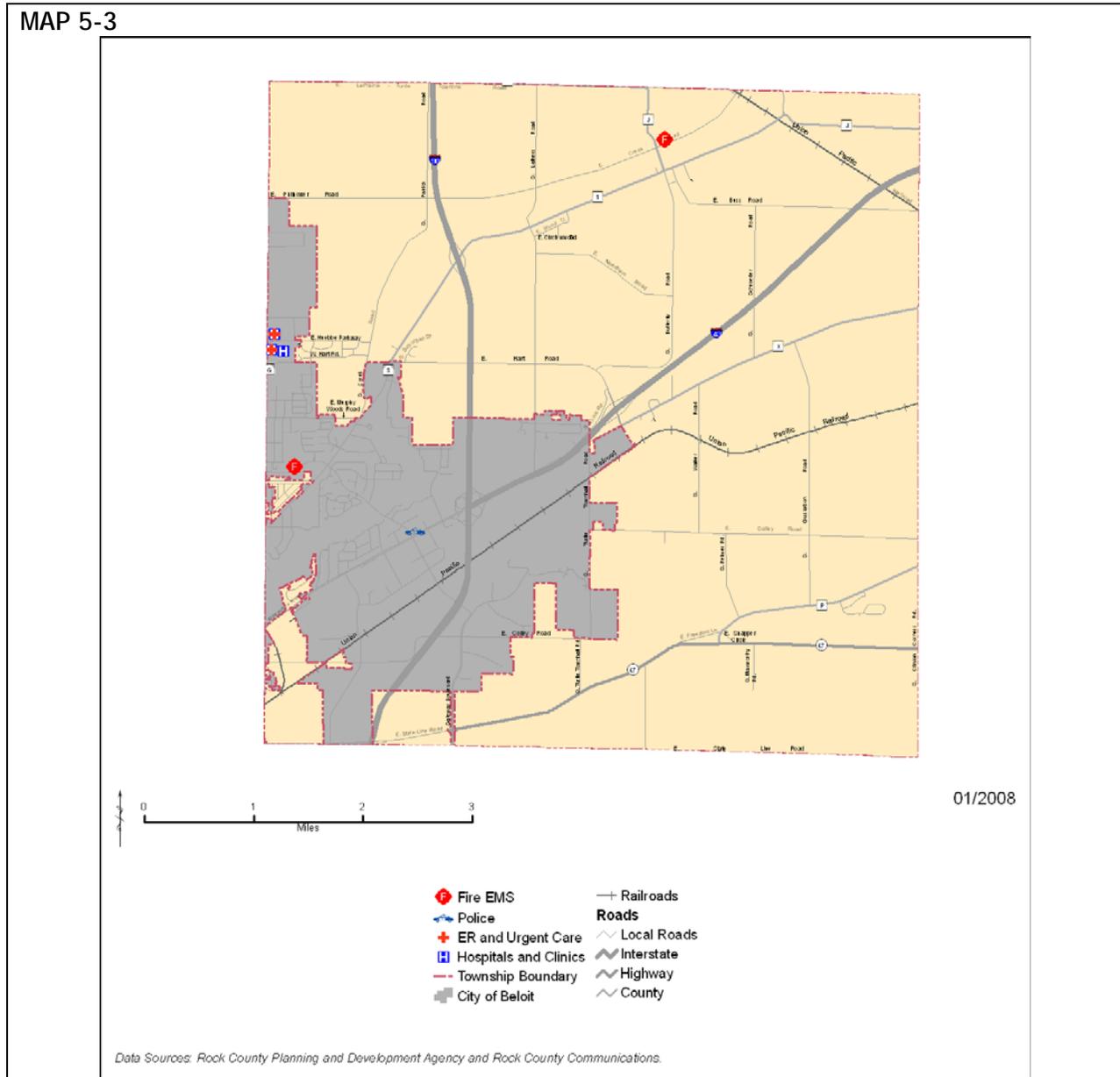
ANR Pipeline Company delivers natural gas, via pipeline, which runs between the north central edge of the Town, through the City of Beloit, to the southwest.

