

4.0 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

This element contains information about existing utilities and community facilities in the Town of West Point. Facilities discussed in this element include sewer and water, storm water management, solid waste & recycling, parks, utilities, cemeteries, health and childcare facilities, police, fire and rescue, libraries, schools, and other facilities such as the Town's buildings and facilities.

4.1 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES VISION

- ◆ Adequate utilities and community facilities to meet the needs of Town residents and protect the town environment according to the comprehensive plan.

4.2 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Goal 1: Public facilities that meet the needs of Town residents.

- Objective 1:* Meet with local school district officials to ensure schools meet the needs of Town residents.
- Objective 2:* Consult with appropriate local school district officials about proposed major residential developments within the Town to prevent unexpected large enrollment increases.
- Objective 3:* Plan for future needs of Town facilities.
- Objective 4:* Meet the other public and private officials to coordinate the provision of public facilities, such as libraries, hospitals, and cemeteries to accommodate future growth within the Town.
- Objective 5:* Insure that development provides adequate public facilities.

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- b) Appoint representatives to periodically attend local schools, EMS, fire, hospital board meetings and to represent the interests of the Town of West Point.

Goal 2: Maintain and improve services available to Town residents.

- Objective 1:* Provide public services in accordance with current and future needs, in proper locations, and with adequate capacities for the future.
- Objective 2:* Encourage public utilities to provide service in accordance with long-range needs and in proper location with the town.

Policies and Programs:

- i) Work with local fire departments serving the Town to minimize response times for fire and EMS.
- j) Develop a storm water utility or incorporate storm water management into utility districts and develop appropriate ordinances.
- k) Annually review the police protection services within the Town.
- l) Annually meet with the neighboring towns, cities, and/or villages to review the fire protection and ambulance service mutual aid and/or contractual intergovernmental agreements.

- m) Form a solid waste management committee and annually review the solid waste disposal and recycling services contract.
- n) Develop a policy that establishes acceptable driveway standards for emergency vehicle access.
- o) Through a solid waste management committee, coordinate with neighboring municipalities about implementing a clean sweep program to dispose of hazardous waste.
- p) Develop standards for siting and maintenance of telecommunication towers within the Town.

Goal 3: Ensure that new and existing developments have adequate utilities and services without an excessive burden to existing taxpayers.

Objective 1: Encourage the creation of a Utility district, where appropriate.

Objective 2: Review planned developments to ensure adequate utilities are provided and in accordance with the long-range needs of the Town.

Objective 3: Coordinate the provision of public utilities in a manner consistent with goals for long term growth.

Objective 4: Ensure appropriate wastewater treatment in full compliance with county and state regulations for all new and existing developments.

Policies and Programs:

- e) Establish a mechanism to review the effect of development on the growth and costs of public facilities.
- f) Evaluate and consider the need for impact fees for public facilities as part of new development.
- g) For residential home sites consider a full array of wastewater treatment and water supply options.
 1. Wastewater treatment options to be considered include single residence onsite waste systems (POWTS), privately owned “municipal type” systems that serve several residences, and provision of sanitary sewer service from surrounding communities when/where appropriate.
 2. Water supply system options to be considered include individual private wells, shared wells and other than municipal (OTM) public systems.
 3. Create utility districts(s) if necessary to ensure efficient delivery of service and maximum protection of surface and groundwater resources.
- h) Ensure that all private onsite waste system is evaluated on a frequent and regular basis to make sure they are functioning properly.

Goal 4: Ensure adequate park and recreational opportunities for Town residents.

Objective 1: Examine the need for additional recreational facilities in the Town i.e. snowmobile trails, bike trails, boat launches, parks.

Objective 2: Ensure Town eligibility for grants for park facilities from the State and private non-profit organizations and foundations.

Objective 3: Encourage the Columbia County Board to support and expand the County Park in the Town of West Point.

Objective 4: Encourage the development of parks as a means to preserve and protect important natural features in the Town.

Policies and Programs:

- c) Develop and maintain a Town Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan to ensure Town eligibility for grants from the State.
- d) Appoint a representative from the town board to work with the Columbia County Board and Wisconsin DNR to develop lake shore and other parks in West Point.

