

## UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The purpose of this chapter is to describe existing and future community facilities, utilities and services (Figure 8-1) to meet the needs of residents and businesses.

### GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives have been created based on community input and the City's established policies. They are intended to guide future decisions pertaining to public facilities and utilities in West Allis. Recommendations pertaining to each facility follow that facility's description within the chapter.

**Goal:** Keep West Allis safe, clean, and efficient through effective public service delivery that is responsive to our residents needs.

- **Objective 1:** Update Existing Codes, Policies and Procedures Make the

recommendations within this chapter achievable by updating existing codes, policies and procedures as needed to deliver the recommendations.

**Goal:** Emphasize energy efficiency, and sustainability in the delivery of public utilities, services, facilities, and purchases.

- **Objective 1: Continue Progressive Stormwater Management Initiatives**  
Utilize progressive stormwater management initiatives and techniques to reduce damage to private property and increase quality stormwater runoff.
- **Objective 2: Implement Sustainability and Energy Efficiency in the Public Realm**  
Implement programs for greater sustainability and energy efficiency in public utilities, services, and facilities, such as implementing energy retrofits in existing buildings, consolidation, and



reducing the amount of pavement throughout the City.

- **Objective 3: Support Energy Efficient Building Practices in New Construction and Retrofits of Existing Buildings** Set an example for the rest of the community by continuing to pursue opportunities to integrate energy efficient building practices into the design and construction of new buildings and through the retrofitting of old buildings.

**Goal: Overcome Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's stringent sewershed flow allocations, which penalize established urban areas by limiting the amount of infill development and thus promoting urban sprawl.**

- **Objective 1: Encourage MMSD to Modify Allocations** Encourage MMSD to modify their plans that limit redevelopment opportunities within fully developed communities.

## WEST ALLIS RECREATION, SERVICES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### City Hall

Many of West Allis's municipal departments are housed at City Hall, located at 7525 West Greenfield Avenue. City Hall consists of approximately 50,000 sq. ft. of office space and is home to the City's Common Council Chambers where all of the City's public hearings are held. The facility has a unique Brutalist architectural style, which is considered potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places once the building is 50 years old.



*Centennial Plaza*

Within the last few years the plaza in front of City Hall was updated and many new energy efficient retrofits were put in place within the building itself.

### Recommendation

Use City Hall as example for the rest of the community by implementing additional energy efficiency retrofits through partnerships with We Energies and Focus on Energy, so that City Hall can qualify to be a Certified Energy Star building.

Consider designating City Hall to the State and National Register of Historic Places.

### Library

The West Allis Public Library is located at 7421 W. National Avenue and provides the members of the community with access to materials and services that can enrich their personal and professional lives. The role of the library is a commitment to quality library services to all, intellectual freedom, as well as educational and leisure activities for the citizens of West Allis.

The current building was completed in 1989, centralizing library services for the City from three branch libraries into one. The library has proven to be one of the most popular in the Milwaukee County Federated Library System, and circulates over 800,000 items annually.

The library continues to evolve and adapt to the expectations of patrons. For example, in 2008 the library completed transitioning to Radio Frequency Identification – allowing for self-service checkout, 24/7 real-time check-in, online payment of fines and fees, and increased inventory control of the library's 230,000 books, periodicals, CD's, DVD's, and audio books. Additionally, West Allis citizens can now enjoy 57 free databases remotely accessible from home or business 24 hours, 7 days per week. There also exists a variety of computer-related services at the library including 26 free public internet stations, 3 dedicated database computer workstations, 5 standalone computers for accessing Microsoft Office applications, online access to BadgerCare and Medicaid resources, building wide Wi-Fi access, and much more.



Finally, the West Allis Public Library offers a variety of programming options for all age levels. Traditional children's story-time, instructional and entertainment



presentations, young adult activities, adult book clubs, reading programs, and cultural/historical series are examples of the myriad of offerings for citizens of the community.

### Recommendation

In 2010 the City will begin a refurbishing of the entire Children's department utilizing a \$150,000 private donation. Technology is becoming the priority in public libraries in terms of maintaining efficiencies, and providing services (i.e. more computers, web-based databases available from the library, home or business, and expanded self-service options). Additionally, work will commence in 2010 on a Young Adult/Teen area of the library.

While the West Allis Library currently produces a service plan every three years, in the next 15-20 years it is recommended that an assessment be completed to ascertain if City library services are in need of updating or expansion.

