



Utilities and Community Facilities



Introduction

One of the main purposes of government is to provide essential services to its citizens. These services take a variety of forms from utilities and public works to public safety. This document has noted that basic community values, which are often expressed through the services a community provides, are an essential building block for the overall comprehensive plan and the community. This section of the report will deal with the existing conditions relative to the variety of public services provided by the City of Fitchburg.

Utilities and Public Works

The City of Fitchburg provides public water, sanitary sewer, and higher levels of storm water management service to residents generally within the City's northern tier, which makes up the urban service area of the community. Certain services are provided City wide, such as refuse and recycling collection, while other important services such as the provision of electricity and natural gas are provided by private utilities.

Public Water

The *Dane County Groundwater Protection Plan* (1999 RPC) has estimated that water use in the County averages 75 gallons per capita per day. Like the County, Fitchburg's water is from groundwater with public wells going into the deep aquifer, and private wells, mainly for homes and businesses outside the urban service area, going into the shallow aquifer. Currently the City of Fitchburg has 7 operable wells, five wells are in the north system which serves the urban service area and two are in the south system serving the rural Greenfield area (Figure 10 – 1). Greenfield was provided public water in the early 1980's when it was found that private wells, in the shallow aquifer, had high levels of contamination, mainly nitrates and similar contaminants. Of the wells in the north system, Public Works estimates that one well is necessary to handle peak water demand in the summer primarily for watering of lawns.



In 2005, urban supplied water use in the City averaged 2.18 million gallons per day, which is a 25% increase from water use in 1995. 2005 was a hot and dry year and peak water maximum pumpage on one day was 4.26 million gallons. Current readings for 2007 averaged 2.168 million gallons per day. Conservation efforts by industry have led to reduced increases for that segment of users, but an increase in restaurants has probably more than offset their savings. By 2020, the City of Fitchburg is estimated to have a pumpage exceeding 2.62mgd (1999 RPC).

A 2005 well capacity analysis accomplished by the City of Fitchburg indicated the need for additional well capacity by 2008. The City recently completed the construction (2007) of an extra well located in the Swan Creek area that went on line April 2008. Elevated tank storage will be required in the Northeast Neighborhood and McGaw Neighborhood. New well(s) will also be required to accommodate growth.

Figure 10 - 1: Maximum Well and Storage Capacity

| <i>North System</i> | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Wells | | Storage | |
| Well | Capacity (gpm) | Tower B | Capacity (gals) |
| 4 | 1100 | Tower B | 500,000 |
| 5 | 1440 | Reservoir 5 | 500,000 |
| 9 | 750 | Tower C | 500,000 |
| 10 | 1200 | Tower E | 750,000 |
| 11 | 1500 | | |

| <i>South System</i> | | | |
|---------------------|-----|---------------------|-------|
| 7 | 400 | Hydropneumatic tank | 4,000 |
| 8 | 250 | Hydropneumatic tank | 2,500 |

Source: City of Fitchburg - Public Works Department, 2005

Sanitary Sewer

Wastewater treatment is provided for the City by the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). MMSD has a service territory of 175 square miles. The MMSD district operates a collection system of interceptors and the Nine Springs Sewerage Treatment Plant. The treatment plant, in 1998 treated on average 38 million gallons per day, while in 2004 it treated 41 million gallons per day. The difference of 3 million gallons per day was not due to water conservation, but the dry weather of that summer which led to limited inflow and infiltration to the overall sanitary sewer system served by MMSD. MMSD has a current maximum capacity of 57 million gallons per day. Fitchburg is currently 4.5% of the total flow treated by MMSD.

The MMSD interceptor serving the City is the Nine Springs Valley interceptor sewer (which runs through northern Fitchburg). This interceptor has a peak capacity of 30.8 million gallons per day, which is expected to be reached within the next 15 to 20 years. Prior to expansion or rebuilding of the Nine Springs interceptor, the District would like to make a decision as to whether or not to construct a treatment plant in the Sugar River basin. Construction of such a plant would reduce load to the Nine Springs interceptor. Currently, due to interbasin transfer of water issues, MMSD has a line that provides treated effluent back to Badger Mill Creek. This line, which runs through northern Fitchburg, sends 3.2 million gallons per day of effluent to Badger Mill Creek to provide a stable base flow. Permit limits for the flow limit total effluent to be sent back to 3.6 million gallons per day.

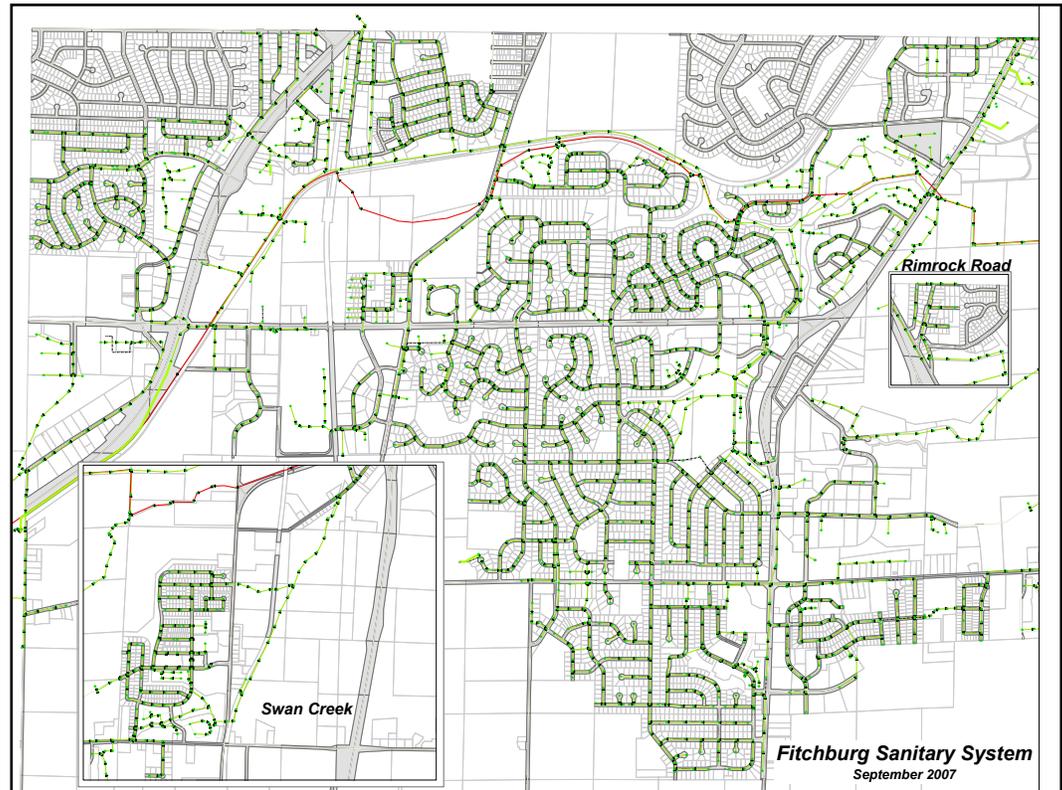
The City of Fitchburg maintains a local sanitary sewer system (Figures 10 – 2 and 10 – 3). This system is serviced around four main local interceptors: Seminole Highway, McKee, Syene and Woods Hollow. The McKee service territory is almost fully built out at this time, while capacity, with extensions, exists for the Seminole Highway and Syene interceptors. The Woods Hollow interceptor has only a small section in to serve the far north part of its territory. Additional parts of the Woods Hollow territory such as Quarry Hill and Waterford Glen are served by a temporary connection to the Syene Interceptor. The City has long planned to avoid



