

Utilities and Community Facilities

1. Overview

A community needs a wide variety of utilities and community facilities to ensure basic healthy and safety needs are met, maintain a high quality of life and promote a sustainable economy. The intent of this chapter is to provide an inventory of community facilities and services currently offered in Winnebago County.

An efficient and fully developed infrastructure of community facilities is an essential component to the economic vitality of a community. Most development shares a common need for basic services and facilities such as water and sewer facilities and solid waste disposal sites. Support facilities such as health and education facilities, police, and fire protection are also important to the economic activities and livability of a community. The provision of public and private utilities and community facilities are governed at the federal, state, regional, county, and local levels.

Public and private utilities include sanitary sewer, municipal water, gas, and electric services. Community facilities generally include publicly owned buildings, and lands that serve the public. These facilities are required for the efficient provision of public services. The location, quality, capacity, and planned improvements to community utilities and facilities can influence the pattern and pace of development.

The three critical planning concerns regarding land use development, as it influences utilities and community services within the county are capacity, level of service and cost.

Capacity addresses issues of ability to serve the anticipated population growth while allowing for a land development pattern that meets the community's needs.

Levels of service (LOS) standards are minimum standards in which the county expects adequate public facilities. The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has developed level of service and capacity standards for residential, commercial and industrial development as it relates to its sewer service area planning. East Central uses these standards to evaluate local plans as it relates to the sewer service area plans.

Costs address how much residents in the county are willing to pay to improve services in order to meet necessary capacity and LOS, as land development continues. The median cost per dollar of revenue raised to provide public services to the following land uses are typically higher for residential than farm/forest, and commercial/industrial.

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2. Sanitary Sewer and Wastewater Treatment

Public Systems

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (1977) established the basic structure of regulating discharges of pollutants into the water of the United States. Many of the wastewater treatment plants region were upgraded with the passage of this act.

The Clean Water Act helped expand area wide water quality management planning, (Section 208), and the Facility Planning Grant Program, (Section 201). This legislation is the primary policy base for sewer service area planning in conjunction with Wisconsin Administrative Code NR-121, concerning areawide waste treatment management planning and NR-110, which relates to facility planning and sewer extension review.

Most sewage collection and treatment systems in Wisconsin are subject to administrative rules of the Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Decisions regarding the extension, or expansion, of the wastewater collection and treatment systems are made primarily at the local level.

Sewer service areas are concentrated in more urbanized areas of the county and those areas with higher residential densities (Map 11). In 2015, there were eight public wastewater treatment facilities and two private (Table 4-1 and 4-2, Map 11).

Table 4-1. Private Wastewater Treatment Facilities: 2015

Name
Edison Est. Mobile Home Park
Ridgeway Country Club Inc.

Table 4-2. Public Wastewater Treatment Facilities: 2015

Name	Design Flow (MGD)	Anticipated Flows (Year)	Type of Treatment	Sewer Extension Limitation	System Needs
Grand Chute-Menasha West Sewage Commission	5.240		Activated sludge	Yes	Above 90% flow
Larsen-Winchester S.D.	0.049	0.2605 MGD (2020)	Stabilization pond	None	At capacity
Neenah Menasha Sewerage Commission	13	13 MGD (2030)	Activated sludge	None	At capacity
N. Lake Poygan S.D. No.1	0.029		Oxidation ditch	None	
Omro Wastewater Treatment Plant	1.145	0.865 MGD (2020)	Activated sludge	None	Above 90% capacity
Oshkosh Wastewater Treatment Plant	35	19.99 MGD (2030)	Activated sludge	None	37.5% of capacity
Poygan-Poy Sippi S.D. No.1	0.084	0.078 MGD (2020)	Aerated lagoon	None	74% of capacity
Winneconne	0.495	0.845 MGD (2020)	Activated sludge	None	At capacity
Butte des Morts Consolidated S.D.#1	0.078	0.0956 MGD (2020)	Activated sludge	Yes	At capacity

Source: ECWPRC Omro 2020 SSA Plan, ECWPRC Oshkosh 2030 SSA Plan, ECWPRC 2020 Poygan SSA Plan, ECWPRC Winneconne 2003 SSA Plan, ECWPRC Larsen-Winchester 2003 SSA Plan, ECWPRC Butte Des Morts 2002 SSA Plan, Neenah-Menasha Sewerage Commission Wastewater Treatment Facilities Report, 2030

Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

In those areas of the county not served by municipal sanitary services, private onsite wastewater treatment systems are used. These systems are regulated by the county under Chapter SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Over the years, the number of approved permits for on-site systems

has fluctuated. Since 2000, the highest number of permits issued occurred in 2002. By comparison, less than half that amount were issued in each of the last four years (Table 4-3).