### **Public Health Services**

The West Allis Health Department provides community leadership to protect and promote the health of West Allis citizens. To achieve this mission the Health

Department provides a broad range of services; examples include:

- Public Health Nurses and Community Health Screening Technicians provide health screenings, immunizations, counseling, communicable disease control, and referral to community resources, in a variety settings for infants, children and adults.
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program
- Dental Health Services
- Health Educators offer health education programs on a variety of topics
- Environmental Health Services include compliance inspections, complaint investigations, and lead poisoning prevention
- Farmers Market
- Services and activities for senior citizens at the Senior Center
- Commercial weights and measures inspections

The mission to protect and promote the health of West Allis residents is accomplished by providing the necessary leadership to bring the various public,

private, non-profit and voluntary sectors together to work collaboratively to achieve this mission. Every five years the health department convenes those public health system partners and stakeholders to develop and implement a community health improvement plan. The department also provides space in its facility for community partners to provide needed services for residents.

### Recommendation

The health department facility was built in 1978 and was designed primarily as a health clinic to serve individual clients. The future of public health practice dictates that public health departments will convene and mobilize stakeholders and partners to improve the health status of the community. In addition the department should be a one-stop center where health department staff and community-based organizations can provide needed services. It is recommended that there be strong consideration to expand and update the facility to accommodate these new, contemporary roles for the health department and also deal with the acute shortage of parking at the facility.



## Farmers Market

Originally established in 1919 at the 6 Points (intersection of W. Greenfield Ave., W. National Ave. and S. 62 St.) in the present location of the Paradise Theater and relocated in 1930 to its current place on S. 65 St. and W. National Ave., the West Allis Farmers



Market has been a source of fine fresh produce for generations of families. Grandparents and parents have brought their children and relatives to shop at one of the largest, and the longest continuously run Farmers Market in Wisconsin. One reason that the West Allis Market shines above the rest is that all the farmers at the market have to raise what they sell. If you want only the freshest produce grown in Wisconsin, shop the West Allis Farmers Market.

The West Allis Farmers Market is open from the first Saturday in May through the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 6:00 pm and on Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Market Place is held from the first Sunday in May through the last Sunday in October, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm as well as well as Fridays throughout the summer. The site of the West Allis Farmer's Market comes alive with vendors selling everything from antiques to tools, record albums to hats. You may even find the treasure that you have been looking for. Fees charged for vendors only. Come and shop.

### Recommendation

A restoration of the Historic West Allis Farmers Market was completed in 2006. Since that time additional programming has taken place on the site such as Forks & Corks, a Chamber-sponsored event in late summer that features local restaurateurs, art, and wine tasting. The City hopes that as the neighborhood around the site continues to grow that an expansion of both public and private uses within the Farmers Market site will take place.

## Senior Center

The West Allis Senior Center is located at 7001 W. National Ave. The building was built in 1954 and was

originally used as a YMCA. The City purchased the building in 1980 and has used it as the Senior Center since that date.

The West Allis Senior Center promotes a healthy quality of life where aging is viewed as natural, positive and purposeful. Older people retire to new roles, if desired, or continue working in a variety of ways. People begin to plan for later interests and activities and the maintenance of relationships as valuable keys to the fulfillment in aging. Overall, the vision is to challenge the growing population with knowledge and responsiveness.

The West Allis Senior Center provides services focused on the recreational, social, and personal needs of elderly residents. The Senior Center is operated under the administration of the Health Department and the governing and policy making body of the Commission on Aging. Regular Advisory meetings are held.

Membership in the West Allis Senior Center is available for a small annual fee for West Allis residents or non-residents and day passes are available for guests. Membership in the Center allows participation in the regular weekly classes and group activities in addition



to the special tours offered throughout the year. Membership is open to anyone age 55 or older and his/her spouse of any age.

A variety of over 30 classes are offered each week, at least one tour a month and many special other events and guest speakers are offered monthly.

### Recommendation

As the baby-boomer generation ages there will be increased demands for space and for programs at the Senior Center. With the Senior Center already at or near full capacity, consideration of expansion of the buildings and programs for seniors to fit the needs of the aging baby boomer demographic should be explored within the 20-year planning period.



## **County Facilities**

Milwaukee County owns and maintains a number of facilities in the City of West Allis, including McCarty, LaFollette and Greenfield parks, which are described in greater detail in the Parks and Open Space chapter.

### Recommendation

Continue the positive partnership that exists with Milwaukee County to ensure that our County Parks continue to serve the needs of our community.

## **Law Enforcement & Protection**

The Police and Municipal Court Center, which houses the West Allis Police Department and Municipal Court is located at 11301 W. Lincoln Avenue. The West Allis Police Department also has a substation located at 6900 W. National Avenue. Police service is available 24 hours a day. As of 2009, the Police Department had 130 sworn officers, with a capacity for 132, and 25 civilian support staff. The Department is divided into two divisions, Support Services and Operations. The Support Services Division includes Communications, Crime Prevention, Forensic Technical Services, Technology, Records and Training. The Operations Division includes Patrol, Sensitive Crimes, Criminal Investigations and Special Investigations.