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the use of lift stations, not simply as a growth management tool, but also due to energy resources and maintenance required. Gravity flow sewers were one of the “principles” used to establish the urban growth boundary. Part of the far western area of the City is served by a line that feeds to a MMSD lift station on Fitchrona Road.

Figure 10 - 2: City of Fitchburg Sanitary Sewer System



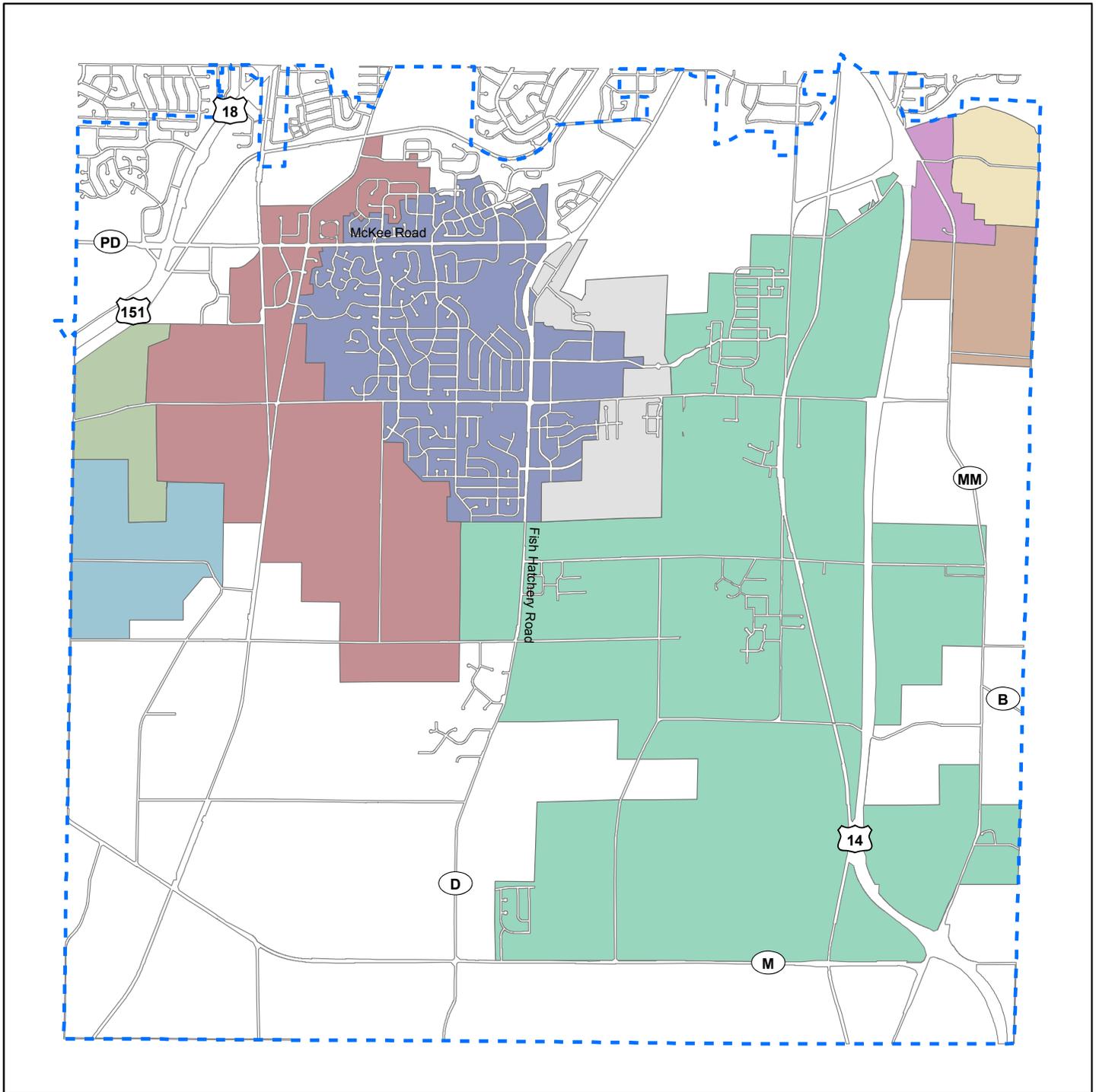
Source: City of Fitchburg - Department of Public Works, 2007

Storm Water

The City's stormwater management ordinance requires detention of various events up to and including the 100 year storm event. Water quality is also required. The City's revegetation practices in 2008 for stormwater facilities is to seed with either low-grow fine fescue grasses or native prairie species to minimize mowing needs and enhance recharge to the groundwater table. Watersheds with primarily urban development in Fitchburg include Badger Mill Creek and Nine Springs Creek. Urban development is also occurring now in the Swan Creek Watershed. The City has undertaken several projects to stabilize stream banks along parts of Nine Springs Creek. Overflow from the Quarry Ridge Wet Pond on large storm events overflows to Goose Lake in the Town of Verona. Goose Lake is a glacial kettle pond which overflows into the Badger Mill Creek following large storm events.