Goal 5: Promote a unified approach to utilities and community facilities development involving all levels of government and private entities.

Objective 1: Coordinate the provision of public services with other units of government, when feasible.

Objective 2: Meet with county and state officials to coordinate growth plans and needs for service as appropriate.

Objective 3: Provide recommendations to PSC for siting new electric transmission and natural gas facilities within the town.

Policies and Programs:

- b) Appoint a town board member to meet periodically with representatives of Columbia County, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and PSC on issues relating to roads, electric and gas utilities.

4.3 EXISTING UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAMS

4.3.1 Clean Sweep Program

The Clean Sweep Program is a voluntary state and county program that provides a legal, safe, and convenient means of disposing of hazardous wastes from homes, farms, and businesses. The Clean Sweep Program protects the environment by properly disposing of hazardous chemicals rather than allowing them to get into local landfills, neighborhood soils, or groundwater. County residents can dispose of unwanted hazardous items at specified drop off point on specific days that the program is offered. Clean Sweep is funded through grants from Wisconsin DNR and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection as well as by local contributions from Columbia County and others.

4.4 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

4.4.1 Sanitary Sewer Service

Municipal or public sanitary sewer service is not available in the Town of West Point. Two privately owned “municipal type” sanitary sewer systems, exist within the Town of West Point. These types of systems are constructed and operated under the supervision of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Commerce. One of these systems is located at the Crystal Lake Campground and one large scale Private Onsite Waste Treatment Systems (POWTS) serves the Selwood Subdivision. The daily flow of sewage sent to both systems is in excess of 8,000 gallons per day, and it is regulated by both the

Department of Commerce and the DNR. Regular reports on the operation go to that DNR for review and compliance. The locations of these sewage treatment systems are illustrated on Map 4-1 in Appendix I.

TABLE 4-1
Public Waste Water Treatment Plants
Town of West Point and Adjacent Municipalities, 2005

Plant Location	Type of Treatment	Maximum Design Flow (gallons per day)	Average Daily Flow (gallons per day)	% Capacity Being Used	Year Built
Crystal Lake Campground	Stabilization lagoons with approved spray irrigation	10,000	5,000 to 15,000	100%	1997
Selwood Property Owners Association	Re-circulating Sand Filter with Drainfield	14,000	7,000 approx.	50%	2001
Harmony Grove/Okee Sanitary District	Sequencing Batch Reactor with seepage ponds	500,000	200,000	40.0%	2003
City of Lodi	Bio-tower, UV disinfection, chemical Phosphorus removal, liquid sludge storage	620,000	376,000	60.7%	1997
Town of Roxbury	Re-circulating Sand Filter with surface water discharge	25,400	25,300	100%	1999
Sauk/Prairie	Aeration Lagoons with seepage cells	822,000	570,000	70%	1998

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

4.4.2 Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS)

Private on-site wastewater treatment systems are the predominant method of treating wastewater in the Town of West Point. POWTS are systems that collect domestic wastewater and either treat it and discharge it to the soil or retain it in a holding tank. The three main types of on-site treatment facilities that are currently used in the Town of West Point are conventional systems, mound systems/at-grade systems, and holding tanks. Between 1990 and 2004, 386 permits were issued for all on-site sanitary systems in the Town of West Point including new and replacement systems. The US Census indicates that there were 675 existing private on-site sanitary systems in the Town in 1990. Table 4-2 illustrates the number of permits issued for different types of on-site sanitary systems over the 15 years between 1990 and 2004. Adding the total number of permits issued over the last 15 years to the 1990 Census total indicates that there are potentially over 1,061 private on-site wastewater treatment facilities in the Town of West Point.