In 2008, officers responded to 52,666 calls for service, wrote 8,381 incident reports, investigated 2,498 motor vehicle crashes, issued 8,200 traffic citations/warnings, investigated over 600 domestic violence incidents, placed over 600 individuals under emergency detention, arrested 482 individuals for drunk driving and investigated two homicides.

In 2009, the West Allis Police Department established over "800" neighborhood block watches in an effort to get citizens more involved in addressing quality of life issues.

### Recommendation

Within the planning period, the Police Department anticipates a significant need for equipment and

adequate funding to address both the investigation of technology based crimes and technology advances available to law enforcement agencies that allow for greater effectiveness and efficiency. Additionally a technological upgrade to the existing dispatch center will be required.



The Police and Municipal Court Center has a critical shortage of adequate parking. An expansion of their existing parking lots is required over the next five years.

## **Fire, Rescue, & Emergency Medical Services**

The West Allis Fire Department is the only nationally accredited fire department in Wisconsin, and one of approximately 350 in the United States and Canada. The Department's administrative offices and indoor training facility are located in a remodeled fire station at 7332 W. National Avenue. The Department operates three remote stations located at 10830 W. Lapham Street, 2040 S. 67th Place and 7300 W. National Avenue. The Department's outdoor training facility is located at 2040 S. 67th Place. All facilities are either new or have been extensively remodeled since 2004, through a grant from Wisconsin Energies, assuring an energy-conserving, environmentally safe workplace.



The Police and Fire Emergency Dispatch Center is located within the City's Municipal Court facility, at 11300 W. Lincoln Avenue, as is the Office of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners (PFC), the governing body of the Fire Department.

Each year, the Fire Department responds to over 8,000 emergency calls for help, provides medical inter-facility transports, and performs nearly 10,000 fire prevention compliance inspections, plan reviews and site inspections. The Department also operates a Technical Rescue Team (TRT) that mitigates hazardous material releases, and responds to trench, tunnel, low-angle, confined space and ice rescue incidents.

The Fire Department is a member of MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System), Division 107. Mutual aid resources are available via contract from most of Wisconsin, all of Illinois, and much of Minnesota. The Department provides initial emergency response to the

11.3 square miles of West Allis, and various portions of Milwaukee, Wauwatosa and Greenfield.

The Fire Department works closely with new and existing business owners who are interested in developing or expanding their property. The Department helps develop compliance schedules so owners can address codes and standards in a reasonable timeframe. Fire prevention personnel perform plan reviews, evaluate code compliance alternatives and serve as state deputies for administration of the underground storage tank removal program. The Department also provides fire extinguisher training and helps with fire and smoke detection system planning.

All fire inspectors are Wisconsin-licensed and all TRT personnel are trained in accordance with OSHA and NIOSH standards.

### Recommendation

The Department will continue to work in close cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Homeland Security to streamline response efforts for floods, storms and disaster declarations as well as routine mutual aid programs. As financial resources decline with no apparent reduction in demand, Fire Department administrators will continue to seek alternatives that keep municipal tax burdens as low as possible.

### **Wireless Networks**

The City of West Allis had setup a wireless test site back in the early 2000's and concluded based on the range and the inefficiencies of the Wi-Fi wireless technology to hold off deploying any City-wide wireless plans until a newer technology was available. Wi-Fi equipment is commercial grade equipment requiring no licensing and can be purchased almost any way, supplying data rates of up to 30 megabits per second. Because anyone can install Wi-Fi anyway, there is much interference between these devices. The City determined it would need an access point on every corner in the City to get 90% coverage.

With the opening up of the 700mhz frequency, which was used by analog television, along with a more powerful licensed 2.5ghz range, radio manufacturers have the frequencies and power needed to provide long range (a few miles) high speed data service. West Allis expects to see many vendors to supply services within our City within the next five (5) years utilizing the emerging 4G LTE and WIMAX technologies.

Given the City's density and location in relation to the interstate highway system, the City expects to be on the leading edge when the wireless phone companies roll out their new 4G and WIMAX high-speed services. This will provide a much higher speed service, enabling

video transmission and many other applications on a mobile phone.

**Recommendation**

Short-term city wireless plans include providing free wireless access in select locations around the City. The City has deployed wireless access at City Hall's Centennial Park, Honey Creek Park, and Reservoir Park for anyone to use at no costs. Over the years the City will expand these wireless hot spots to include other areas around the City for the public to use. West Allis will gradually increase its coverage over time by adding more and more hotspots.

