

Chapter 7

Community Facilities and Utilities

Introduction

The types of facilities a community can offer its residents and the capacity and quality of its utilities are important factors affecting a community's growth. As the population of Prescott grows, facilities outgrow their physical space, additional personnel are needed to serve the public, and utilities have to be expanded to accommodate residential, commercial, and industrial growth.

Like many communities in western Wisconsin, the City of Prescott is experiencing the need to begin looking at and budgeting for future facility and utility projects. It is a challenge for local officials to meet the needs of the community at a reasonable cost to both residents and developers.

The Community Facilities and Utilities chapter will provide a general overview of the existing facilities and utilities in Prescott and the capacity of them to accommodate the projected growth of the community and the increasing risk of weather and civil events that challenge its resiliency.

City Hall

The City of Prescott City Hall is located at 800 Borner Street (*see Map 7-1*). City Hall provides space for the City Administrator/Zoning Administrator, Public Works Director, Treasurer, and Account Clerk. The building is shared with the Prescott Public Library.

Currently, there is enough space in City Hall to meet staffing needs for the next 10 years. One option to increase storage space is to digitize old records but this would require software and additional personnel to complete the work.

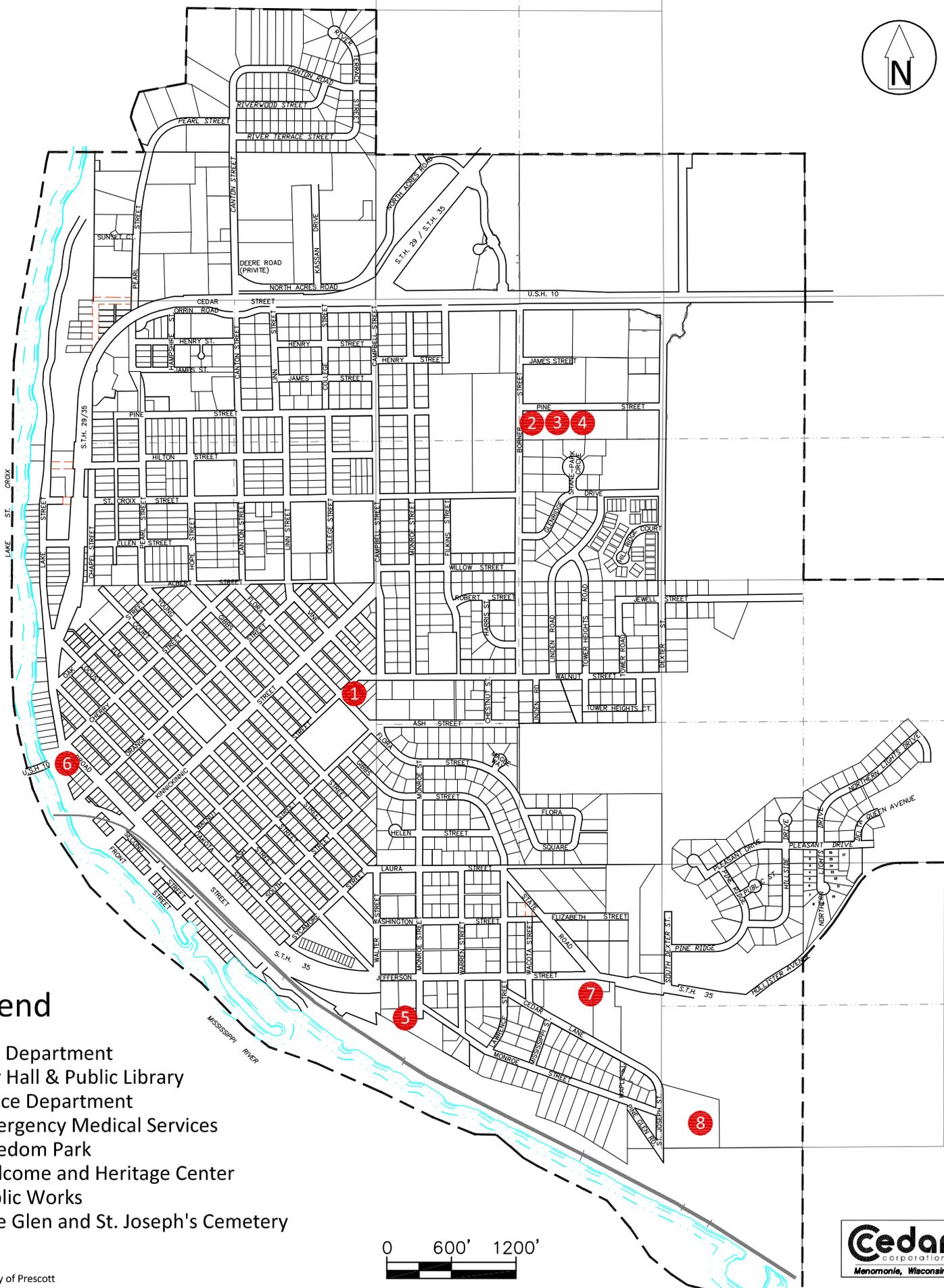
Police Department

The Police Department is located at 1601 Pine Street. The Prescott Police Department is a full-service law enforcement agency that conducts criminal investigations, investigates traffic accidents, enforces traffic law and City ordinances, answers calls for service and assists other agencies. The Police Department is assisted by deputies from the Pierce County Sheriff's Office and troopers from the Wisconsin State Patrol.



The Department moved into its current location in 2005. Additional space is needed for office space, evidence collection and storage, and parking. Personnel standards state there should be one (1) police officer per 500 residents.

Map 7-1: Community Facilities



Legend

1. Fire Department
2. City Hall & Public Library
3. Police Department
4. Emergency Medical Services
5. Freedom Park
6. Welcome and Heritage Center
7. Public Works
8. Pine Glen and St. Joseph's Cemetery



Fire Department

The Prescott Fire Department serves the City of Prescott and Towns of Oak Grove and Clifton. The Prescott Fire Station is located at 260 Flora Street with a satellite station located in the Town of Oak Grove at N4939 1100th Street.