Figure 10 - 3

SEWER INTERCEPTORS



| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  |  E Clayton Road |  Madison Lift Station |  County Highway MM |
|  Goose Lake |  Seminole Highway |  City Limits |  |
|  Larson Road |  Syene |  | 0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles |
|  McKee |  Woods Hollow | Prepared: July 2008 | |
| Source Data: Dane County LIO & City of Fitchburg | | | |

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From July 2006 to September 2007, the City coordinated a study of infiltration and runoff into and out of the Quarry Ridge Recreation Area Wet Pond to obtain data on the pond's infiltration performance, and what options for improvement are included. The Quarry Ridge Wet Pond captured a vast majority of the runoff entering the basin; however, the overflow events were a significant portion of the inflow hydrologic budget of Goose Lake. Future development of Orchard Pointe may have the potential to increase the frequency of overflow events to Goose Lake if extensive infiltration practices are not implemented for this area when developed. (Lefers & Montgomery, 2007).

Standards for new development seem to be ever increasing as; in the past twenty years regulation has moved beyond simple detention to enforcement of specific water quality criteria. Infiltration and recharge have also recently become incorporated into DNR Administrative Code NR 151 and Chapter 14 of the Dane County Ordinances, respectively.

Refuse and Recycling

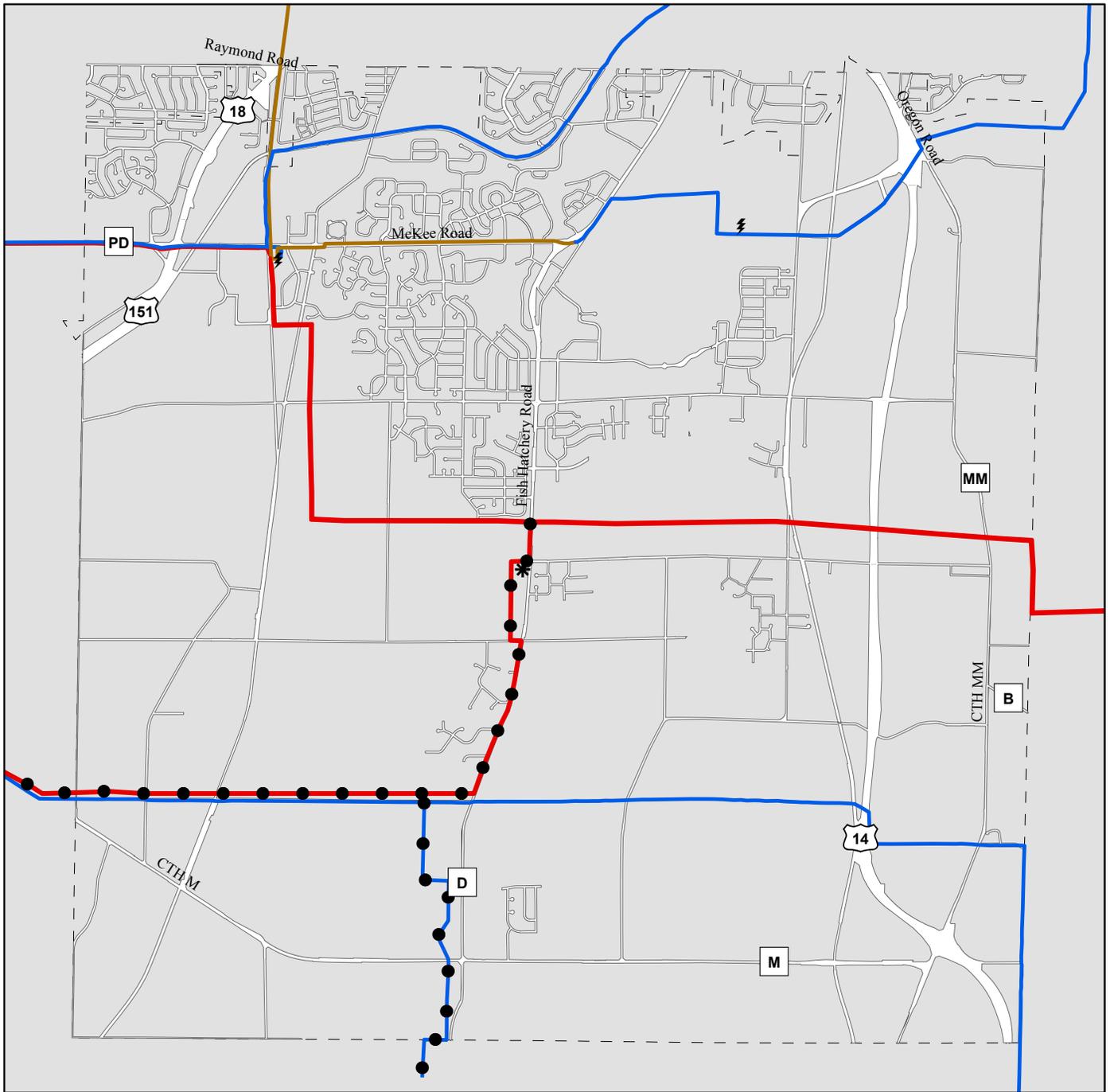
The City of Fitchburg contracts with a private waste hauler to provide refuse and recycling collection services to most single, two and some three and four family residences. Curbside collection is provided, with automated collection occurring for both refuse and recyclables. All recyclable materials are placed in a single cart and are picked up once every two weeks, while refuse is picked up once a week. The contractor is responsible for seeing that the recyclables are processed. The City provides brush and yard waste collection as well. From 2006 to 2008, refuse collected by the City contractor was disposed of at the Mallard Ridge Landfill in Delavan. The Dane County landfill is expected to be at capacity by 2015 to 2020, although no new landfills are being proposed by Dane County at this time. Over 15 years ago, Dane County briefly examined a landfill site in south central Fitchburg.

Electric Power and Natural Gas

Power for the City of Fitchburg is provided by both Madison Gas and Electric and Wisconsin Power and Light. MGE is the main service provider for the City relative to electric power with their current general service territory going as far south as Adams Road, and as far west as USH 18/151. MGE, in 2007, constructed the Syene Substation, located west of Syene Road, near the Capital City State Trail. American Transmission Company is planning on construction, by 2009, of the Oak Ridge substation west of S. Fish Hatchery Road by Irish Lane extended and ¼ mile south of the current 138kv line which runs along the southern border of Byrnewood subdivision (Figure 10 – 4). MGE expects that as Fitchburg completes its Smart Growth plan that the current two (Fitchburg & Syene) substations with the proposed Oak Ridge substation “will provide adequate and reliable power for the growth Fitchburg is planning for under any foreseeable scenario” (Weires 2007, p. 3). The McKee Road substation also contains natural gas powered combustion turbines to generate power during peak periods. MGE had looked to expand this facility in the 1990's, but entered into a long term power purchase agreement, and eventually abandoned the planned expansion