The continued evolution of computer processing speed will allow wireless radios manufactures to develop wireless technologies using less and less power. This will allow the City of West Allis to purchase and install its own high-speed wireless network. Every department within the City will benefit from such a system and drastically change the way business is conducted. This will also allow the City to provide free wireless access and the Internet to its citizens within the City, regardless of income.

**Power Plants & Transmission Lines**

Electricity and gas services are provided to the City of West Allis by We Energies. Within the area, We Energies operates coal-fired power plants in Oak Creek and the Milwaukee County Grounds. We Energies also has several renewable energy facilities and programs to diversify its portfolio and offer sustainable energy solutions for the region.

Electric transmission lines, operated by the American Transmission Company (ATC), provide power generated by We Energies throughout the region. These transmission lines traverse West Allis along two

axes. North to south, transmission lines run along the east side of I-894, and east to west, transmission lines align with the Union Pacific Railroad line, west of I-894. ATC publishes annual reports of system limitations and anticipated upgrades. As of 2009, no problems or upgrades were projected to occur within West Allis.

**Recommendation**

Maintain communication and work with We Energies and the American Transmission Company regarding the generation and supply of power within the city and region.

As discussion and legislation regarding renewable energy continues to progress, the City should be aware of how future energy production will effect services in the city, region and state.

**Education**

The West Allis-West Milwaukee (WAWM) School District is one of the community's most important assets. It is home to two US Department of Education National Blue Ribbon Schools, twenty-one Wisconsin Schools of Promise, has one high school listed among the top 1200 schools in the nation, and was recently named the top place to raise a child in Southeast Wisconsin by Business Week. The West Allis-West Milwaukee School District spends an average of \$10,347 per pupil, which is slightly higher than the State of Wisconsin average (\$10,155), and has a pupil-to-staff ratio of 10.8:1 which is lower than the State of Wisconsin average (12.1:1), reference Figure 11-2.

The boundary of the West-Allis-West Milwaukee school District coincides with the Village of West Milwaukee and City of West Allis municipal boundaries with the exception of the southwest section of the school district. The district covers a small portion of the southeastern



School District receiving Blue Ribbon award

section of the City of New Berlin and a few block area of the City of Greenfield. The district is comprised of 17 public schools (eleven elementary schools, three intermediate schools, and three high schools).

**2009-2010 Enrollment**

Elementary Schools (K-5)	3,933
Intermediate Schools (6-8)	1,672
High Schools (9-12)	3,025
<b>Total (K-12)</b>	<b>8,690</b>

West Allis-West Milwaukee School District Enrollment Study											
5-Year History and Forecast											
School District of West Allis - West Milwaukee, et al.											
	History					Forecast					
	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
Spec Ed	76	79	74	89	78	46	50	50	50	50	50
4K	372	376	351	356	406	454	450	450	450	450	450
K	606	553	578	538	544	617	593	618	676	658	663
1	549	585	546	579	539	567	608	584	608	666	647
2	513	512	579	531	590	548	558	598	575	599	655
3	512	500	514	585	547	587	550	560	600	577	601
4	583	511	527	520	598	571	597	559	570	610	587
5	610	591	507	527	525	619	571	597	559	569	610
6	566	620	605	529	535	552	629	580	607	568	579
7	619	573	632	606	536	548	557	635	586	612	573
8	699	629	591	635	618	547	559	568	648	598	625
9	881	830	792	695	800	768	674	689	700	798	736
10	790	843	847	771	690	809	739	649	663	674	769
11	719	764	822	817	785	668	792	724	636	650	661
12	760	732	776	814	837	789	676	802	733	643	658
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,855</b>	<b>8,698</b>	<b>8,741</b>	<b>8,592</b>	<b>8,628</b>	<b>8,690</b>	<b>8,604</b>	<b>8,664</b>	<b>8,661</b>	<b>8,723</b>	<b>8,864</b>
<b>Change</b>		(157)	43	(149)	36	62	(86)	60	(3)	62	141

\*Study completed by West Allis-West Milwaukee School District based on the Cohort Survival Projection Method, an enrollment projection method which essentially compares the number of students in a particular grade to the number of students in the previous grade during the previous year. Ratios are computed for each grade, averaged from a set number of historical years, and are then used to project future enrollments.