The Prescott Fire Station was built in the 1960's and expanded in the late 1980's to accommodate the addition of the ambulance service. The ambulance service moved into its own building in 2005.

In addition to the ground event response teams the Prescott Fire Department has a water-craft response team for rescue and recovery operations.



The Prescott Fire Station is short of space. Some equipment, such as the boat for the water-craft response team, is stored in the newer Oak Grove Satellite Station during the winter. One option to address the need for space would be to explore a satellite station in the Town of Clifton due to much of the future residential, commercial, and industrial growth projected to occur in that area.

Prescott Emergency Medical Service (EMS)

Prescott Emergency Medical Service provides emergency services to the City of Prescott, Town of Oak Grove, and the Town of Clifton. The current EMS building was constructed in 2005 and is located at 1603 Pine Street.

On January 1, 2015 Prescott's EMS operations merged with River Falls Emergency Medical Services. The day-to-day EMS operations are still housed in Prescott but are under the directorship of River Falls who reports to Prescott Area Fire and EMS Association. Current space in the Prescott EMS building is adequate at this time.

Prescott Public Works Department

The Prescott Public Works Department has three buildings located off S.T.H. 35 on the southeast side of the City. There is a salt and sand shed, a quonset building used for storage with a restroom, and the main building that has a break room, restroom, desk, lab and equipment and vehicle storage.

There is adequate land for future buildings, additions to existing buildings, and outdoor storage. Currently, all equipment fits in the Main building, but there is little room for anything else. The Public Works Department has plans to add an addition (approximately 50') to the back of the main building in order to accommodate additional equipment and a vehicle it will purchase in the future.

Prescott Compost Site

The City of Prescott owns approximately 160 acres of land in the Town of Oak Grove located along 620th Avenue (*see Map 7-2*). The land was originally purchased in 1971 to be used as the City landfill and to store sludge from the wastewater treatment plant. The City now sends its sludge to the West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility (WCWBF) located in Ellsworth, WI.

A small portion of the 160 acres is used as a compost site. It is open three days a week and accepts proper kitchen and yard waste. Tree limbs and stumps are accepted up to 6" in diameter. Currently, collected materials are burned.