Table 4-3. Permits for On-Site Sanitary Systems: 2000-2014

Year	Approved Permits
2000	220
2001	243
2002	286
2003	256
2004	260
2005	204
2006	153
2007	165
2008	136
2009	116
2010	136
2011	113
2012	105
2013	106
2014	109

Source: Winnebago County Planning and Zoning Department

3. Stormwater Management

Stormwater runoff and management are an environmental concern due to flooding and surface water quality issues in the East Central region. The potential for stormwater damage is tremendous if not planned for and managed accordingly. According to studies by the Center for Watershed Protection, as little as 10 percent impervious cover (street, roofs, parking lots, driveways etc.) within a watershed can negatively impact fish habitat, while 25 percent impervious cover overloads the natural functions of the watershed and can permanently degrade stream quality. Managing and controlling storm water runoff resulting from urbanization is a challenge.

To address issues of stormwater and erosion control, Winnebago County adopted a comprehensive Stormwater Management Ordinance that became effective September 1, 2003. The ordinance provides for management of stormwater and erosion control on both a larger scale level and smaller scale (single lot) development level.

Winnebago County does not construct or manage any regional stormwater facilities. However, the City of Oshkosh in recent years has been developing a number of detention basins to control floodwaters, many of which were funded in part by federal and state grants. Most recently, the city completed the Armory Flood Control Basin in 2014. The Libbey / Nicolet Detention Basin is planned for 2016. The city operates a stormwater pump station off of Melvin Avenue (Map 11).

4. Water Supply

Six public water systems serve 50,000 customers and pump approximately 61 million gallons per day in Winnebago County. These water facilities are located in the cities of Menasha, Neenah, Omro, and Oshkosh, the Village of Winneconne, and the Town of Menasha. Menasha Utilities in the City of Menasha supplies water to the Town of Menasha.

There were 29 water facilities in Winnebago County in 2015, including water wells, water towers, water reservoirs, and water treatment plants (Map 11).

According to the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, applying accepted engineering standards relating to water supply and storage capabilities could assess potential water system deficiencies. Because of possible well malfunctions such as plugged screens, contamination, or broken well shafts, it is suggested that communities have at least two fully developed water supply sources. Nine of the region's smaller systems do not meet this standard. While larger communities usually have several water sources many smaller communities have only one well and are therefore vulnerable to shortages. Maintaining multiple water sources provides the flexibility to sustain water distribution in the event of a malfunction.

Water storage is also an important component of the water supply chain. It is a general standard that the water storage of a community be equal to the average daily pumped. In the event of a general

power loss or equipment malfunction it is important to have water stored to provide continuous service.

5. Solid Waste Management

The Winnebago County Board created the Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB) in 1975 to provide solid waste management services to communities, businesses, and industry in Winnebago County. Its operations are funded by user fees (i.e., tipping fees). As described in more detail below, Winnebago County joined forces with Brown and Outagamie counties and created a tri-county regional program in 2002 for solid waste management, including recycling.

Landfills

The Solid Waste Management Board initially operated the Snell Road Landfill, which was closed in 1990. The Board then established Sunnyview Landfill with a design capacity of 4.4 million cubic yards (Table 4-4). As of January 2014, remaining capacity was estimated to be 143,419 cubic yards, which means the life of the landfill is about 10 years based on current disposal rates. Methane gas is collected from Sunnyview is converted to electrical energy and sold to an electric utility.

Table 4-4. Licensed Solid Waste Landfills: 2015

Name	DNR Facility Number	Location	Owner	Design Capacity (Cubic Yards)	Estimated Life	Types of Waste
Chemtrade Solutions LLC	471015270	T. Neenah	Private	175,000	2033	Aluminum
Tomahawk Land Co of Delaware LLC, North Landfill	471093040	T. Vinland	Private	3,062,000	2029	Fly ash, paper, paper mill sludge
Winnebago County Sunnyview Landfill	471083910	T. Oshkosh	Public	4,400,000	2024	Demolition, garbage, non-combustible, paper, refuse, wood matter

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Solid and Hazardous Waste Information System (SHWIM), website accessed February 9, 2015

In addition to Sunnyview Landfill, there are two other landfills, both of which are privately operated (Table 4-3).