TABLE 4-2
Number of Permits Issued for On-Site Sanitary Systems by Year
Town of West Point, 1990-2004

Year	Conventional	Mound /At-Grade	Holding Tank	Total
1990	14	12	2	28
1991	14	4	4	22
1992	14	8	3	25
1993	21	9	1	31
1994	22	10	3	35
1995	19	4	2	25
1996	22	7	1	30
1997	14	5	3	22
1998	17	10	1	28
1999	14	9	0	23
2000	13	6	2	21
2001	10	5	0	15
2002	18	4	3	25
2003	22	5	0	27
2004	21	6	2	29
Total:	255	104	27	386

Source: Columbia County Planning and Zoning

4.4.3 Storm Water Management

The intent of storm water management is to reduce or eliminate runoff from the washing of pollutants or sediments into water bodies or wetlands. In the Town of West Point, storm water management is addressed through the Town’s Erosion Control and Storm Water Runoff Ordinance. Most development projects that include land-disturbing activities require a permits for erosion control and storm water management from the Town of West Point. The ordinance is administered by the Town Engineer. The primary methods for handling storm water management in the Town includes the use of ditches, culverts, grassed waterways, rock chutes, detention/retention ponds, and drainage swales that follow local topography. Permits for storm water discharge are required from the WDNR for construction sites of more than one acre, all non-metallic mines, and industrial sites.

4.4.4 Water Supply

There are three basic types of Public Water systems according to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and they are described as follows:

- Municipal systems have service connections and a distribution system that serve homes, businesses, and other facilities.
- Non-community public systems include restaurants, schools and businesses that service the public and they may or may not have service connections.
- Other than Municipal (OTM) systems serve mobile home parks and subdivisions with permanent residences. This type of system may have service connections and a distribution system but the system is not publicly owned.

There are nine non-community “Public Water systems” within the Town of West Point and three OTM Public Water Systems. All of these Public Water Systems must comply with the provisions of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. These provisions include publicly owned or municipal water supply systems within the town. Municipal Water Supply systems are located adjacent to the Town in the Village of Prairie du Sac in Sauk County and the City of Lodi in Columbia County. The Wisconsin Public Service Commission Annual Reports from water utilities as well as the DNR Drinking and Groundwater program provide information about the existing infrastructure and capacities of these public water systems. Table 4-3 provides a summary and the status of the Public Water Systems within the Town.

TABLE 4-3
Public Water Supply Systems

Name of System	System Type	Status
Crystal Lake Campground	Transient, non-community	Active
Crystal Lake RV Resort LLC	Community - OTM	Active
Crystal Lake RV Resort LLC	Community – OTM	Active
Fish Tales	Transient, non-community	Active
Lake WI Ferry- Treats and Eats	Transient, non-community	Active
Lake WI Country Club	Transient, non-community	Active
Pine Vista	Community – OTM	Active
Schoepp’s Cottonwood Resort	Transient, non-community	Active
Sunset Harbor	Transient, non-community	Active

Private wells provide drinking water to all of the remaining farms, residences, and other facilities within the Town. The US Census Bureau reported that the Town of West Point had 665 private wells in 1990.

The locations of all public water supply systems within Columbia County are illustrated on Map 4-1 in Appendix I.

4.4.5 Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling

The Town of West Point contracts with the Columbia County Solid Waste Department for disposal of solid waste and to process its recyclables. Solid waste and recyclables from the Town are collected at the Town’s drop off site Chrisler Road in the Town of West Point. The Town contracts with Columbia County Solid Waste Department to staff the drop off site and to transport the solid waste and recyclables from the drop off site to the County composting and recycling facility. The locations of the solid waste and recycling drop off sites in Columbia County including the Town of West Point are illustrated on Map 4-2 in Appendix I.

The Columbia County Solid Waste Department operates a recycling and composting facility on State Highway 16 in the Town of Pacific. Recyclables are transported to the facility where they are sorted and prepared for shipment to market. The facility handles 22 tons of recyclables a day. Solid waste collected in the County is transported to the county composting facility to be processed by one of two composting machines at the facility. During the composting process, solid waste material is placed into the machine’s drum that slowly rotates and tumbles the material. Spikes in the drum tear open bags while moisture and heat are added to the waste to initiate the composting process. Only municipal garbage is processed by the compost machines, demolition materials are sent directly to the landfill and yard waste is processed and composted separately from the garbage. It takes five days for waste materials to work through the machine. About half the material removed from the machine is used as agricultural compost. The other half consists of non-compostable materials, such as plastic bags, and is sent to a landfill in Winnebago County. The two compost machines process 70 tons of waste per day with a maximum capacity of 80 tons per day. The

composting facility is expected to meet the needs of the County for the next ten years. The location of the Columbia County Composting and Recycling Facility is also illustrated on Map 4-2 in Appendix I.