Although there are no long-term plans for the land at this time, possible ideas may be to expand composting options, sell excess land or trade land, lease land for entrepreneurial farms, or provide space for a solar array.

Libraries

The Prescott Public Library is located at 800 Borner Street. The Library shares the building with City Hall. The Prescott Library is part of the MORE library system which is a group of libraries in west-central Wisconsin that share their collections.

Patrons can check out a wide variety of books, audio books, compact disks, magazines, VHS videos, DVDs and Wii games. The library also has several public computers with access to the Internet, word processing and spreadsheet applications (Microsoft Office), magazine and newspaper databases, and a Federal Tax form database which are always available while the library is open. The Library has a public meeting room that groups can use.

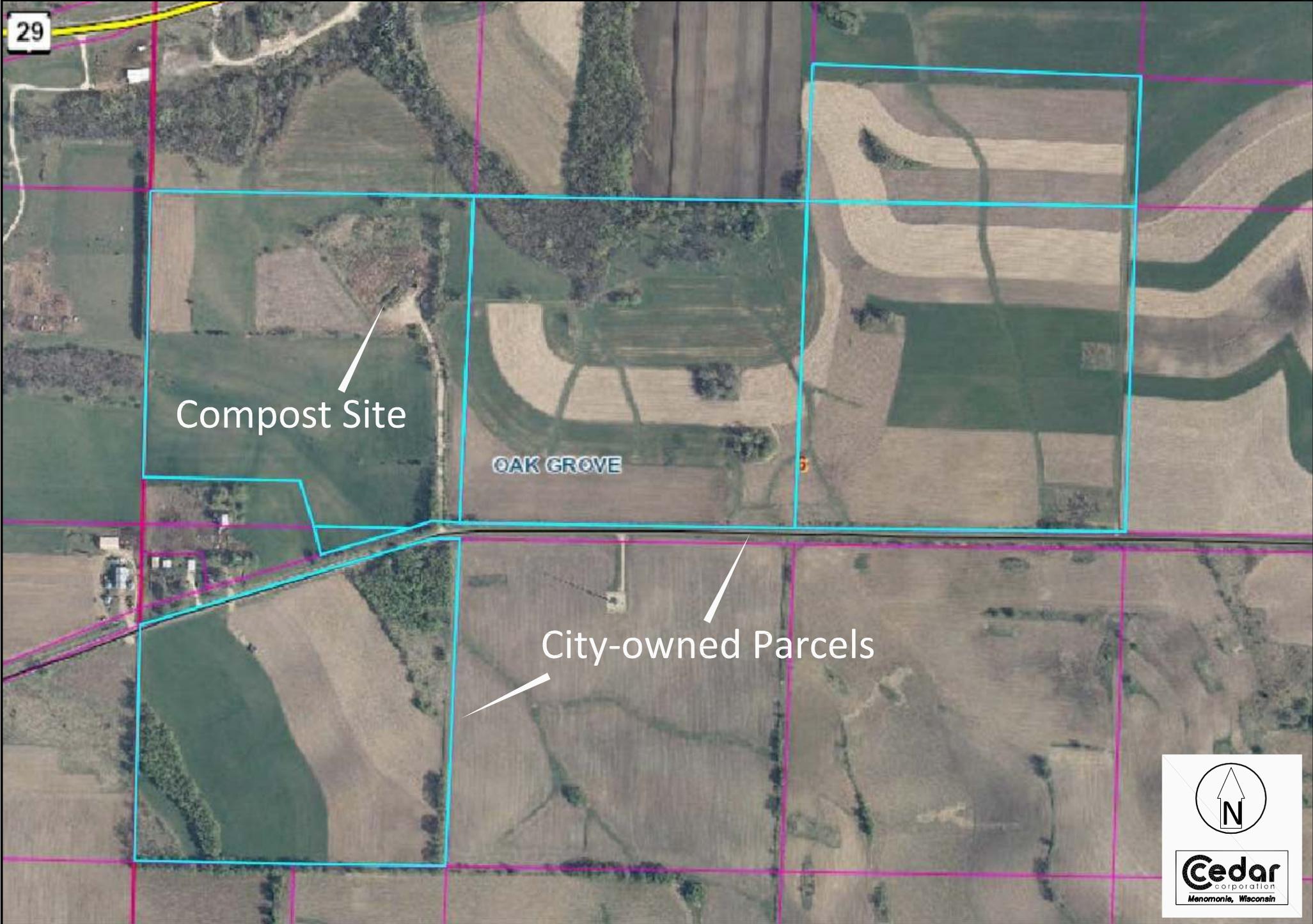
As technology has evolved and changed how people use libraries, the types of services the Library offers have also evolved.