Recycling

Mandatory recycling started statewide in 1995 with a passage of a recycling law in 1989. Initially, Winnebago County operated its own facility. In an effort to be more cost effective and efficient, Winnebago County joined forces with Brown and Outagamie counties in 2002. At that point, the Sunnyview Recycling Facility was converted into a transfer station.



From 2002 to 2009 recyclable paper was transported to Outagamie County for processing and recyclable containers were transported to Brown County for processing. On July 1, 2009 the three counties opened a jointly owned facility in Outagamie County for processing single-stream recyclables. That agreement for the Tri-County Single Stream Recycling Center is set to expire in 2024 unless it is extended.

As of 2012, the facility was processing approximately 67,700 tons of material per year. Added staffing capacity will bring the facility to its design capacity of 80,000 tons/year.¹

6. Telecommunication

Telecommunication facilities are an important consideration for personal convenience and economic development in today's world of electronic media. However, facilities that provide cellular service have become controversial issues in some local communities. Legal battles over the location of wireless service facilities, and concerns about their impact on property value and health have led some municipalities to develop restrictions on the location, placement, and appearance of wireless service facilities.

Map 12 shows the location of all telecommunication facilities throughout Winnebago County. There were 63 telecommunication towers and three telephone facilities in 2015.

7. Electric Service

Four entities provided electrical services in Winnebago County (Map 13). WE Energies serves most of the northern area of the county except for the City of Menasha, which is served by Menasha Utilities. Wisconsin Public Service Corporation serves the southeast portion of the county. Alliant Energy serves the southwestern area of the county.

Menasha Utilities owns and operates the electric distribution system in the City of Menasha. The utility owns a 24MW of coal fired generation at its River Street Power Plant and is under contract for its generation with Wisconsin Public Power (WPPI).

In addition to Menasha's power plant there was one other power plant in the county (Table 4-5).

American Transmission Company (ATC) operates the transmission lines providing power to the county. For its planning purposes, ATC has divided its service territory into five zones. Winnebago County is located in Zone 4 along with 12 other counties in the region.

The major transmission line within the region, which crosses Winnebago County, is the 345kV line, the North Appleton-South Fond du Lac that runs south along the west side of Lake Winnebago. Another minor 138kV line moves along the West Side Lake Winnebago along with a major natural gas pipeline. There were 26 substations in Winnebago County in 2015 (Map 13).

8. Natural Gas Service

Natural gas service is available throughout most of the county from WE Energies, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation and Alliant/Wisconsin Power & Light Company (Map 14). The ANR Pipeline distributes natural gas to these companies through its transmission lines and facilities in Winnebago

Table 4-5. Power Plants: 2015

Site	Fuel Type	Number of Units	Capacity (megawatts)
Menasha [1]	Coal	2	28
Alliant [2]	Gas	2	371

Source:

1. Wisconsin Energy Statistics/2000, Wisconsin Energy Division, DOA
2. Strategic Energy Assessment, Draft Report, Wisconsin Public Service Commission, July 2002

¹ (Source http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/special_orders_mtg_3-11-14_final.pdf, Winnebago County Board of Supervisors Solid Waste Management Board report, February 6, 2013).

County. In 2015, there were seven natural gas facilities located along major distribution routes (Map 14).

Following national trends, natural gas usage is expected to increase as new generation plants will be fueled almost exclusively by natural gas. In the eastern part of the state, sufficient capacity exists in the system to supply future demands.

The ANR pipeline is part of TransCanada's network of 37,000 miles of wholly and partially owned pipelines connecting major supply basins with major markets all across North America. ANR is expected to become a primary vessel for shale gas produced through hydraulic fracking².

9. Healthcare

Some communities in Wisconsin have been designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). Either a geographic area, or a specific population can be designated as a HPSA. This designation is used to determine eligibility for at least 34 federal programs, and state loan programs. The HPSA in Winnebago County are listed in Table 4-6.