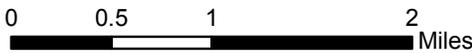
Figure 10 - 4

Transmission Facilities



Electric Transmission Lines

- Overhead-138 Kv ●—● Future Overhead-138 Kv ⚡ Substation
- Overhead-69 Kv ●—● Future Overhead-69 Kv * Future Substation
- Underground-69 Kv - - - City Limits



Prepared by: Planning and Zoning
 July 22, 2008
 Source: Planning and Zoning /
 Dane County L.I.O.
 Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, 2007



Utilities and Community Facilities

The American Transmission Company (ATC) proposal also involves construction of a high power 138 kv line from the proposed Oak Ridge substation to the WPL Verona substation (Figure 10 – 4). The route will run along S. Fish Hatchery Rd to Adams Rd. ATC is also proposing the construction of a 345 kv transmission line from the Rockdale subdivision to the West Middleton substation. The 345 kv line is currently going through a public siting process, with one of the options placing the line in Fitchburg. The placement of ATC’s proposed 345 kv transmission line in Fitchburg is inconsistent with the growth and preservation policies as identified with this planning document. The Public Service Commission has authority to site and approve this facility and their actions pre-empt local decision making authority in these matters.

Natural gas service to the City of Fitchburg is provided by MGE. The City also has two major natural gas gate stations located near each other in the western half of the City, each major station supplying MGE with natural gas by separate suppliers. MGE sees the need for major distribution lines for their use heading both south and east to serve growing demand for energy and new development.

Future expansion of the energy needs within the City should be incorporated to balance the needs of the citizens, who reside adjacent to existing or proposed transmission lines or substations and the energy needs of the City. The City favors underground transmission facilities, siting new high voltage transmission lines along transportation corridors and siting electric substations within the urban service area in business and industrial areas screened from residential neighborhoods and built to an urban design standard.

Telecommunication Facilities

Fitchburg’s telephone services are provided by AT&T, Verizon, TDS Telecom, and Charter Communications. Charter Communications is also the provider for cable television within the urban service area of the City. High-speed internet service is available to residents through the cable provider or telephone services.

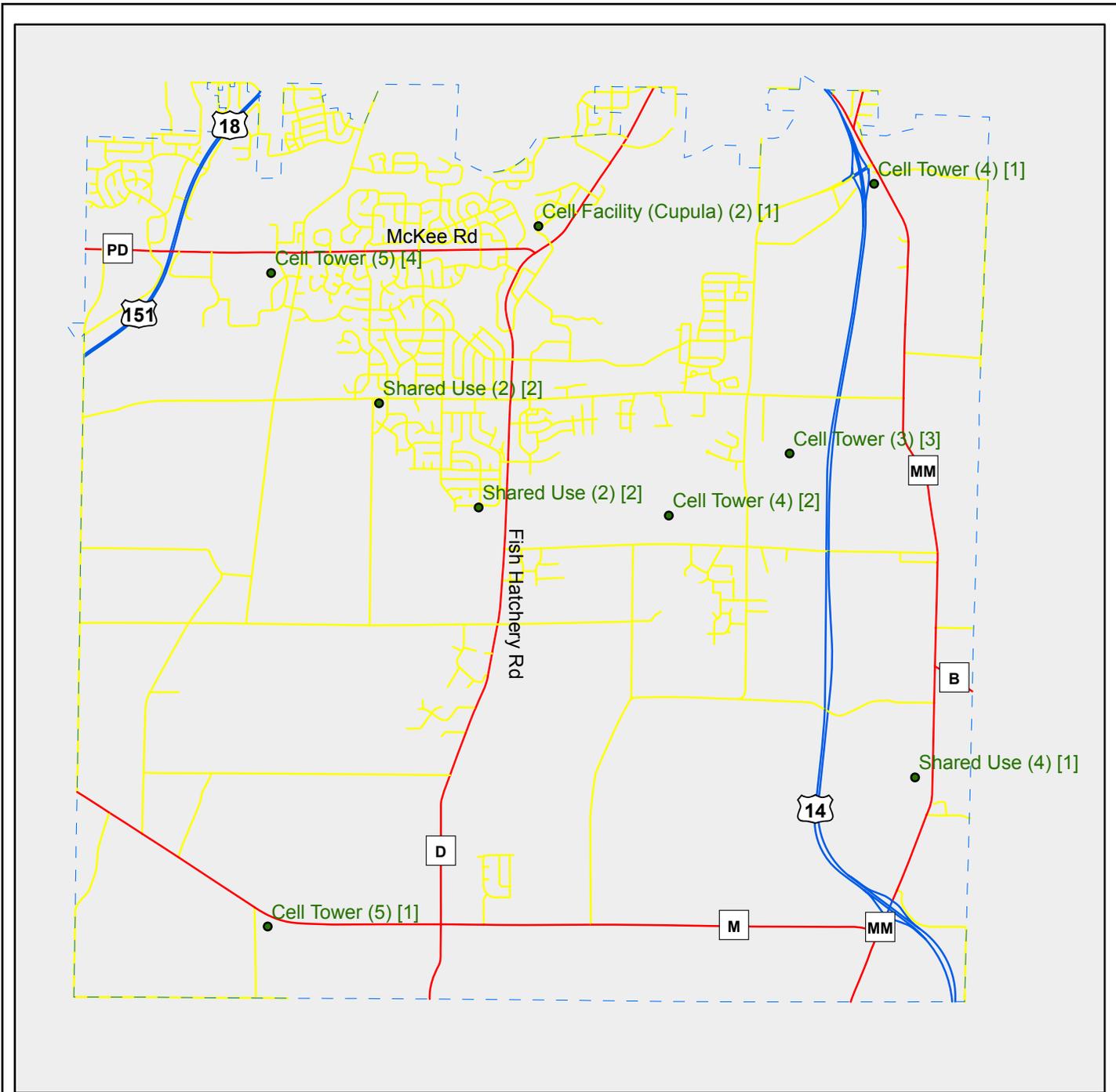
As the City expands and develops, private land developers or owners are required to coordinate the extensions of the telecommunication lines to serve their development. The construction and maintenance of the telecommunication facilities is part of the private sector; however, the location of these facilities are located within the City right-of-ways. As a result, the private companies are required to obtain a street opening permit along with other required permits from the City to perform any work on their facilities within the public right-of-way.

Several cellular towers are located throughout the City of Fitchburg, with multiple agencies sharing space on the mono-towers (Figure 10 – 5). The City has ordinances limiting the location and the requirement for permits for the installation of communication towers within the City. Cell towers should provide for co-location opportunities.