Care

There are no health/child-care, assisted living/nursing homes, or group home/shelter facilities located in the unincorporated Town. The City of Beloit, however, has all of these facilities, including medical clinics and hospitals with emergency room and urgent care capability (Map 5-3). Facilities within the Village of Clinton also provide these types of care

to Town residents. Additionally, the Rock County Health Department, offering a variety of health and wellness-related services, is located in the City of Janesville.

MAP 5-3



Emergency

Two entities have law enforcement jurisdiction in the Town. These entities include the Town police department, consisting of 4 part-time police officers, and the County Sheriff's Department, employing approximately 90 full-time officers. The Sheriff's Department has a main and remote office, both located in the City of Janesville.

The Turtle Fire Department is located just north of the Shopiere area, on County J (Map 5-3), where there are two fire station buildings, as well as the Town garage. The department provides fire/rescue and emergency first responder services. They cannot transport patients,

however, and they contract with the City of Beloit for ambulance service. There are 28 volunteer fire fighters employed by the Town. The Department's fleet includes two engines, two tankers, one brush truck utility vehicle and one rescue squad.

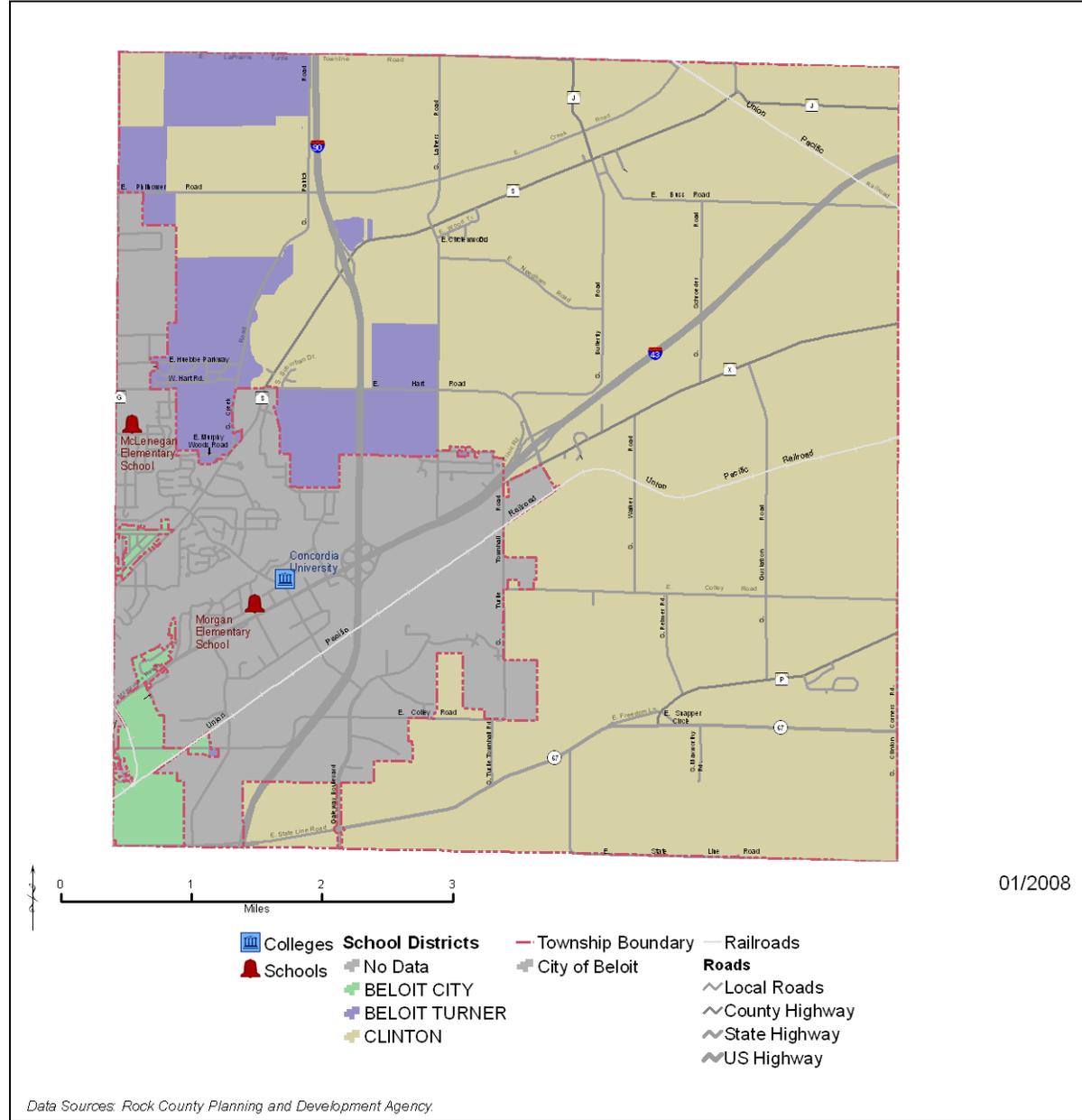
The Rock County Telecommunications Center, located in the City of Janesville, provides 24-hour dispatching services for all County law enforcement, fire/rescue, and emergency medical services, efficiently providing County residents access to emergency services. The Center began operations in 1993 and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Education