The Prescott Public Library offers Tech Time as a technology training program. Tech Time is one-on-one technology training in 45-minute sessions. Tech Time topics include:

- General computer use
- Storing and retrieving files, documents and photos
- Internet searching and navigating websites
- E-mail
- On-line privacy
- Microsoft Office

There is a general need for additional media storage space, study rooms, and story-time rooms due the popularity of programs and individual needs for quiet work spaces. Some needs can be addressed by remodeling the existing Library space.

Map 7-2: Prescott Compost Site



Compost Site

OAK GROVE

City-owned Parcels



The Prescott Public Library maintains a Strategic Plan to identify and prioritized needs. The current plan expires in 2015 and will be revised. The revised Strategic Plan will look more closely at space needs.

Freedom Park

The Great River Road Visitor and Learning Center at Freedom Park is located at 200 Monroe Street in Prescott. Freedom Park is located at the northern gateway to Wisconsin's Great River Road, a National Scenic Byway. The Park overlooks the scenic upper Mississippi River Valley at the confluence of the St. Croix River and Mississippi River.



The Interpretive Center provides opportunities to learn about the areas cultural and environmental resources.

Freedom Park averages 15,000 visitors a year. People can rent out four different facilities for meetings and events.

Currently, there is adequate office and storage space. There is a large basement that can provide additional office space if needed, but it would have to be renovated to meet applicable building codes.

Existing parking is limited. Some special events can attract 500 people which makes parking challenging for visitors who have to park along the street or across S.T.H. 35. The parking lot is also used by bicyclists who visit the Learning Center and then go for a bike ride. This can tie up needed parking spaces all day long. The City has an option to purchase a property in front of the Learning Center that could be used for parking needs in the future.

Prescott Welcome and Heritage Center

The Prescott Welcome and Heritage Center is home to the Prescott Area Chamber of Commerce and Prescott Area Historical Society. The Center offers exhibits highlighting local history plus maps, brochures and information on the Prescott, Pierce County and surrounding areas. The Center has identified a need for additional storage and exhibition space. Historical items not displayed are currently stored at City Hall.



Public and Parochial Schools

The Prescott School District consists of the Malone Elementary School (505 N. Campbell Street), Prescott Middle School (125 S. Elm Street), and the Prescott High School (1220 St. Croix Street).

The School District recently began construction of a new High School at the southeast corner of the U.S.H. 10 and Dexter Street intersection. The former High School will still be used and the School District will divide classes between the four schools.

The St. Joseph Parish School, located at 281 Dakota Street South, is the only parochial school in the City. The School provides a Catholic education for students in grades Pre-K to 6th Grade.

Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities

The City of Prescott maintains a Master Park Plan (MPP). The MPP analyzes the existing park and recreation facilities in the community and anticipates future needs. The current MPP was created in 2009 and will be updated.

The MPP lists park size and amenities, provides a recommendation for overall park space needs based on projected population growth, and outlines specific improvements for City owned parks and open space.

The MPP is the main guide for park and open space improvements in the City of Prescott.

Medical Facilities

Hospital Service and 24-hour emergency medical services are provided at Allina Health-Regina Hospital in Hastings, Minnesota (6 miles) and at the River Falls Area Hospital (12 miles). The City of Prescott's Emergency Medical Service provides ambulance services with medical and emergency services to the Prescott area as well.

The Allina Health-Prescott Clinic is located at 1400 North Acres Road, Prescott, WI. The Clinic provides primary care and women's health care. Affiliated with the Clinic is Courage Kenny Sports & Physical Therapy Clinic, which offers sports medicine and physical therapy to clients.