As new areas develop and older areas of the community are redeveloped, the City and various utilities need to continue working with developers to ensure that



Figure 10 - 5 Cell Towers



Legend

The number of private users approved per site is provided in parenthesis.
The number of current users per site is provided in brackets.

- Cell Towers
- City Limits
- Local Roads
- County Highways
- Federal Highways

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Revised: 7/21/08
Prepared by: Planning and Zoning
Source: Planning and Zoning and Dane County L.I.O.



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the latest technology infrastructure is in place to promote continued economic development and technological amenities.

Public Safety

Police

Police services to the Community are provided through City Hall. In 2008, the City had a authorized police staff of 43 sworn officers and 12 full time civilian staff members. The Police Department should continue to monitor their ability to provide service as the community grows.

Fire



Fitchburg fire has two fire stations, Station 1 at Lacy Road and Mutchler Road, and Station 2 at King James Way and Kapec Road. Each station provides a full time staff. Currently, with development in the eastern portion of the City, the Fire Department is undertaking a fire station site analysis. First responder fire service in the southeast corner of the City is provided, through agreement, with the Village of Oregon.

The Fire Station and EMS Unit Location Study of November 2008 notes that, over time, the City should transition from its current two fire station locations to new locations to better serve current and expected growth areas. Growth in the eastern portion of the City may be affected by length of response times and from current facilities.

Fitch-Rona EMS

Fitch-Rona EMS is a joint agreement and provides emergency medical services to the Cities of Fitchburg and Verona and the Verona Township. The administrative offices are located at 5415 King James Way in Fitchburg, with a new station located at 416 Venture Court in Verona.

The emergency service started in 1977 and ran as an all volunteer service for 10 years until 1987 with the hire of the first full-time employee. In 2008, the Fitch-Rona EMS had 15 full-time paramedics, two office personnel, and a dedicated group of volunteer EMT's.

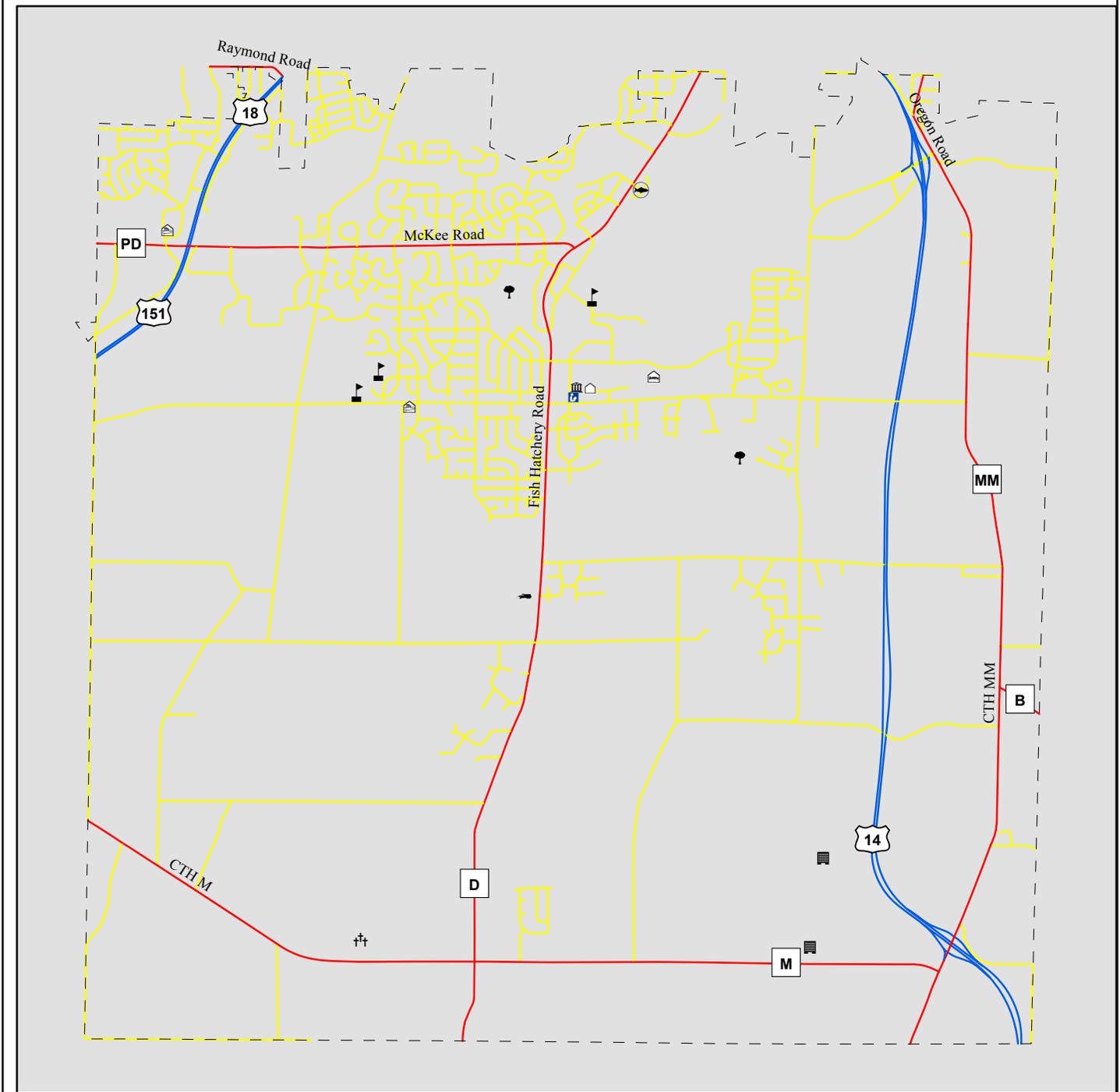
The Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services will continue working with neighborhood communities in offering joint service to efficiently enhance response times.

Community Facilities

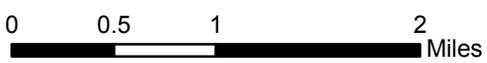
Figure 10 - 6 shows the approximate location of several community facilities in the City of Fitchburg.

Figure 10 - 6

Community Facilities



- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| †† Cemetery | 🌳 Community Park | 🏠 Hospice Care |
| 🏛️ City Hall | 🚒 Fire Station | 🚚 Public Works Garage |
| 🏢 Correctional Facility | 🐟 Fish Hatchery | 🎓 School |
| 🏠 Community Center | 📖 Future Library | - - - City Limits |



Prepared by: Planning and Zoning
 July 22, 2008
 Source: Planning and Zoning /
 Dane County L.I.O.