There are no public or private school facilities located in the Town, although the Town is served by three public school districts (Map 5-4). And a number of private and public schools are located in close proximity, just outside of the Town.

Town islands surrounded by the City of Beloit, are within the School District of Beloit. Some areas in the northwestern portion of the Town are within the Beloit Turner School District, while the majority of the Town is in the Clinton Community School District.

MAP 5-4



The School District of Beloit serves over 7,100 students. It has 12 elementary schools, 1 charter school, 2 middle schools and 1 high school. Beloit Turner School District has over 1,200 students, approximately 13% of which are there on open enrollment. This district has 2 elementary schools, 1 middle school and 1 high school. Clinton Community School District serves the Village of Clinton and the surrounding area. It has 1 elementary school, 1 middle school and 1 high school.

All three public school districts serving Town residents are in adequate condition at present. There are no crowding or pressing maintenance issues, and normal and reasonable maintenance and improvement, to sustain current conditions is all that is needed.

There are many opportunities for higher education for Town of Turtle residents, with one 4-year college, one 2-year college, one technical college and other small private and correspondence programs available.

Beloit College is the only 4-year college in the County. It is located on a 40-acre campus on the northern edge of the downtown in the City of Beloit. It has an enrollment of approximately 1200 students, hailing from all over the country and from more than 40 different nations. It is a private liberal arts school, founded in 1846. Fifty different majors are offered at Beloit College, along with 30 different minors and several pre-professional programs.

University of Wisconsin Rock County is a two-year liberal arts transfer campus, which is one of 13 in the state. This institution is located in Janesville and had a fall 2006 enrollment of 930 students. In recent years, enrollment has steadily increased. UW-Rock County offers freshman and sophomore general education courses, transferable to Wisconsin's 4-year schools. Also, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Whitewater and UW-Platteville each have collaboration with UW-Rock County, where students can attend class at the UW-Rock County campus, and earn bachelor degrees for these 4-year institutions.

Blackhawk Technical College has two locations in Rock County. The central campus is located on County Highway G, between the cities of Beloit and Janesville, while another, smaller campus is located on Janesville's north side. Blackhawk Tech offers a number of Associate degree programs, ranging from various office and computer courses to criminal justice, culinary arts and many degrees in the medical field. Diploma programs and Certificate programs are also offered at the school, mostly focusing on technical and medical fields. Apprenticeship programs for a number of specialty laborer vocations are also administered through Blackhawk Tech. In addition, the school offers an aviation program at the Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport. Upper Iowa University and Franklin University are two private universities that each has partnerships to offer 4-year degrees through Blackhawk Technical College.

There are two private adult education universities in Beloit. Concordia University offers accelerated courses for working adults to earn Bachelor's degrees in Business Management, Management of Criminal Justice, Human Resource Management or Liberal Arts. Several minors are also offered. Concordia's main campus is located in Mequon, Wisconsin, but they have adult education campuses located throughout the state. A National-Louis campus is also located in Beloit. This school's main campus is in Milwaukee. Like Concordia, National-Louis offers classes for working adults. However, National-Louis courses are all for the education field and they are graduate level, offering several Master of Education degrees and even offers an Educational Leadership Doctoral degree.