In addition, numerous former solid waste dumpsites also exist around Columbia County. These sites include former industrial and municipal dumps. Map 4-2 in Appendix I also illustrates the known locations of former solid waste dumpsites in Columbia County including the Town of West Point.

4.4.6 Parks and Recreational Facilities

The Town of West Point has two Town parks. In addition, parks in the Village Prairie du Sac and the City of Lodi are available for use by Town Residents. Other recreational resources i.e. State Natural Areas (SNA), wildlife preserves and hunting grounds under public ownership or protection, are covered in the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element of this plan.

Different types of parks serve different purposes. Below are definitions used in this plan to help classify and define the existing recreation system in the Town of West Point and Columbia County and to guide plans for its future. These definitions are modifications of definitions used by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). They begin with the smallest and most intensely developed and used, and proceed to the largest and least developed parks and recreation areas.

4.4.6.1 *Park Definitions*

◆ Neighborhood Playgrounds

A neighborhood playground mainly serves the active recreational needs of children from 5 to 15 years of age, and it may offer passive recreation opportunities to adults. Neighborhood Playgrounds are typically developed for intensive recreational activities and usually offer play apparatus; open areas for games; fields for baseball or football, courts for basketball or volleyball; and toilet and shelter facilities. Buffered play areas are desirable. If size permits, an area for more constrained activities, such as quiet games or handicrafts, is advisable. Neighborhood Playgrounds are sometimes associated with or are located in close proximity to elementary school sites. Population density is important for determining the space needs and service area of a neighborhood playground. Walking distance of about one-half mile should be the maximum service area. A one-quarter mile service area is desirable, particularly for younger children and the elderly with mobility limitations.

◆ Neighborhood Parks

A neighborhood park provides open space for the passive recreation of all age groups in a neighborhood and enhances the overall neighborhood environment. An attractive natural setting such as a lake, stream or woods is a desirable location for a neighborhood park. Facilities may include trees, lawn, benches and tables, open areas for sitting and sunning, walks, paths, shelters, drinking fountains, lighting and toilet facilities. Population density is important in determining the space needs and service area of a neighborhood park. It should be within easy walking distance of intended users, not to exceed one-half mile. Neighborhood playgrounds may be included within neighborhood parks.

◆ County and Regional Parks

The county or regional park fills the gap between intensively developed urban facilities and resource protection-oriented state parks and resource areas. County parks should offer a variety of active and passive recreational experiences and be designed for day-long or overnight use by the entire family. Proximity to significant population centers and scenic areas, accessibility from highways, location in relation to existing recreation areas and a maximum travel time of one-half hour must be weighed

when considering locations for county parks. In general, a location for a county park should emphasize interesting topography and be characterized by scenic views, wooded areas, lakes or rivers. Generally 100 - 200 acres is a desirable size range.

◆ Reservations, Preserves and Greenbelts

Reservations and preserves are usually located outside urban concentrations and include large tracts of land, which are undeveloped or have limited development potential. Such areas have the primary function of resource protection. Reservations and preserves may be established to conserve forest lands, marshlands, floodplains, wildlife habitats and other areas having cultural, scenic or natural values. Normally, reservations and preserves include several hundred acres of undeveloped land, although some improvements may be provided which are incidental to the enjoyment of the natural scenery. Improvements are usually located in one section on the reservation or preserve so that the area remains largely undeveloped. Improvements may include parking areas, interpretive centers and scenic waysides. Hunting may be a primary recreational activity in such areas. Other recreational uses might include backpacking, camping, trail use, picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, and water sports.

The greenbelt has basically the same characteristics and function as the reservation or preserve. However, a greenbelt may be used to shape urban development. It may be a buffer between an urban area and surrounding rural areas and may connect parks within an urban area.