### Elementary School Program

What course a child's future will take is often determined by his or her early educational experiences. West Allis-West Milwaukee Schools strive to instill students with a sound basic education and a positive attitude toward learning. In addition to the core subjects of reading, language arts, writing, math, science and social studies, the elementary program features comprehensive computer keyboard training for all students during the course of their elementary education, an innovative musical instrument program beginning at the kindergarten level and taught with active parental involvement, and specialized instruction in art, music and physical education.

### Intermediate School Program

Frank Lloyd Wright, Lincoln, and West Milwaukee Intermediate Schools are designed to provide students with a transition from self-contained elementary school to a comprehensive high school program. The Intermediate schools have adopted the "Team Teaching" concept to aid in this transition. Each Team contains a group of approximately 60 to 70 students who are taught the basic curriculum by a team of two teachers. Students are also provided many opportunities to explore a variety of interests including: exploratory programs in technology, drafting, business, education,

and family consumer education; art, music, multi-media, and foreign language instruction; and a variety of intramural sports and extracurricular activities.

### High School Program

District high schools offer comprehensive educational opportunities for students intending to continue their schooling after graduation and for those entering the work force. West Allis Central and Nathan Hale High School students can choose from over 200 courses to meet their educational and career needs. Our Alternative High School is James E. Dottke and offers students an opportunity to learn in an alternate setting.

For university-bound students, annual College Board Advanced Placement tests are provided. Guidance counselors are available to assist students in designing programs to meet their secondary education and career goals.

A number of courses are available to students that are directly transferable to the Milwaukee Area Technical College, thus reducing the time and number of courses needed to earn a degree. Career guidance centers, employment-focused curriculums, and cooperative education options help students set their career paths early.

### Full-Day Kindergarten

Among the district's most important innovations is the implementation of full-day kindergarten. Half-day programs are also offered. Full-day kindergarten was initiated at parental request with the support of kindergarten teachers. A survey taken in April of 1998 indicated that 83% of parents with kindergarten students preferred the full-day kindergarten option. Many educators believe that full-day kindergarten programs better prepare students for the first grade. Half-day 4K Kindergarten is also offered to West Allis and West Milwaukee residents.

### Special Education Program

Exceptional education programs are as diverse, and as special, as the children they serve. Exceptional education programs are available to students with physical, emotional, mental, and learning disabilities. Just as important is a historical commitment to integrating these children into their schools - and society - to the greatest extent possible. That tradition is carried on as the district continues to innovate and implement programs to best serve the academic and social needs of its special children.

### School-to-Work Program

The link between learning and earning is the School-to-Work program. The program connects classroom instruction to real-world work experiences, in addition to providing career exploration opportunities and an awareness of good work habits.

School-to-Work is a means for students to discover for themselves which careers they may wish to explore and learn what post-graduation education and training those careers require. Some of the many opportunities available through School-to-Work are internships, job



shadowing, cooperative education and community service experiences, career guidance by employees in fields of student interest, and vocational education training.

### Family Resource Center

Families looking for community resources or a place where their children can play with others are encouraged to check out the Family Resource Center. Located at Horace Mann Elementary School, 6513 W. Lapham St., the center is geared toward families with children up to the age of eight. Games, toys, videos, books, and parent resource information are available to be borrowed.

### Fine Arts Program

An education that doesn't include the fine arts can't be considered complete. The fine arts develop and enhance critical thinking and communication skills, creativity and self-expression. For these reasons, West Allis-West Milwaukee schools offer students a vast array of fine arts experiences. Included among them are Suzuki Strings for K-3 students, high school jazz ensembles, the Strolling Strings and inter-generational choirs. Art classes include, but are certainly not limited to, ceramics, painting, drawing, sculpture, jewelry making and pottery.

### Private Schools and Higher Education Facilities

Other private educational providers supply unique additional options for area families and are considered a major amenity to the City. Private educational providers within the City of West Allis include: Good Shepherd School, Lamb of God Lutheran School, (2) Mary Queen of Saints Catholic Academy facilities, St. Paul's Lutheran School, and Grace Christian Academy.

Many higher educational opportunities such as Milwaukee Area Technical College, Sanford-Brown, Marian College, Viterbo University and Lakeland College also exist in West Allis.



*MATC - West Allis campus*

### Recommendation

Support educational initiatives that provide students with the skills to address the changing economy. Establish regular communication with area education providers to discuss issues of mutual concern including facility location/expansion, impacts of new development, impacts of education facilities and activities on the community, parks and recreation programs, population and growth projections, and involvement in the community.