The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) was established in 1974 to coordinate the County's public library services. Nearby member libraries are located in the City of Beloit and the Village of Clinton. ALS is a member of the statewide library system, with access to materials from other State library systems.

Communications and Media

Various communication and media options are available in the Town. The Town has five cellular tele-communications towers. Land-line telephone service, and dial-up/high-speed Internet, is currently provided by Verizon and Charter Broadband. Charter provides cable television service to a portion of the Town. And satellite television service, including DirectTV, is available. Radio stations broadcasting from the Cities of Janesville, Madison, and Rockford, Illinois, among others, are accessible in the Town. The Beloit Daily News is the "official" newspaper of the Town. The Janesville Gazette (Janesville, Wisconsin), and the Wisconsin State Journal (Madison, Wisconsin) are other daily newspapers of local interest, as is the Clinton Topper, a weekly newspaper.

Trash and Recycling

The Town has various options for trash disposal and recycling. Veolia Environmental Services is contracted by the Town, providing weekly trash disposal and recycling pick-up services. Industries in the Town have their waste removal provided by Waste Management. The Town does not have a landfill, although the City of Janesville owns and operates one, located on Black Bridge Road between Highway 51 and Turtle Avenue. The landfill is available for use to all County residences/entities.

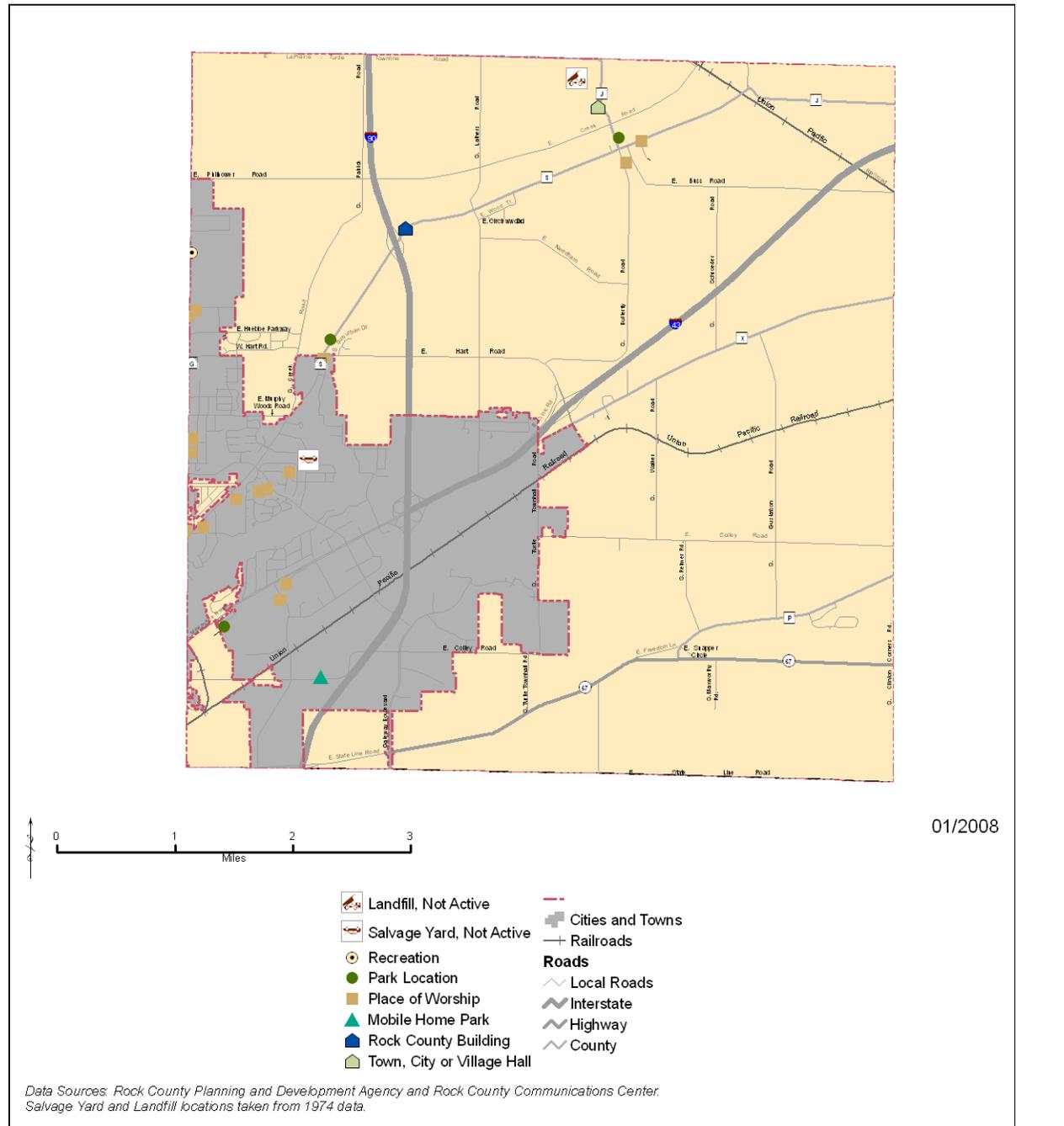
Recreational/Gathering Area

The Town has various recreational areas located within its boundaries (Map 5-5). There are two Town Parks in Turtle. They are both small, nestled in subdivisions. One is in Hazelwood Subdivision, and the other is in Lindale Subdivision. Sweet Allyn Park, located just north of Turtle Creek, in Shopiere, is administered and managed by the County Department of Public Works - Parks Division.

Many gathering areas, including the Turtle Community Center (or Town Hall) and various churches and informal places of assembly are also located in the Town. The Community Center is located at 6916 S. County Road J. The Hall was built in 2001 and is used primarily to hold Town and Town-related meetings, as well as providing office space for Town officials and for local 4-H meetings.

Other informal gathering areas in the Town consist of the Tiffany Inn Banquet Hall, the Shopiere Store and the Shopiere Tap. The "Turtle Airport"; a portion of Community Center property where model airplanes are flown, is also a gathering place in the Town.

MAP 5-5



Current and Future Needs

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).

Town utilities and community facilities in the Water, Energy, Care, Emergency, Education,