Table 4-6. Health Professional Shortage Areas: 2015

Primary Care	ID Reference	Type	FTE [1]	Score
Fox Cities Community Health Center	15599955D1	Comprehensive Health Center	-	20
Oshkosh Medium Security Institution	1559995581	Correctional Facility	1	3
Wisconsin Resource Center	15599955A1	Correctional Facility	0	3
Mental Health				
Fox Cities Community Health Center	7559995569	Comprehensive Health Center	-	16
Oshkosh Correctional Institution	7559995539	Correctional Facility	0	6
Wisconsin Resource Center-Men	7559995537	State Mental Hospital	0	12
Dental				
Fox Cities Community Health Center	6559995595	Comprehensive Health Center	-	20
Oshkosh Correctional Institution	655999550C	Correctional Facility	2	3

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Website accessed February 10, 2015, data as of January 1, 2015

Notes:

1. This attribute represents the number of non-federal practitioners providing ambulatory patient care in the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) expressed as full-time equivalents.

In terms of facilities, there were five hospitals in Winnebago County in 2015; three in the City of Oshkosh and two in the City of Neenah (Map 15). Theda Clark Medical Center in Neenah had 182 beds, Mercy Medical Center in Oshkosh had 157 beds, and Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh had 84 beds. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Fox Valley is located in the city of Neenah and had 42 beds. Winnebago Mental Health Institute, a state-owned mental health hospital, is located in Oshkosh and had 330 beds.

In 2015, there were 33 health care clinics providing sub-acute medical services, including ambulatory surgery (Map 15).

² (Source: <http://www.transcanada.com/customerexpress/4321.html>)

10. Special Care Facilities

Childcare facilities are classified as family day care facilities and group day care centers based on the number of children they are able to serve. Family day care facilities provide child care to no more than 8 children and group day care centers provide child care for 9 or more children. In 2015, there were 44 family day cares and 73 group day care centers located throughout the county, primarily in more urban areas (Table 4-7 and Map 18). In addition, there was on adult day care in the county.

11. Public Safety

Police

There were seven local police departments and one county law enforcement agency in Winnebago County in 2015. The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh also has its own police department for on-campus security.

In 2012, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department had 345 full time officers, with a ratio of 2.0 full time officers per 1000 population. The County had 191 violent crimes, 2,028 property crimes, and 4,438 total crimes per 100,000 resident populations in 2012.³

In addition to local police and the county sheriff department, the state patrol also provides law enforcement in the region. Winnebago County is a part of District 3 of the Wisconsin Division of State Patrol.

Corrections

Oshkosh Correctional Institution is located in the city of Oshkosh and has a rated bed capacity of 1,494. As of 2010, the inmate population exceeds that level. There were 496 full time employees supervising 2,055 incarcerated males with a 4:1 inmate to staff ratio. Winnebago Correctional Center, also located in the city of Oshkosh, operates as a community-based work release center. There is a rated bed capacity 250 and 55 full time employees staff the facility. Both correctional facilities can be found on Map 15.

Table 4-7. Special Care Facilities: 2015

	Group Day Care	Family Day Care	Adult Day Care
Town			
Algoma	1	4	0
Black Wolf	1	0	0
Clayton	1	0	0
Menasha	4	3	0
Neenah	1	0	0
Nekimi	0	0	0
Nepeuskun	0	0	0
Omro	0	0	0
Oshkosh	0	1	0
Poygan	0	0	0
Rushford	0	0	0
Utica	1	0	0
Vinland	0	0	0
Winchester	2	0	0
Winneconne	0	2	0
Wolf River	0	1	0
Village			
Winneconne	3	0	0
City			
Appleton [1]	1	0	0
Menasha [1]	5	4	0
Neenah	12	8	0
Omro	4	4	0
Oshkosh	38	16	1
Total	73	44	1

Notes:

1. Municipality located in Winnebago County and another county

³ (Source Crime in Wisconsin: Statistical Analysis Center, Wisconsin Department of Justice, 2012)

Winnebago County and various other police departments operated jails. In 2014, total inmate population at the county facility was at its lowest point since 2010 with 287 total inmates (Table 4-8).