### West Allis - West Milwaukee Recreation, School, And Community Services

The West Allis - West Milwaukee Recreation School and Community Services Department, a division of the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District has continued to evolve over the past 10 years expanding beyond traditional recreation services to provide more school and community related programs. The Department stands by its mission of providing safe recreation and

enrichment opportunities for all ages that promote lifelong wellness through partnerships and services to enhance the overall quality of life in the West Allis and West Milwaukee communities. Opportunities can be found for children as young as nine months to our most senior community members in the areas of arts, athletics, aquatics, dance, fitness and general leisure enrichment. Additionally, the Recreation Department continues to offer after school programming to youth in our SAFE, REACH, and PASS programs and when school is not in session Non-School Day camps are offered.

The Recreation Department has observed increased interest in programs regarding the use of technology, current fitness trends, as well as athletic and school readiness opportunities for younger children. The Recreation Department prides itself on offering high quality programs at affordable prices. Despite changes in the economy and socio-economic demographics of the community the city has seen increased program enrollments and a greater demand for service and educational programs that support the school day. The Recreation Department supports these needs through after school SAFE and REACH programs and youth summer breakfast and lunch programs.

### Recommendation

Due to expanded program offerings over the past years, the Recreation Department has maximized the use of the all 16 school buildings, 2 recreation buildings, and the city parks available to it. As the Department strives to meet the ever-changing needs of the community it foresees a shortage of gymnasiums, athletic fields, and green space to accommodate all recreation programming needs and the community organizations seeking to use the school district and community facilities available. As they look to the future, it is important to maintain and improve facilities, available

parks, athletic fields, and green spaces that we have in West Allis.

Consideration will need to be given to facility improvement so that the city can continue to offer the high quality and affordable programs that our community has come to know and expect.

## Hospital

Aurora West Allis Medical Center, located on 8901 W. Lincoln Ave., offers a complete range of care programs. Women at all stages of life can also experience comprehensive care in a relaxed, healing environment at the Aurora Women's Pavilion which is located on the hospital campus.



### Recommendation

Within the planning period a future expansion of the existing Aurora campus to the northwest (S. 92 St. and W. Lincoln Ave.) may be explored.

## Honey Creek Cemetery

The Honey Creek Cemetery is the City's only cemetery and is located at S. 84th Street, south of National Avenue. Located within Honey Creek Park, the cemetery is one acre in size and was established in 1849. There are a total of 112 burial lots. In 1946 the Honey Creek Cemetery Association deeded the Honey Creek Cemetery to the City of West Allis. According to a historical resource survey conducted in 2007, the cemetery site does not retain enough historic integrity, or no longer meets the criteria necessary for National Register listing.

### Recommendation

Continue maintenance of this facility, as it serves as a valuable educational and cultural resource.

## Engineering & Public Works Facilities

### Public Works Division

The Public Works Division is located at 6300 W. McGeoch Ave. where their main office building was constructed in 1946. In addition to being the home office of the Public Works Division and the City's recycling center, storage buildings are utilized for city fleet vehicle storage and maintenance.

### Recommendation

Within the 20-year planning period there will be a need for a major evaluation to determine if renovation, relocation or expansion of the Public Works Division's outdated facilities are necessary. Major capital improvements may be needed in order to continue operations at the existing site due the age, deterioration and economic obsolescence of the existing facilities.

## Morgan Avenue Yard

The Public Works Division also has a secondary 15-acre location for yard waste drop-off, storage and processing at S. 116 St. just south of Morgan Ave.

### Recommendation

Within the 20-year planning period the city will explore alternative sites to the 116th and Morgan site yard waste drop-off site as the S. 116 St. drop-off site has potential for future residential development. Alternative facilities will have to be provided to adequately replace all of the Public Works operations that are currently being undertaken at the Morgan Avenue Yard. Options include relocating the Morgan Avenue Yard operations to the Solid Waste Transfer Station location by building a storage building there, while at the same time working with the City of Greenfield to collocate an alternative location for leaf and brush storage.

## Solid Waste Disposal

The City of West Allis provides curbside/alley edge refuse collection for residents. It is disposed of at a transfer station at 5032 W. Rogers Street.

There is no facility within the City of West Allis that accepts hazardous waste. There are free hazardous waste drop-off sites in the Cities of Milwaukee and Franklin and the Village of Menomonee Falls.

### Recommendation

Within the 20-year planning period the City may look at adding scrubbers to the transfer station location to mitigate the release of odors into the neighborhood.

## Street And Sewer Division

The Street and Sewer Division of the City of West Allis Engineering and Public Works Department is responsible for the repair and maintenance of 194 miles of City streets, 43 miles of alleys and 278 miles of sidewalks, as well as 152 miles of storm sewer and 177 miles of sanitary sewer. Street and alley maintenance involves the repair and replacement of various types of pavement, including filling potholes, patching and crack filling. Similarly, sidewalk maintenance centers on shimming slabs that have been displaced or replacing deteriorated slabs. The maintenance of streets also includes sweeping throughout spring and summer and leaf collection in spring and fall.