and Trash/Recycling categories are adequate at present levels, with the exception of the notion of sewer extensions. The Town feels it is unfortunate that the City of Beloit only extends sewer service to properties that have been annexed into the City. It would be ideal for some Town residents if sewer could be extended, for a fee, but without the condition of annexation.

The majority of utilities and community facilities in the Communications/Media and Recreational/Gathering Areas categories are adequate as well. Town utilities and community facilities that are deficient at present levels include cable television/high-speed Internet service. The majority of the Town is not served with cable television, and must rely on satellite tv. And there is only one option for Internet service, which is Charter Broadband.

Regional and Town 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 that 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.

Renewable energy sources and associated infrastructure are becoming increasingly integrated into the national energy system, due to 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 explored the feasibility of siting wind farms of various sizes within their boundaries, with certain municipalities allowing wind farms. Although it is unknown if a substantial wind corridor exists in the Town, allowing wind farms in the Town, after a comprehensive feasibility/impact study, could provide the Town with additional revenue, if the opportunity arises. Regulating wind farm siting, size, and impact would need to be addressed through Town ordinance.

Utilities and Community Facilities Policies

- 1) Develop and undertake a process to annually review Town utilities and community facilities, and their associated services, which are provided directly by the Town, including the Town Hall and Town Police Department, and the Town Fire Department to ensure they are adequate to meet the needs of Town residents.
- 2) Develop and undertake a process to annually review Town utilities and community facilities, and their associated services, that are provided directly by other municipalities, including Rock County (Sheriff's Department, Parks, Tele-Communications Center, storm water management), City of Beloit (Water Utility, Ambulance Service) and private entities (energy and trash/recycling) to ensure they are adequate to meet the needs of Town residents.

- 3) Explore shortcomings of the current cable/internet provider, and consider entering into negotiations/agreement with a major cable/internet provider to ensure timely, efficient, equitable, and affordable service in Town.
- 4) Support development of the State Trails Network Plan, the Rock County Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan: 2003-2008 and other bicycle/pedestrian trails through cooperation with the WDNR, County, trails friends groups, and other applicable entities
- 5) Conduct a comprehensive study, including environmental impact, revenue potential, regulatory/permitting options, and public opinion, among other issues, to determine the feasibility of allowing wind farms in the Town.