Prescott Nursing and Rehabilitation Community is located at 1505 Orrin Road Prescott, WI. The Community is a 65-bed residence and has a centralized nurse's station. All resident rooms are within view of a staff member.

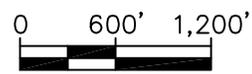
Prescott Nursing and Rehabilitation Community is a skilled nursing community which offers specialized health and rehabilitative services. Services include short-term and long-term stays and the Community provides secure Alzheimer's and dementia care.

Map 7-3: Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

1. Prescott City Beach
2. Mercord Mill Park
3. River Walk
4. City Courtesy Dock
5. Jasques Park Public Boat Ramp
6. Freedom Park
7. Public Square
8. Bell Park
9. Magee Wilderness Park
10. Sunset Park
11. Linn Street Ice Rink
12. Shanne Park
13. Skate park
14. Veterans Memorial Park
15. Welcome and Heritage Center
16. St. Croix Bluff Park
17. Senior High School
18. Malone Elementary School
19. School District Baseball Field
20. St. Joseph School
21. Leo's Landing
22. Point St. Croix Marina
23. Miss-Croix Yacht Harbor
24. St. Croix River Recreational Access



Child Care Facilities

Wisconsin law requires a person who provides care and supervision for four or more children under the age of seven for less than 24 hours a day to obtain a license to operate a child care center from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

In 2015, there were nine (9) licensed child care facilities in the City of Prescott. Residents who need day care services may also use family, local residents or facilities in other communities to meet their child care needs.

Cemeteries

The City of Prescott has two cemeteries. The Pine Glen Cemetery and St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery are both located at the ends of Cedar Lane and Monroe Street. The City of Prescott owns the Pine Glen Cemetery. There is room to expand on the existing site.

Water Supply System

The City of Prescott Water Utility is comprised of two 250,000 gallon elevated water storage reservoirs, three wells, and watermains ranging from 1½" to 14" in diameter. The City presently serves approximately 1,300 residential households, 137 commercial properties, and seven (7) industrial properties.

The average daily water use is 568,926 gallons per day (2014). The City's maximum daily water use is 1,152,000 gallons per day (2014). The water system is comprised of two pressure zones.

The existing distribution system is properly looped and has adequate static pressures. However, as growth continues, an additional tower is required and reinforcement of the main transmission line is essential to provide adequate flow and pressure for new developments.

The proposed future development areas are mainly located in the northern and eastern portions of the City. In order to service the areas, looping is required to provide adequate fire flow and pressure to this development throughout the City.

The City's current policy requires a developer to install 6" and 8" watermains to adequately serve their area. However, a larger transmission main may be required to properly serve these new development areas and provide adequate capacity for future extensions.

The City of Prescott is served by two 250,000 gallon elevated water storage reservoirs, approximately 135' in height. Tower #2 was constructed in 1976 and tower #3 was constructed in 1998 and provides static pressures of 74-92 psi. As the community continues to grow, an additional water tower will be required most likely in the southwest.

The City of Prescott presently has three municipal wells. Well No. 2 is located on Flora Street. The well is 400' deep. The capacity is 500 gpm. It has a 24-inch I.D. outer steel casing and a 16-inch I.D. inner steel casing.

Well No. 3 is located on Hilton Street. The well is 286' deep. It is constructed with a 24-inch I.D. outer steel casing and a 16-inch I.D. inner steel casing and produces 1,000 gpm.

Well No. 4 is located on Dexter Street. The well is 375' deep. It is constructed with a 24-inch I.D. outer steel casing and an 18-inch I.D. inner steel casing and produces 1,000 gpm.

The total capacity of the three wells is 2,500 gallons/minute or 1,800,000 gallons in 12 hours.

The City of Prescott adopted a Wellhead Protection Ordinance to protect its ground water resources. The Wellhead Protection Ordinance limits the location of specific materials, utilities, and land uses near the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA).

The present wells are adequate to serve the projected growth for the next 10 to 20 years.

Existing Storm Sewer System

In the City of Prescott, like most communities, sections of the early storm water drainage system were constructed somewhat haphazardly as development occurred. Subsequent improvements and new construction both within the City and along U.S.H. 10 have resulted in a storm sewer system that, as a whole, presently functions quite well for addressing the primary concern of storm water quantity/flood control.