The Sanitation Division and the Street and Sewer Division combine to provide emergency snow and ice control operations. Typically, many of these operations entail the application(s) of salt and/or abrasives to City streets. Larger quantities of snow must be handled by plowing. During a full scale plowing operation, the Sanitation and Street Division will have 40 pieces of equipment on the street.

The maintenance of the sewer system may be divided into two separate areas: storm sewer system maintenance and sanitary sewer system maintenance. The storm sewer system transports surface water runoff captured in catch basins to various streams and rivers in and around the City. The sanitary sewer system, on the other hand, transports wastewater from residential and commercial properties to the sewerage treatment plant at Jones Island.

### Recommendation

Continue the annual review of street and sewer conditions to appropriately annually fund the 10-year Capital Improvements Program.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The City's Engineering and Public Works Department repairs and maintains:

- 194 miles of City streets
- 43 miles of alleys
- 278 miles of sidewalks
- 152 miles of storm sewer
- 177 miles of sanitary sewer

## Water Supply

The City of West Allis purchases water from the City of Milwaukee and distributes it through a network of water mains, which are owned and maintained by the City of West Allis. Milwaukee Water Works filters and treats water from Lake Michigan in accordance with current regulations. The water is tested for 90 EPA-regulated contaminants, as well as 450 unregulated contaminants before it enters West Allis through the two (2) metered supply locations.

Water is distributed throughout the City in a network of over two hundred miles of underground transmission and distribution mains utilizing three reservoirs and



three pumping stations. The reservoirs consist of two 1,500,000-gallon elevated water tanks and one 4,000,000-gallon underground reservoir. The West Allis Water Division, a division of the Engineering and Public Works Department, is responsible for the maintenance of the transmission and distribution system which includes repairing leaks and main breaks, performing water sample testing, exercising valves and many other routine maintenance tasks.

The West Allis Water Division manages the metering of water using a computerized meter reading system. Each meter in the City is read and billed quarterly.

The City performs evaluations of the existing water system and plans, designs and inspects the installation of system upgrades.

The main responsibility of the West Allis water utility is to provide good, safe, drinkable water to the consumers as well as fire protection for the properties.

### Recommendation

The utility will be challenged to maintain affordable rates as operational costs increase and water sales continue to decline for industrial businesses.

Within the planning period, the City of West Allis anticipates the need for many upgrades to infrastructure to accommodate new development and redevelopment projects and to maintain a high level of service for existing development.

## Wastewater Service

West Allis owns and operates approximately 180 miles of sanitary sewer collection system, which provides access to sanitary service throughout the city. The City's collection system drains to a metropolitan



interceptor system provided by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District (MMSD), which is a regional government agency with taxing authority, established by the State of Wisconsin. MMSD serves over one (1) million people in 28 Milwaukee area communities. Sewage is collected from the communities, treated at one of two wastewater treatment plants and then discharged back into Lake Michigan.

The Engineering and Public Works Department, Sanitation and Streets Division, performs the routine maintenance of the sanitary sewer system as well as responds to emergency sewer related issues. The sanitary sewers are cleaned on a regular schedule. Inspection of manholes and sewer lines is also performed regularly. The Streets and Sanitation Division works closely with the Engineering Division to ensure the optimum performance of the system.

The West Allis Engineering Division performs evaluations of the existing sanitary sewer system and plans, designs and inspects the installation of system upgrades.

### **Recommendation**

Within the planning period, the City anticipates the need for many upgrades to infrastructure to accommodate

new development and redevelopment projects, reduce inflow and infiltration of clear water into the system and to maintain a high level of service for the citizens and businesses of West Allis.