4.4.6.2 *Parks and Recreational Facilities*

The Town of West Point owns and operates two parks, Ryan Park and Selwood Park, for use by Town residents and the general public. These park and recreation facilities contain several facilities including a shelter and playground equipment. The two parks in the Town of West Point are listed and classified by type in Table 4-4.

TABLE 4-4

Inventory of Town Owned Park and Recreational Facilities, Town of West Point

Owner/Provider	Park or Recreational Facility	Type
Town of West Point	Ryan Park	Neighborhood Park
	Selwood Park	Neighborhood Park

Columbia County maintains one park in the Town of West Point. Gibraltar Rock County Park – Richmond Memorial Park is a 55.54 acre park located on County Highway V in the Town of West Point near the City of Lodi. The park contains a 400 foot high rock escarpment offering scenic vistas. A small gravel parking lot and a barrier free portable toilet are available at the end of the access road to the park. A closed access road serves as a footpath to the summit. Passive recreation in the form of hiking and picnicking are the predominant uses of the park a designated DNR as a State Natural Area (SNA).

The Columbia County Comprehensive Plan identifies several potential sites for future County parks or recreational facilities as well as possible additions to existing County parks. Two areas within the Town of West Point are mentioned as possible sites for additional parklands. One area is a new site and the second area would involve acquiring additional lands to expand Gibraltar Rock County Park.

The new potential County park site is located on the shore of Lake Wisconsin within the Town. Extensive undeveloped Lakeshore is present in the town and a park along the shoreline would secure open space for residents in the town and county for future generations. No particular parcel on the

lakeshore has been identified as a future County park, but rather the County's plan identifies the need to preserve a portion of the lakeshore for use by all County residents in this rapidly developing area. Undeveloped shoreline in the town includes drainage ways, ravines, dense wooded areas, and other environmentally sensitive lands. These open lands could be preserved and protected through the stewardship grants and partnerships after the town develops a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

The second site identified in the Columbia County Comprehensive Plan is an addition to Gibraltar Rock County Park. The County plan calls for acquiring lands adjacent to the existing park to help form a buffer between the park and surrounding lands. The locations of the identified potential County parks or recreational facilities are illustrated on Map 4-3 in Appendix I.

Parks and recreational facilities provide many benefits to the residents and visitors of the Town of West Point. National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and other sources indicate that the demand for outdoor recreation resources has been increasing for some years and will most likely continue to grow based on lifestyles that allow for increased leisure time, greater mobility, and larger incomes to spend on recreational activities. Also, as the resident and tourist population of the area continues to grow, demand for recreational facilities will increase. It is important to keep pace with these trends in order for the Town of West Point and all government levels to adequately provide parks and recreational facilities to their residents.

4.4.6.3 Other Park and Recreational Facilities

A variety of other park and recreational facilities provide services to the Town of West Point. Many of these facilities are listed and described below.

Rustic Waysides

In addition to the above mentioned park facilities, six state owned rustic wayside facilities exist in the County and provide limited recreational opportunities. One of these facilities, the Okee Wayside on State Highway 113, is located in the Town of West Point. The Columbia County Highway and Transportation Department provides maintenance to this facility through an agreement with the State. Wayside areas provide important open space areas in the County and the Town. Should this area no longer be needed as a wayside, consideration should be given to converting it into a local park. The locations of the rustic waysides in Columbia County are illustrated on Map 4-3 in Appendix I.

◆ Boat Landings

Approximately 28 public boat landings exist in Columbia County with three of these facilities located in the Town of West Point on Lake Wisconsin. Public access to water features in the Town is an important function of these facilities and additional access to public water bodies should be pursued when appropriate and necessary. The locations of existing public boat landings in Columbia County including those in the Town of Newport are illustrated on Map 4-3 in Appendix I.

◆ Ice Age National and State Scenic Trail

The Ice Age National and State Scenic Trail is one of eight Congressionally designated National Scenic Trails located throughout the United States. The Trail was authorized by Congress in 1980 and when completed will be a 1,200 mile footpath that meanders through 31 Wisconsin counties along the terminal moraine left by the glacier over 10,000 years ago. The Trail traces features left by the advance of the last glacier – the Wisconsin Glacier – from Potawatomi State Park in Door County to Interstate State Park on the St. Croix River in Polk County. Today, approximately half of the trail is open to the public. Primary use of the Trail is for hiking, with snowshoe and ski secondary uses. No motorized traffic is allowed. Over two million visitors use the Trail each year. The

Wisconsin Department of Tourism recognizes the Ice Age Trail as Wisconsin's number one outdoor recreation resource.