According to a 2008 United States Bureau of Justice Statistics report, Wisconsin has an incarceration rate of 366 prisoners per 100,000 populations. That ranks 31st in the United States. Our state ranks first in the nation in incarceration rates for black males according to a recent study by University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.⁴ According to a 2011 study, Winnebago County incarcerates 18 people per 10,000 compared to 25 per 10,000 for the state and 24 per 10,000 for the country.⁵

Table 4-8. Inmate Population, Winnebago County Jail: 2010-2014

Year	Male	Female	Total
2010	275	42	317
2011	254	35	289
2012	262	43	305
2013	255	46	301
2014	244	43	287

Source: Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Annual Report, 2014

Fire Protection

Fire protection in Wisconsin is a major responsibility of local governments. Nineteen fire departments served Winnebago County in 2015 from 24 fire stations (Maps 17 and 18). Most of the departments operate with volunteer personnel.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO), a private company, classifies municipal and rural fire departments according to their relative quality of protection. ISO ratings are used to determine fire insurance premiums on residential, commercial and other non-residential property. There are 10 classifications ranging from Class 1, the best, to Class 10, unprotected. The ratings are based among other things, the distance from the fire station, distance from a hydrant, if municipal water is available, what type of equipment is available, and if the station is manned full time. Therefore, the ISO rating can vary greatly within a community.

Table 4-9. Fire Departments: 2015

Name	FDID Number	Type	ISO Class
Algoma (Town of) Volunteer FD	31010	Volunteer	6/9
Appleton (City of) FD	44020	Paid	-
Berlin FD	24020	Volunteer	-
BoomBay Volunteer FD	70160	Volunteer	1/9
Clayton-Winchester FD	48040	Volunteer	9/9
Fremont FD	68100	Volunteer	-
Menasha (Town of) FD	70020	Volunteer	-
Neenah (Town of) Volunteer FD	70110	Volunteer	6
Neenah-Menasha (City of) Fire Rescue	70010	Paid	-
Nekimi Volunteer FD	70060	Volunteer	9/9
Omro Rushford Joint FD	70080	Volunteer	-
Oshkosh (City) FD	70030	Paid	-
Oshkosh (Town of) Volunteer FD	70050	Volunteer	-
Poy Sippi Volunteer FD	69070	Volunteer	-
Ripon Area FD	20140	Volunteer	-
Utica Volunteer FD	70070	Volunteer	7/9
Van Dyne FD	20170	Volunteer	-
Vinland Volunteer FD	70140	Volunteer	9/9
Winneconne-Poygan Fire District	70120	Volunteer	-

Table 4-9 shows the ratings for some of the fire departments in Winnebago County.

⁴ <http://www4.uwm.edu/eti/2013/BlackImprisonment.pdf>, (2013), United States Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009.

⁵ Source: Kimme Associates, 2011, <https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/sites/default/files/countyclerk/minutes/cb7.19.11.pdf>.

Emergency Medical Services

Since all hospitals in the region provide emergency medical care, most residents in the region are within 30 minutes of an emergency room. In 2015, there were five EMS response area, and include Berlin, Fremont, Gold Cross, Oshkosh Fire and Rescue, and Ripon (Map 20). The City of Appleton provides its own service for the portion of Appleton in Winnebago County. Winnebago County had a total of 15 licensed emergency medical service providers in 2015 as listed in Table 4-10.

Table 4-10. Licensed Emergency Medical Service Providers: 2015

Provider	General Location	Class
Algoma (Town of) First Responders	T. Algoma	First Responder
Clayton-Winchester First Responders	Larsen	First Responder
Gold Cross Ambulance Service	C. Menasha	First Responder
Gold Cross Ambulance Service-Weyauwega	C. Menasha	EMT-Basic
Harrison First Responders	C. Menasha	First Responder
Menasha (Town of) Fire Department First Responders	T. Menasha	First Responder
Neenah (Town of) Fire Department First Responders	T. Neenah	First Responder
Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue	C. Neenah	First Responder
Nekimi First Responders	C. Oshkosh	First Responder
Omro Rushford First Responders	C. Omro	First Responder
Oshkosh (City of) Fire Department	C. Oshkosh	EMT-Paramedic
Oshkosh (Town of) First Responders	T. Oshkosh	First Responders
Theda Star Air Medical	C. Neenah	EMT-Paramedic
Utica First Responders	Pickett	First Responder
Vinland (Town of) First Responders	C. Oshkosh	First Responder
Winneconne Poygan First Responders	C. Winneconne	First Responder

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, website accessed February 12, 2015, data current as of October 27, 2014

National Guard Facilities

There were two National Guard Facilities located in the City of Oshkosh (Map 17).