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Governmental Facilities

The City of Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, built in 1999, houses the Administration, Clerk, Finance, FACT, Assessing, Public Works –Engineering, Planning, Economic Development, Information Technology, Police, Courts and Parks-Recreation Departments.

The Public Works Garage, 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd, houses the Public Works-Highway and Utility Departments. The Parks Department is located next door in the old City Hall building, 2377 S. Fish Hatchery Rd.

Community Center

The Community Center, 5510 Lacy Road, is used for recreational programs, governmental, business and civic meetings. The building is also rented out regularly for wedding receptions, anniversary parties, reunions and classes. The Senior Center is located in the lower level and provides assessments of needs of older adults and many other programs and services including home delivered and congregate meals, transportation, exercise, health screening, supportive home care, travel opportunities and continuing education classes.

The Senior Center, along with the Recreation Department, is currently conducting a Program Needs Study in 2008 and 2009, to determine the demand for new programs and the appropriate space needs to offer efficient programs and services. This study will assist both departments in allocating funding in the capital improvements program for additional space or new facilities to house their programs.

Broadband Telecommunications

The Broadband Telecommunications/Cable/FACTv provides an ideal resource for the city and its residents to further communicate, promote community building, provide information sharing, and ensure historical and legal documentation of important city and community meetings and activities, while offering the opportunity for any resident to communicate with other residents via the television medium.

This free speech “right” combined with the imposed mechanisms to fund the city cable access facility operations were championed by the FCC in their Telecommunication Acts. While local municipal control over cable franchise holders has recently been moved to state control, the ideals of maintaining community public, educational, and government access television with cable service provider support have always been honored.

The City of Fitchburg’s award winning PEG Access facility – Fitchburg Access Community Television (FACTv), has long been known around both the state and Midwest as a model operation. Many communities have visited and studied our operations, and then started their own PEG centers. FACTv’s leadership on County, State, Midwest and National levels ensures continued success for local PEG Access.

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FACTv operates video and audio production, origination, editing and distribution facilities in providing outreach to the residents of Fitchburg. FACTv is a resource for the public to voice their opinion or broadcast events via the television medium with the help of the technical staff and resources available. Additionally, archival storage of taped public meetings is provided through the FACTv facility. Current facilities allow for live program origination for events held at City Hall and Community Center, with portable camcorders capturing events and content off-site.

Libraries

City residents are served by the South Central Library System, with library branches throughout the Madison area, just not currently within the city limits. The City of Fitchburg is studying the option of building its' first library at the corner of Lacy Rd and Research Park Dr, just south of City Hall. The Bookmobile does make multiple weekly stops at various locations throughout the City.

The November 4, 2008 Presidential election ballot contained two questions relating to a library in Fitchburg. The first question, dealing with the construction of a building, was passed, but the second question dealing with the tax levy effects for operational costs failed to pass. The Common Council on November 23, 2008 adopted Resolution R-107-08 instructing the Library Board to work with the Common Council to re-work the building plan and cost, along with associated operational costs to produce a less expensive library facility. The library location as identified in this plan may change, or there may be more than one library constructed

Cemeteries

The City of Fitchburg maintains the only operable cemetery located within the City boundaries. Oak Hall Cemetery is located off of Hwy M in the southwestern portion of the City. The former St. Mary's cemetery was located along Hwy M, just west of the Oregon Correctional Center. These grave sites were relocated to a cemetery located within the Village of Oregon; however there is speculation that some remains may still be present at this location.

Religious Establishments

Fitchburg is served by various religious denominations, including: Lutheran, Methodist, Jehovah's Witnesses, United Church of Christ, Evangelical, Saint Ignatious of Antioch Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Foursquare Gospel, Cambodian Buddhist Society, St. Andrew the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church and the Providence Congregation, which currently meets at the Fitchburg Community Center and other congregations.

Education

Fitchburg is located within three school districts: Madison Metropolitan, Oregon, and Verona. Figure 10 - 7 portrays the enrollment numbers for the 2008 school year Stoner Prairie Elementary (K-5) along with Savanna Oaks Middle School (6-8) are the only public schools located within the City. Eagle School is a private K-8 school located in Fitchburg serving the educational needs of gifted and talented children in

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the greater Madison area. Madison Edgewood, a private school located in Madison, attracts a number of students within the City of Fitchburg as well as other public schools within the area through open enrollment.

There are no higher educational institutions located within the city limits; however there are numerous institutions located within a short distance including the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison Area Technical College (MATC), Edgewood College, Madison Junior College of Business, ITT Technical Institute and Herzing College.

Figure 10 - 7: 2008 School Enrollment

| | Madison Metro | Oregon | Verona Area |
|--|---------------|--------|-------------|
| Fitchburg students | 1,376 | 308 | 1,843 |
| Total Students | 24,670 | 3,609 | 4,556 |
| % of Fitchburg students compared with total students in each school district | 5.6% | 8.5% | 40.5% |
| % of Fitchburg students among each school district | 39.0% | 8.7% | 52.3% |

Source: Fitchburg students came from Madison Metro School District, Oregon School District, Verona Area School District. Total Students Data from WI DPI website based on 3rd Friday in September 2008 attendance.

* This data does not track Fitchburg students attending Private or other Public Schools through open enrollment.

Child Care Facilities

In 2008, there were 13 county or state licensed child care facilities located in Fitchburg, along with a number of small in-home daycares within the City that do not require permits.

Boys & Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Club of Dane County has a Family Center in Fitchburg located at 4619 Jenewein Rd. The facility includes a learning center, technology lab, canteen, kitchen, art room, music room, teen lounge and gym. The facility also offers rooms for neighborhood meetings or educational classes.

Health Care Facilities

The City of Fitchburg has two full-service clinics operating in the City, UW Health, 5543 E. Cheryl Pkwy and Group Health Cooperative, 3051 Cahill Main and several dental clinics and specialized medical offices, including Melius Schurr and Cardwell, Hyperbaric Center, Wisconsin Dialysis, and St. Mary's Sleep Center. Meriter Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital and UW Hospital serve as the main regional medical facilities, which include Fitchburg residents.



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Hospice Care, located at 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway, provides support and a homelike environment designed to provide for the emotional and spiritual needs to patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families.

Health Clubs/Pools

The City of Fitchburg is home to a variety of health clubs that meet the needs of every health enthusiast. Services range from one-on-one training, 24-hour facilities, yoga, strength and flexibility, relaxation and other specialty fitness programs.