A variety of partners own and manage segments of the Trail. Among them: the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation (a non-profit organization), the U.S. Forest Service, county and municipal park and forestry departments, other public entities, and many generous private landowners. The Trail is funded privately and through federal, state, and local contributions.

Four segments of the Ice Age Trail are open for public use in Columbia County.

- The Portage Canal and Marquette Segment starts at a trailhead in Pauquette Park in the City of Portage and follows the Portage Canal through the city and then northeast past the Indian Agency House. The Trail then follows the Fox river north to Governor's Bend County Park where the Trail then begins to follow local roads north to Marquette County. The length of the segment from Pauquette Park in the City of Portage to Governor's Bend County Park is approximately 11.5 miles.
 - The Lodi Marsh Segment starts near the border of Dane and Columbia counties and runs north through the 1,000-acre Lodi Marsh State Wildlife Area. The Trail follows dolomite ridges sculpted by glacial ice, passes through woods and restored prairie areas with outstanding views of the marsh below, a glacial meltwater tunnel channel. The Trail then crosses private land and enters the City of Lodi where it follows city streets through Veterans and Strangeway parks to the Lodi High School. The total length of this segment, including a 1.6 mile loop trail on the west side of Lodi-Springfield road in Dane County, is approximately 8 miles.
 - The Groves-Pertzborn segment crosses privately owned lands starting on Bilkey Road. This 1.3-mile section includes diverse vegetation, steep ravine, dense forest canopy and fine views of Gibraltar Rock. The section terminates at a designated parking area at County J and Lovering roads.
 - A new section of the Ice Age Trail has recently been developed in the Town of West Point. Starting at the Merrimac Ferry the trail incorporates land within the WisDot right-of-way to a 60-acre owned by the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation. At this time a loop section returns users to the Merrimac Ferry, a total distance of 2 ¼ miles.
 - Trail partners' goal is to connect the segments to be one continuous footpath and surrounding greenway. A proposal to extend the Ice Age Trail is included in the Columbia County Comprehensive Plan. Federal, state, local and private partners completed and approved a broad corridor plan for the Trail in 2000. A refinement of this corridor plan, called a Trailway Protection Strategy, is expected to be complete in early 2006. Consideration should be given to the proposed location of the trail when considering land uses in the Town. Map 4-3 in Appendix I illustrates the location of the Ice Age Trail segments in Columbia County.
- ◆ Snowmobile Trail System
The County snowmobile trail system also offers a recreational opportunity to the residents of the Town of West Point. Counties in Wisconsin are eligible to apply for funding through the Wisconsin DNR to provide a system of well-signed and well-groomed snowmobile trails for public use in their county. Eligible projects for the funds include the maintenance and development of trails and the rehabilitation of existing snowmobile bridges and trail segments. Columbia County participates in this program for the maintenance of 298.7 miles of snowmobile trails within the County. The

majority of the trails in Columbia County are located on private land and have been established through an easement with the land owner. In 2004, the Wisconsin DNR awarded \$74,675 to Columbia County for the County's snowmobile trail system. This money is distributed to 10 snowmobile clubs that operate in the County. These clubs are responsible for the signing, maintenance, and grooming of snowmobile trails in their assigned portion of the County. Clubs also operate club trails in addition to the ones funded through the State. Map 4-3 in Appendix I illustrates the location of the snowmobile trail system in Columbia County including the Town of West Point.

4.4.7 Telecommunications Facilities

Verizon Communications provides telephone service in the Town of West Point. Map 4-4 in Appendix I illustrates the telephone service provider boundaries for telecommunication service in Columbia County and the Town of West Point. A quality telecommunication system in the Town of West Point is important for economic development, with some businesses relying heavily on the telecommunication system. The telecommunications system is also important to public safety, providing contact with police, fire, and emergency services. Maintaining a quality telecommunications system should be a priority for the Town.