12. Parks and Recreation

A principle asset of a community is its recreational opportunities. Winnebago County is home to 58 public and private boat launches to accompany four rivers, four creeks, and six lakes. There are approximately 157, municipal, school, park and recreational facilities spanning over 1,619 acres, (Map Page 15 of the existing Winn County CORP). The Winnebago County Parks department is responsible for managing many facilities throughout the county. They include:

- Winnebago County Community Park
- Waukau Creek Nature Preserve
- Waukau Pond Nature Preserve
- Shangri-La Point Nature Preserve

- Winnebago County Recreational Trails
- Butte des Morts Boat Landing
- Eureka Boat Landing
- Black Wolf Boat Landing
- Boom Bay Boat Landing
- Lake Poygan Boat Landing
- Grundman Park Boat Landing
- Lake Winneconne Park and Boat Landing
- Asylum Point Park and Boat Landing
- Lasley Point Archeological Site
- Sunnyview Exposition Center
- Coughlin Nature Area
- Mouscoutin Valley State Trail
- WIOUWASH State Trail segment from Town of Clayton north to City of Oshkosh
- Winnebago County Parks Office

The County's Community Park offers baseball, soccer, rugby, disc golf, archery, horseshoe, a dog park and fishing ponds. Some of the more unique offerings within the county parks system include a BMX track, cross country trails, dog exercise areas, and an historic archaeological site (Lasley Point).

Lake Winnebago, at 137,000 acres, is the state's largest inland lake. The lake receives heavy recreational use by boaters, anglers, swimmers, hunters, and trappers. There is also an active commercial setline fishery for catfish.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is the largest public landowner in Winnebago County with approximately 14,264 acres of land in 2013. The county park system makes up 815 acres of publicly owned open space. The county owns and operates a total of 828.1 acres of land (Table 4-11).

According to the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, a traditional barometer of the overall adequacy of a local park system is that it should contain at least 10 acres of land per 1,000 residents. Experience has shown that this

Table 4-11. Winnebago County Recreation Facilities: 2012

Park/Recreational Site	Acres	Miles
Asylum Point Park/Boat Landing	79.1	-
Eureka Boat Landing	6.3	-
Black Wolf Boat Landing (Nagy Park)	3.3	-
Boom Bay Boat Landing (Old Duck Inn)	0.8	-
Lake Poygan Boat Landing	1.5	-
Grundman Boat Landing	12.1	-
Lake Butte des Morts Boat Landing	1.6	-
Lasley Point Archeological Site	47.7	-
WIOUWASH State Recreational Trail	-	21.8
Mascoutin Valley State Recreational Trail	-	5.3
Waukae Creek Nature Preserve and Waukau Dam	65.4	-
Coughlin Nature Area	35.1	-
Sunnyview Expo Center	154.7	-
Shangri La Point Nature Preserve	55	-
Winnebago County Community Park	365.5	-
Total	828.1	27.1

Source: 2013 Winnebago County CORP

ratio needs to be higher in smaller communities if they want to accommodate even a basic range of physical activity and recreational facilities.

Another factor that can distort this ratio is the recent trend of maintaining sizable tracts of parkland as relatively undeveloped open space, as this acreage does not contribute to addressing that need for active recreational activities such as sports field, walking paths, and picnicking. When applied to the county's population projections, land needs will increase from 2010 to 2030 by 1,477 for passive acre use and 633 active acre uses.⁶

The Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan, (2013), identified the following recreation supply shortages based on an analysis of WDNR's inventory of existing resources compared to population and demand:

- Nature Based: Boat launches (carry-in), campgrounds, trails (cross-country ski, mountain biking, snowmobile)
- Developed Settings: ATV parks, basketball courts (outdoor), dog parks, golf- courses (9-hole), horseback riding stables, trails (bicycle), and ski hills.

Other Recreation Facilities

The County fairgrounds in Oshkosh have 154 acres of available land for recreational use. A new livestock facility was added to the fairgrounds along with many additional improvements such as an extension of city water, upgrade of the electrical system, improved fencing, and additional restrooms. Within these 154 acres are the Sunnyview Expo Center and the Speedzone Raceway Race track. The Winnebagoland BMX club also races at the Speedzone Raceway.

The region has 49 golf courses that are open for public play. The Lakeshore in Oshkosh is publicly run.

There is a 200-mile network of snowmobile trails in Winnebago County with 133.5 miles designated as state 'funded' trails. The remaining 80 miles of trails are club trails. The Town of Menasha is home to an indoor ice arena.

