A detailed description of the existing utilities and community facilities in Racine County is presented in Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Chapter V, “Inventory of Utilities and Community Facilities.” All services and facilities addressed in this element are affected, regulated or directly provided by a Federal or State government agency, school district, utility (e.g. We Energies), or private service provider (e.g., hospital). It is essential that Racine County and its local communities work with these entities to implement regulations and programs and to ensure adequate land is available for facilities and services. A few inventory findings from this chapter include:

- In 2000, areas served public sanitary sewer service encompassed about 15% of Racine County (about 52 sq. miles), with an estimated resident population of 169,900 persons, or 90% of the County population. The remaining 10% of the population was served by private onsite wastewater treatment systems.
- In 2005, 12 municipal water supply systems provided water to about 38 sq. miles of the County, and an estimated 147,000 persons (76% of the population). Eight systems relied on Lake Michigan as the source of supply; the other four on groundwater. About 24% of the population relied on private domestic wells.
- In 2007, there were 10 municipal police department facilities and two Racine County Sheriff’s Department facilities. Fire protection was provided by 14 different fire departments, 11 of which also offered emergency medical services (EMS).
- In 2007, there were 273 park and open space sites encompassing about 9,000 acres that were owned by public entities (e.g., State, County, cities, schools districts), and another 105 sites encompassing about 2,560 acres that were privately owned.

For a copy of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Draft Chapter XIII, please visit the Racine County Smart Growth website:
http://racine.uwex.edu/cnred/SmartGrowth.html
Based on the countywide public opinion survey, and the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analyses conducted in 2007, some of the utilities and community facilities issues identified by the community included:

- The plan should strive to protect surface water and groundwater quality and quantity.
- The plan should strive to study the costs and impacts of new growth and development have on utilities and community facilities.
- The plan should seek to balance the need to expand water and sewer services, while more compact development design and infill development should be considered to utilize land in existing urban service areas.
- The plan should seek to address the development and implementation of countywide land use patterns and water control plans to minimize the adverse effects of flooding.
- The plan should seek additional resources (public-private partnerships) for both utilities and community facilities planning.
- The plan should strive to support the development of alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar power. The potential demand for bio-fuel and bio-fuel technology could also provide economic opportunities.
- The plan should seek to find ways to share municipal services such as libraries, recycling, and police services with neighboring communities.

Under the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, the population of Racine County is projected to increase by about 35,500 persons between 2000 and 2035. (Projections of population, household and employment levels in the year 2035 can be found in Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Chapter VII.) Each community will have to ensure that its own facilities and services can adequately meet the needs of its current and future residents. County and local units of government should take into account these projections when planning for future utilities and community facilities, but plans also need to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate population levels that are somewhat higher or lower than forecasted.

**Sanitary Sewer Service**

Owners and operators of public sewerage systems within the Southeastern Wisconsin Region periodically prepare long-range plans to evaluate the adequacy of their facilities and systems. Of the seven public sewage treatment plants in Racine County, only two are expected to reach 80% of their design capacity. (80% is the threshold at which facilities planning should be initiated to ensure adequate service.) By 2035, the City of Burlington plant is expected to have reached its existing plant capacity; the City prepared a facilities plan in 2005 which would upgrade plant capacity to accommodate anticipated growth. Sewage flows to the Eagle Lake Sewer Utility District wastewater treatment plant are currently close to the 80% threshold, and it is projected that by 2035, the threshold would be exceeded. The comprehensive plan recommends that the district prepare a facilities plan in the near future.

**Stormwater Management**

In Racine County, stormwater drainage is managed primarily through curb and gutter systems for cities and villages, while towns rely mostly on roadside ditches and natural swales and culverts. Ideally, stormwater management facilities should be planned as an integrated system of stormwater and floodland management facilities for an entire watershed, for an entire community with consideration given to the watersheds in which the community is located.

**Water Supply**

Future demand for water supply is determined primarily by the size and spatial distribution of the future population, land use, and economic activities. Since 2005, SEWRPC has been developing a regional water supply plan, intended to provide a sound, workable plan for the provision and protection of long-term, sustainable sources of water for Southeastern Wisconsin. This plan as completed in the fall of 2008 and includes recommendations specific to Racine County and its local communities. More information can be found online at: [http://www.sewrpc.org/watersupplystudy/](http://www.sewrpc.org/watersupplystudy/)
Community facilities are a core component of community identity, representing long-standing civic institutions, public health and safety, and places of education, recreation and social gathering.

Police, Fire and Rescue, and Emergency Management Services

As the population grows and new development occurs, local units of government will need to work with police departments, fire departments and other agencies to evaluate the adequacy of services provided. Communities should also assess operating costs and potential shared-service agreements, as well as the locations of facilities to ensure appropriate emergency response rates for all residents in the County.

Parks and Open Space Sites

As of 2007, there were about 380 park and open space sites owned by various public and private agencies and organizations in Racine County. The comprehensive plan anticipates that these sites will continue to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities to current and future residents. County and local park and open space plans further recommend that some existing sites be expanded or recreational facilities be developed, and additional sites be acquired and developed as the County grows. By 2035, about 750 acres of land are proposed to be added as recreation land in Racine County.

Public and Private Schools

In 2008, there were 14 public school districts (consisting of 56 schools), 31 private school facilities, and three technical college facilities in Racine County. Under SEWRPC’s population projections, the County’s school-age population (ages 5-19) would increase about 5% between 2000 and 2035. To ensure that services are maintained and enhanced, public school districts and private schools should regularly evaluate the capacity and condition of existing schools and undergo periodic planning for the construction or expansion of future school facilities. Some issues to be addressed include enrollment and capacity, adaptive re-use of closed schools, transportation services, energy efficiency, student health and well being, and safe routes to school. Districts should consider a school-oriented development approach—i.e., siting new schools as the center of a neighborhood—in an effort to create a safe bike and pedestrian-friendly environment around the school.

Health Care and Community Living Facilities

Under SEWRPC projections, the population of residents age 65 or older would increase about 86% between 2000 and 2035; a correlating increase in demand for health care and community living facilities and services may be expected. Overall, Racine County and its local communities have accommodated a substantial increase in health care facilities, community-based residential facilities, and adult family homes, residential care apartment complexes, and senior housing apartment complexes. Consideration has also been given to access and transportation options for these services and facilities. About 50% of health care facilities and over 60% of assisted living facilities are located in areas zoned for residential uses, usually accommodated as conditional uses; it is expected that this pattern will continue.
Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities and Trails
Regional, County, and locally adopted bicycle, pedestrian, park and open space plans constitute a guide for providing and enhancing bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the County, such as: improving connectivity and safety; improving identification/signage of routes; and providing an understanding of the laws, rights, and responsibilities of cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists (“sharing the road” rules). Future bicycle facilities should be developed as a means to encourage healthy recreational opportunities, improve air quality, protect natural resources, protect residents from vehicular traffic, and serve residents’ needs to move safely and efficiently throughout the County.

Other facilities addressed in this element include: government facilities, libraries, equestrian and waterway facilities and trails, child care facilities, and cemeteries.

For more information, please visit http://racine.uwex.edu/cnred/SmartGrowth.html