Wireless communication is also provided throughout Columbia County and the Town of West Point by various providers. Signal strength is influenced by the number and location of towers as well as topography. The locations of existing communication towers in Columbia County and the Town of West Point is also illustrated on Map 4-4 in Appendix I. Effort should be made to utilize the existing towers before approving additional towers. Such practices reduce the proliferation of unnecessary towers and the negative visual impacts the towers can have on the Town.

4.4.8 Electrical Service, Power Generating Plants, and Transmission Lines

Electrical service in Columbia County is provided by two utility companies and four municipal electric utilities. In the Town of West Point, electrical service is provided by Alliant Energy. Map 4-5 in Appendix I illustrates the electric service territories in Columbia County.

Major electrical infrastructure such as power plants, substations, and high voltage transmission lines form the backbone of the electrical system in Columbia County. Three power generating facilities exist in or adjacent to Columbia County. The Columbia Power Plant is located south of Portage on US Highway 51. The plant consists of two coal fired generation units. The first unit began operating in 1975 and the second in 1978. Each unit produces 527 megawatts of electricity for a total plant output of 1,054 megawatts. The Kilbourn Hydroelectric Dam is located on the Wisconsin River in Wisconsin Dells. The dam was built in 1909 and is capable of producing 10 megawatts of electricity. The Prairie Du Sac Hydroelectric Dam is located on the Wisconsin River in Prairie Du Sac in the Town of West Point. The dam was built in 1913 and is capable of producing 29 megawatts of electricity. Columbia County has 29 substations located along the various high voltage transmission lines that traverse the County. These high voltage lines operate at voltages of 69 kilovolts, 138 kilovolts, and 345 kilovolts. One of these lines, a 69 kilovolt line, crosses the Town of West Point. Map 4-5 in Appendix I illustrates the locations of the electrical infrastructure in Columbia County including the Town of West Point.

Reliable electric service is important to the economy of Columbia County and the Town of West Point. Efforts should be made to support improvements to the electrical system in the County and Town, when appropriate. Furthermore, the Town should carefully review all proposed projects to ensure that they are in the best interest of the Town and that they do not negatively impact the Town's natural or cultural resources. Every effort should be made to examine all options and to proceed with the choice that has the fewest negatives and most positives for the Town.

4.4.9 Natural Gas Utilities and Pipelines

Madison Gas and Electric provides natural gas service in the Town of West Point. Madison Gas and Electric's natural gas service area covers the entire Town. Natural gas is not available in all parts of a company's service area, but rather these areas are where the company has the right to provide gas service. Map 4-6 in Appendix I illustrates the natural gas service areas in Columbia County including the Town of West Point.

Natural gas is brought into Columbia County by large underground pipelines that deliver gas to local distribution systems. Several large underground natural gas pipelines run through Columbia County. None of these lines are located in the Town of West Point. The location of the natural gas pipelines is illustrated on Map 4-6 in Appendix I. The location and capacity of these natural gas lines is important to economic development in the County and the Town. In particular, access to natural gas can be a major factor in a business or industry choosing to locate in the County or the Town. Support should be given to maintaining and improving access to natural gas in the Town of West Point, when appropriate.

4.4.10 Cemeteries

Columbia County contains 110 known cemeteries. These cemeteries range from small family plots to large municipal facilities with some dating back to the 1800's. Three of these cemeteries are located in the Town of West Point. One of these cemeteries, the Garden Bluff Cemetery located on County Highway J, contains over 100 available lots. Map 4-7 shows the locations of known cemeteries in the County. Cemetery space in the Town appears to be adequate for timeframe covered by this plan. A second cemetery exists on Highway 60 and the third West of the Old Church on Highway J.

4.4.11 Health Care Facilities

The availability of adequate health care facilities and services are important for measuring the attractiveness of a community in which to live and work. Columbia County has a wide variety of health care facilities available within Columbia, Sauk and Dane County that are available to the residents of the Town of West Point. In addition to local facilities, the Town's close proximity to the City of Madison allows access to additional health care resources.