Another major event is the Experimental Aircraft Association's convention in Oshkosh that attracts about 800,000 visitors annually.

Finally, the many rivers and lakes in the County provide exceptional recreational activities to residents and tourists alike.

Table 4-12. Public Libraries: 2010

Location	Number	Service Population	Volumes in Print	Volumes per Person
Neenah	1	47,969	165,642	3.5
Menasha	1	25,343	130,495	5.2
Omro	1	5,584	27,683	5.0
Winneconne	1	6,629	27,644	4.1
Oshkosh	1	81,595	250,114	3.1
Total	5	167,120	601,578	3.6

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2010

13. Libraries

Library resources are an important part of the community base. There were 5 public libraries in Winnebago County in 2015. Table 4-12 shows information on public libraries in Winnebago County. There are also three academic libraries, two of them being a part of the UW Oshkosh system, and 12 special libraries (Map 16).

⁶ Passive acres is land that limits development like hunter preserves, wildlife areas, and recreational trails whereas active acres are areas designed to accommodate lots of people such as campgrounds, golf courses, and swimming beaches.

The number of holdings in a library generally serves as an indicator of library services. Winnebago County as a whole compares favorably with the statewide average of 3.51.

Libraries in the county are part of the Winnefox Library System that serves 30 public libraries in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara, and Winnebago counties.



14. Schools

Eleven school districts serve residents in the county (Map 20). Table 4-13 gives general enrollment and other data for public school districts that serve entirely in the County.

There were 163,090 public students enrolled in Winnebago County according to 2012 Census. According to the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, it is generally recommended that a district contain a minimum of 1,200 students for operational efficiencies. Within the individual counties in the east central region, the largest increases in public school enrollment were found in districts that have also experienced the largest amount a new single-family development.

Charter schools are public, nonsectarian schools that are created through a contract or "charter" between the operators and the sponsoring school board or other chartering authority. The majority of charter schools within the region focus on students who are at risk. In Winnebago County there were four charter schools (Table 4-14).

Table 4-13. School Districts: 2013-2014

Name	District Code	Enrollment	Pupil / Teacher Ratio	Expenditure per Pupil
Appleton Area	0147	16,224	9.9	\$11,453
Berlin Area	0434	1,669	8.5	\$11,591
Menasha	3430	3,661	9.4	\$11,875
Neenah	3892	6,226	10.3	\$10,903
New London	3955	2,459	9.8	\$12,102
Omro	4088	1,269	8.7	\$10,864
Oshkosh Area	4179	9,957	8.9	\$10,851
Ripon	4872	1,736	8.8	\$11,881
Rosendale-Brandon	4956	1,055	8.3	\$11,310
Weyauwega-Fremont	6384	882	7.4	\$10,541
Winneconne Community	6608	1,488	9	\$11,295

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2013-2014

Table 4-14. Charter Schools: 2014

School District	District Code	Charter School	Focus	Grade	Year Established	Enrollment
Neenah	3892	Alliance Charter Elementary	Arts/Culture	K-5	2004	128
Oshkosh Area	4179	ALPs Accelerated Alternative Learning Program	Liberal Arts	K-8	2004	26
Oshkosh Area	4179	Jacob Shapiro Brain Based Instruction Laboratory School	Liberal Arts	K-5	2012	281
Oshkosh Area	4179	Oakwood Environmental Education Charter School	Environmental	K-5	2002	488

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2013-2014

Winnebago County is home to two institutions of higher education. The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in Oshkosh had an enrollment of 13,519 in 2014 and the UW-Fox Valley in Menasha had an enrollment of 1,799.⁷

The state is covered by 16 multi-county vocational technical adult education districts, which are organized on a regional basis and financed primarily by local property taxes. These districts tend to follow school district boundaries rather than county lines. Counties in the region are divided among seven districts. Winnebago County is mainly served by the Fox Valley district with a small portion of the southwest corner of the county covered by the Moraine Park District. The County is home to two central campuses and one regional campus.

15. Cemeteries

Map 21 shows the location of the known cemeteries in Winnebago County. Local cemetery associations manage most of these cemeteries per state statute and therefore, future capacity issues are not an issue that county governments are directly responsible for.

⁷ Source: Wisconsin Blue Book, 2013-2014