### **Stormwater Management**

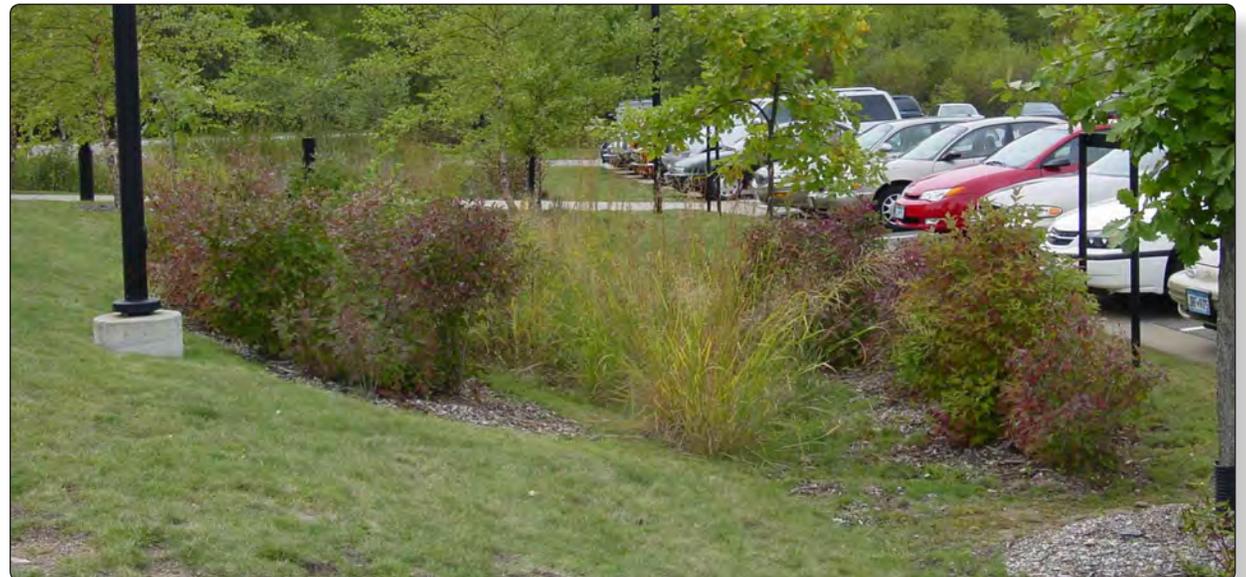
The City of West Allis owns and operates a separate stormwater system. The City's storm sewer system is a network of over 200 miles of sewer providing drainage for the streets and individual properties within the City. Runoff collected by this system is discharged to the Menomonee River, the Kinnickinnic River, Honey Creek, Underwood Creek and the Root River.

In 1999, West Allis created a stormwater reserve to allocate the costs of maintaining the stormwater system to property owners based on their estimated contribution to the system. This funding mechanism allows the City to perform the necessary work required to improve the stormwater system to reach the State of Wisconsin stormwater quality regulations and to

control stormwater run-off. Properties are divided into residential and non-residential classes. Each residential unit is billed for one Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). A single-family property will be charged about \$60 per year. Non-residential properties are charged based on the amount of impervious surface located on the property.

The West Allis Engineering and Public Works Department's Sanitation and Streets Division, performs the routine maintenance of the sanitary sewer system as well as responds to emergency sewer related issues. In an effort to improve the quality of the stormwater discharged to the waterways, Sanitation and Streets division cleans the sumps in catch basins. In addition, streets are swept on a regular schedule to remove material that would otherwise be carried into the stormwater system and eventually enter waterways.

The West Allis Engineering Division performs evaluations of the existing storm sewer system and plans, designs and inspects the installation of system upgrades.



### Recommendation

Within the planning period, the City anticipates the need for many upgrades to infrastructure to accommodate new development and redevelopment projects, replace aging parts of the system and increase detention facilities. The City's long-term stormwater goals include improving the water quality to meet or exceed the regulatory levels and to provide a higher level of protection against flooding for the citizens and businesses of West Allis.

In an effort to better manage stormwater flooding, as well as stormwater quality, the City of West Allis needs to have a long-term plan to achieve these goals. This plan could explore the installation of underground detention structures or open detention ponds as opportunities arise with each new development or redevelopment in the City. Additional opportunities to install detention will be available through a coordinated effort of the City and commercial property owners, large and small, as part of projects such as repaving parking lots or in solving drainage issues on existing sites.

There are several methods of stormwater detention available. The particular method of detention will be determined by the characteristics of the site. In a site where land is available, the installation of a pond or bio-retention may be the preferred choice. The installation of underground detention structures may be best suited for properties that require the full use of the site. The improved stormwater management can be achieved regardless of which method of stormwater detention is chosen.

The installation of stormwater detention facilities is an effective way to deal with both the quantity and quality issues. Detention facilities will help the City achieve the stormwater quality standards set by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Detention reduces the impact of storm events by holding the initial

surge of stormwater and releasing it at a reduced rate, which increases the level of protection of the storm sewer system. Detention of stormwater helps the entire community by reducing the risk of flooding and improving the quality of the environment.

Additionally, the City has to find creative ways to overcome MMSD's stringent sewershed flow allocations, which penalize existing urban areas and thus promote urban sprawl.

Additional initiatives include: adding impervious pavement to select paving projects, naturalizing the Honey Creek and day lighting it in select areas and eliminating excess pavement in areas throughout the City wherever possible.