The City of Fitchburg does not offer its residents a community swimming pool, however, there are two indoor swimming pool schools in Fitchburg, Kittelson Swim School, 5200 Anton Drive and SwimWest School, 6220 Nesbitt Road and one outdoor swimming pool operated by Seminole Pool and Tennis Association. Additionally, some of the health clubs offer health and fitness and/or swimming pools for their customer base.

Correctional Facilities

The Oregon Correctional Center is located in the southeast portion of the City of Fitchburg at 5140 County Highway M. The state facility is a 110-bed minimum security and farm, which dates back to 1928 when the premises were first established as a state institution. The farm, operated by the inmates, is both a dairy and swine production.

The Oakhill Correctional Institution is located just to the north of the Oregon Correctional Center at 5212 County Highway M. The minimum security facility is approximately 100 acres and has an operating capacity of 300 for medically needy inmates. The facility was the former Wisconsin School for Girls, which opened in June 1941 before being converted to a minimum security in 1976. The facility is listed as a historical site in the State Historical Society Register.

The Wisconsin Department of Corrections also runs a SPRITE (Support, Perseverance, Respect, Initiative, Teamwork and Education) program. The SPRITE House, where the program is based, is located in southeast Fitchburg at 4986 County Highway M. The program serves a total of 12 young men per month to teach them the skills necessary for reintegration into their home communities (Wisconsin Department of Correction, 2008).

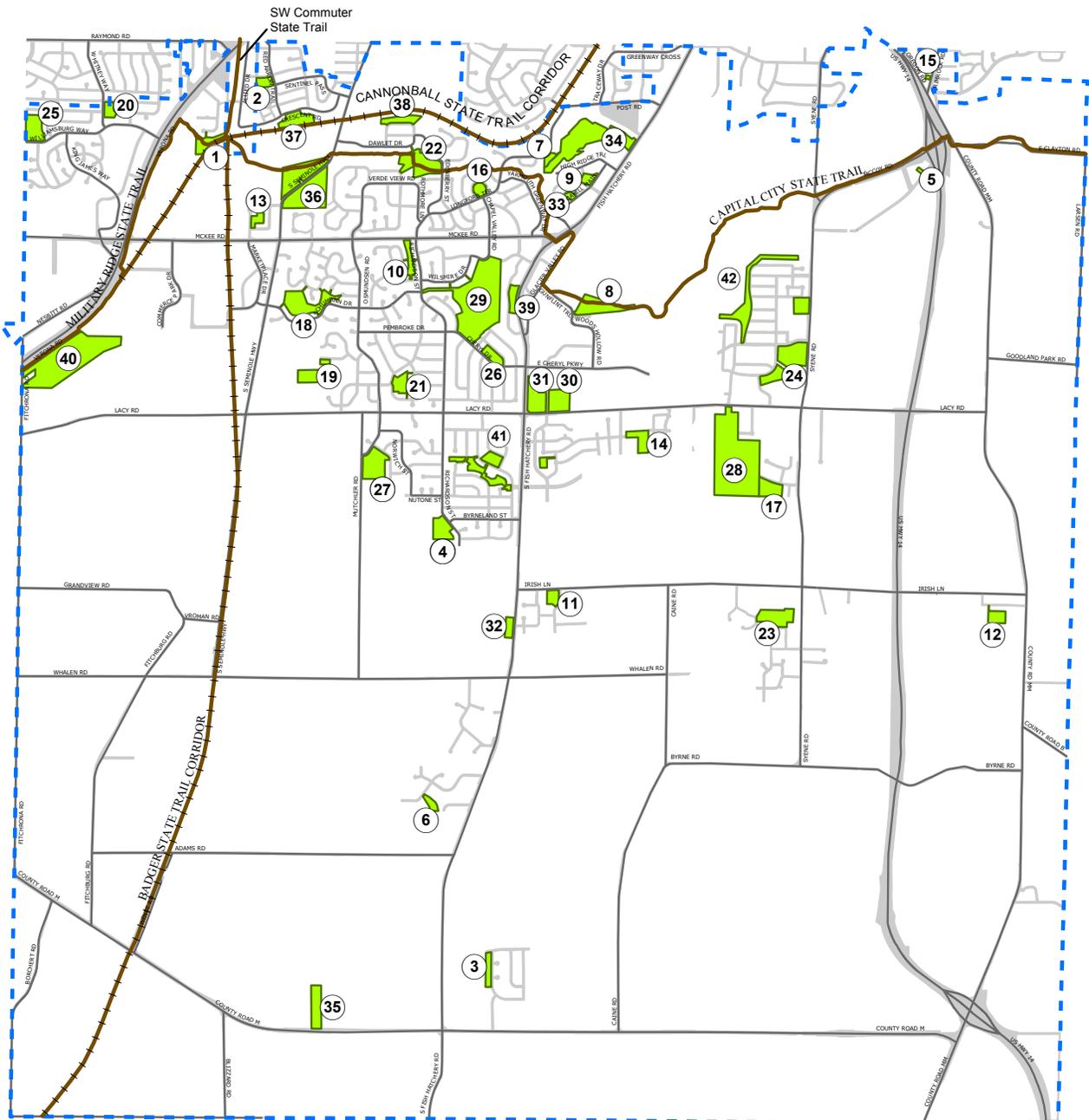
WI DNR Nevin Fish Hatchery

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources South Central Region Headquarters and Nevin Fish Hatchery are located in the City of Fitchburg at 3911 Fish Hatchery Road. The Nevin State Fish Hatchery was the first state-owned hatchery system in Wisconsin, which opened up in 1876. The Nevin Hatchery broodstocks, hatches and rears brook, brown and rainbow trout.