Within the last 20 years, much has changed in how storm water drainage is addressed. Every new project, both public and private, must consider runoff with the same diligence, if not more, as that given to other utilities. This new public awareness combined with the increasingly stringent governmental regulations and the resulting increases in runoff created by continued development have combined to create problems that can often be challenging to address from both engineering and fiscal standpoints.

Recognizing the increasing importance of properly addressing storm water issues, the City initiated preparation of a Storm Water Management Master Plan in 2003.

Existing Sanitary Sewer System

The City of Prescott's sanitary sewer system consists of the collection system (pipes), lift stations, and the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The City provides staff to manage, operate, and maintain the system.

The City's WWTP is located between S.T.H. 35 and the Mississippi River with vehicle access from S.T.H. 35. It is permitted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to treat and discharge wastewater to the Mississippi River. The WWTP, upgraded in 1995, is designed to treat a raw wastewater flow of 0.5 million gallons per day (mgd) with the current flow being approximately 0.37 mgd.

Older areas of the sanitary sewer collection system are composed of deteriorated vitrified clay pipe. Pipe decay contributes to water infiltration, flow restrictions, and pipe blockages. This reduces the available capacity of both the collection system and treatment plant.

Solid Waste/Recycling

The City of Prescott currently contracts with Paul's Industrial Garage Inc. (P.I.G.) to pick up trash and recycling for all single family, 2-family, and 3-family residences. Pierce County recycling has recycling bins at the Prescott Public Works Department on S.T.H. 35. Residents may also drop their recyclable items at these bins. Contracts with solid waste service providers are for five years.

Telecommunications Facilities

The availability and affordability of telecommunications services and devices has improved rapidly. People are becoming more dependent on the need to communicate for both business and personal matters. In the past, access to high speed internet may have depended on where you lived. Today, a combination of satellites, telecommunications towers, cell phones, tablets, and laptops allows a person to communicate wirelessly almost anywhere in the world. Most telecommunication companies sell phone, cable television, and internet services combined or “bundled”. Fiber optics is the newest service with limited availability.

The City of Prescott regulates towers and antennas but recent state regulations have reduced a community’s authority to restrict the placement of towers. The City should review its current regulations and amend its ordinances as needed.

Energy Systems

Electric power is supplied to the City by Xcel Energy and Pierce Pepin Rural Electric Cooperative. The current supply meets demand and both companies have the ability to expand its infrastructure to meet future demand as well. St. Croix Valley Natural Gas provides utility gas to customers in Prescott.



The City does not have regulations for wind turbines or photovoltaic systems. The City may want to explore creating wind and solar regulations as these forms of power generation are becoming more common, less expensive, and can contribute to community self-sufficiency and economic development.

Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations

Goal 1: The City of Prescott is prepared to meet the facility and utility needs of residents, businesses, and industry.

Objectives:

1. Increase public education to reduce the demand for City utilities and increase the use of renewable energy sources.
2. Increase available space for facilities essential to existing and future residents.
3. Plan for risk of more and greater natural and human caused events that strain current infrastructure capacity.

Recommendations:

1. Conduct a Needs Assessment for municipal buildings including the City Hall, Public Library, Public Works, Fire Department, Police Department, EMS, and other municipally owned buildings to determine space, personnel, and budget needs.
2. Explore ways to share spaces to meet community needs.
3. Review and update regulations for telecommunication towers and antennas.
4. Explore the need for wind turbine and solar array regulations.
5. Incorporate low impact development strategies such as the use of swales, ditches, and rain gardens, to reduce the need and cost of providing stormwater infrastructure.
6. Utilize the City's website to provide education to residents on ways to reduce the use of natural resources and energy.
7. Explore the creation of conservation credits to reward residents, businesses, and industry for reduced water usage.
8. Consider evaluating how much of the City's energy needs are provided by renewable energy sources and set goals to increase the use of these sources as a way to move towards energy independence.
9. Update the City's Stormwater Management Plan.
10. Develop metrics to track the City's objectives.
11. Conduct a Facilities Needs Assessment/Water Study to determine long range needs for the water and sanitary system.