Figure 10 - 8

CITY OF FITCHBURG PARKS MAP



FITCHBURG PARKS SYSTEM, 2007

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 ARROWHEAD | 12 PERRY J. SCHAPPE | 23 GREENFIELD | 34 NINE SPRINGS GOLF COURSE |
| 2 BELMAR HILLS | 13 PINE RIDGE | 24 SWAN CREEK | 35 OAK HILL CEMETERY |
| 3 BRIARWOOD | 14 QUARRY HILL | 25 HUEGEL-JAMESTOWN | 36 DAWLEY PARK |
| 4 BYRNE | 15 RIMROCK | 26 TOWER HILL | 37 DUNN'S MARSH PRESERVE |
| 5 CLAYTON | 16 ROSECOMMONS | 27 WILDWOOD SOUTH PRAIRIE | 38 HARLAN HILLS |
| 6 COUNTRY VINEYARD | 17 S. JOHNSON | 28 MCGAW PARK | 39 MICKELSON WOODS |
| 7 FITCHBURG SPRINGS | 18 SEMINOLE GLEN | 29 MCKEE FARMS | 40 QUARRY RIDGE RECREATION AREA |
| 8 GUNFLINT TRAIL | 19 STONER PRAIRIE | 30 CITY HALL / COMMUNITY CENTER | 41 OAK MEADOW PARK |
| 9 HATCHERY HILLS | 20 WESTERN HILLS | 31 FITCHBURG CENTER PARK | 42 BIG BLUESTEM PARK |
| 10 HAWK RIDGE | 21 WILDWOOD | 32 GORMAN WAYSIDE | |
| 11 HILLSIDE HEIGHTS | 22 CHICORY MEADOWS | 33 NEVIN VILLAGE GREEN | |

- MAJOR RECREATION TRAILS
- APPROVED RECREATION TRAILS
- FITCHBURG CITY LIMITS
- PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY



Prepared by: Planning/Zoning
 Source: Planning/Zoning & Dane County LIO
 Revised: 9/2008



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Parks, Open Space and Recreation

As of August 2005, the City of Fitchburg had 680 acres of parks and open space (Figures 10 - 8 and 10 – 9). This includes numerous parks, play fields, conservation areas, greenways, a golf course, cemetery and community center. The community also benefits from the recreational resources of Dane County and the Madison metropolitan area including the County E-Way System, UW Arboretum, and Department of Natural Resources Land.

Figure 10 - 9: Inventory of Fitchburg Parks and Recreation Facilities (2005)

| Type of Facility | Acerage |
|---|----------------|
| Neighborhood Parks | 135.295 |
| Area Parks | 71.72 |
| Community Parks | 118.17 |
| Other Areas | 129.20 |
| Natural Areas and Stormwater Facilities | 226.10 |
| Total | 680.485 |

Source: City of Fitchburg Park and Open Space Plan, 2005

The City is dedicated to providing a neighborhood system of parks and open space. Since 1974, the City's Land Division Ordinance has required the dedication of park land by developers. This requirement assures the City can acquire additional park areas necessary to ensure that new development is appropriately served by parks and open space. In 2006, an ordinance was passed to tie park fees as a condition for any rezoning, conditional use permit or design review for any residential unit receiving such approval within the City, instead of just during the land division process.

The City has established a hierarchy of parks; neighborhood, area, and community parks; based upon the area and the number of people served by the park. Each higher level park is inclusive of the park features of lower levels. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve persons within walking distance (1/4 mile). Area parks are intended to serve persons within bicycle distance (1/2 mile). As their name suggests, community parks are intended to serve the entire community.

In addition to a parks inventory, standards were created by the City to measure current park space supply against park demand. According to the City's demand analysis, Fitchburg currently has sufficient park land. As the City of Fitchburg continues to grow, natural resources, including parks and open space, must be planned and preserved. In looking toward the future, the City would like to ensure that parkland remains accessible to residents. To accomplish this goal, the City has estimated, based on population forecasts, future parkland needed (Figure 10 – 10). However, the use of gross acreages does not always provide the full story of park needs. Much of the acreage is woods or other open space not dedicated to active recreation. In addition, it is also important to examine the current resource base and long-term land use in helping to decide future public open space.

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Figure 10 - 10: Estimates of Future Parkland Needed

| Year | Estimated Population | Minimum Park Acreage Needed | Actual Acreage |
|------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 2000 | 20,501 | 271.6 | 286.4 |
| 2005 | 22,100 | 292.8 | 325.1 |
| 2010 | 25,477 | 337.6 | |
| 2015 | 27,954 | 370.4 | |
| 2020 | 30,431 | 403.2 | |
| 2025 | 32,908 | 436.0 | |

Source: City of Fitchburg Park and Open Space Plan

In conjunction with the City's park system, Fitchburg currently hosts 35 recreational programs with over 6500 participants of all ages. Programs include tennis, soccer, basketball, jazzercise, karate, dodgeball and cool science rockets & robot camp. These programs utilize City parks, local schools, and the Fitchburg Community Center. The City is dedicated to providing recreational activities suitable for all citizens. Just as the City looks to provide adequate parks and open space for residents, it also strives to meet the challenges of providing recreational programs that meet resident demand.

The Capital Springs State Recreation Area is within the City of Fitchburg and runs from Fish Hatchery Road east to Lake Waubesa. The area includes approximately 3,000 acres, including most of the Nine Springs E-way and the Capital City State Trail. This trail is intended to be used by bikers, roller skaters, walkers and other uses through out the year.

When completed, the Capital Springs State Park will join Dane County's Lake Farm Park and other wildlife and recreation areas like the Monona Conservancy Wetlands, MMSD Wildlife Observation Area, Nine Springs E-way, Nevin Fish Hatchery, Jenni and Kyle Preserve and Lussier Family Heritage Center (WI DNR, 2007).

Park and Open Space Proposal

Developed by the City Planner and former Parks Director, the goal was to create a greenbelt at the southern boundary of the current urban service area to provide a buffer between current and future development. The proposal included approximately 950 acres of land and created a system of linked parks and open space that would further protect and enhance the natural areas of Fitchburg for future generations.

To enhance the initial concept, the Parks Department in the summer of 2007 undertook a resource-based planning model to identify areas outside of the urban service area that should be set aside for protection and preservation. The planning model analyzed vegetation, steep topography, wetlands, hydric soils, waterways, springs, public land, groundwater recharge, soil productivity, natural heritage and scenic resource inventory as areas for potential preservation. One of the main priorities outlined in the Park and Open Space Proposal is the creation of a central park, running along the southern urban service area boundary.

The Park and Open Space Proposal is still in the planning stages, but if the preservation areas are adopted, they will be included in the Comprehensive Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan. This plan will be an implementation tool for meeting the goals of this planning document to protect groundwater recharge areas and sensitive environmental sites, avoid the development of high risk contamination areas, and preserve wildlife corridors and important historical and cultural features of the City.

Survey Results

Parks and recreation appear to have significant importance to Fitchburg residents. Almost 40 percent of Fitchburg residents stated they use park facilities several times a week or on a daily basis. More than 80 percent support increasing the number of nature paths and natural area preserves. Citizens also encourage accessibility to parks and trails. Three-quarters of respondents agree or strongly agree that parks and playgrounds should be located within a quarter mile of all neighborhoods.

In general, respondents expressed a relatively high level of satisfaction with the current set of facilities, programs, and amenities offered through the City parks and recreation program.

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