4.4.11.1 Hospitals

The following hospitals are located in the immediate vicinity of the Town of West Point:

- Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital, Prairie Du Sac, Sauk County
- St. Clare Hospital, City of Baraboo, Sauk County
- Reedsburg Area Medical Center, City of Reedsburg, Sauk County
- St. Mary's Medical Center, City of Madison, Dane County
- University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, City of Madison, Dane County
- Meriter Hospital, City of Madison, Dane County
- Divine Savior Healthcare, Portage

Access to hospitals and quality health care appears to be adequate for the duration of the planning period. In addition to the hospital facilities listed above, there are several medical and health care clinics throughout Columbia County. These include clinics affiliated with UW Health University and St. Mary's/Dean Ventures Inc. There are also numerous chiropractic clinics, dentists, optometrists and physical therapy providers to accommodate the needs of the County's residents.

Population projections included in the Issues and Opportunities Element of this plan indicated that the Town's population is aging, a fact consistent with national trends. As the Town's population ages, the demand for long-term care, nursing homes, community based residential facilities, and similar elder care facilities increases. The shifting of baby-boomers into older age groups further indicates that the demand for these facilities will increase.

4.4.11.2 Long Term Care Facilities

There are no long term care facilities within the Town. The following facilities are currently located in the immediate vicinity of the Town and are available to residents in the town of West Point:

- Lodi Good Samaritan Center, Lodi
- Maplewood Nursing Home, Prairie du Sac
- Maplewood Village Assisted Living, Prairie du Sac
- Our House Assisted Living, Lodi
- Pine Glen Senior Apartments, Prairie Du Sac
- Pine Villa Memory Care Residence, Prairie Du Sac
- Pines Assisted Living, Prairie Du Sac

4.4.12 Childcare Facilities

The availability of quality childcare facilities is important to the well being of the Town of West Point's children and to the Town's economy. Quality childcare provides children a safe and secure place while their parents are away at work allowing parents to hold a job and contribute to the area's economy.

A license from by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services is required for childcare providers that care for four or more children under the age of seven. Two types of licenses are available, a group childcare license for nine or more children and a family childcare license for four to eight children. Columbia County also provides certification of childcare providers who care for up to three children. Licensing or certification of a childcare provider is required if they care for children whose family receives funding assistance from a government program. In addition to licensed or certified childcare providers, numerous in home childcare providers exist in the County and the Town of West Point. The availability of childcare appears adequate for the duration of the planning period.

Licensed group childcare facilities (nine or more children) in the Town and surrounding communities are as follows:

- By Leaps & Bounds, Sauk City
- Jesus Loves Me Preschool, Prairie Du Sac
- Renewal Unlimited Sauk Prairie, Prairie Du Sac
- Sauk Prairie Nursery Center, Sauk City
- Country Charm Child Care, Lodi
- Kiddie Korner of Lodi, Inc., Lodi
- Kelley's Day Care, Lodi
- Lodi Nursery Center Preschool, Lodi
- Sunshine Playhouse Development Center, Lodi
- TLC Learning Center, Inc., Lodi

TABLE 4-4
Licensed Childcare Providers, Columbia County, 2003

<u>Village of Arlington</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ St. Peters Day Care & Preschool 	<u>City of Lodi</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Adela's Day Care ◆ Country Charm Child Care ◆ Crystal Lake Campground Day Camp ◆ Donna's Day Care ◆ Diaper's To Diplomas ◆ Kiddie Korner of Lodi, Inc. ◆ Kelley's Day Care ◆ Lodi Nursery Center Preschool ◆ Manke Family Day Care ◆ Right Track Day Care ◆ Starbright Day Care ◆ Sunshine Playhouse Development Center ◆ Tender Heart Day Care ◆ TLC Learning Center, Inc.
<u>Village of Cambria</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Amkids ◆ Country Rascals Christian Day School 	
<u>Village of Fall River</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ann Taurick Family Day Care ◆ Bunny Hop Day Care 	
<u>Village of Pardeeville</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A Home Away From Home Day Care ◆ Diane's Family Day Care ◆ Koality Care Day Care ◆ Kountry Cuddlers Family Day Care ◆ Once Upon A Time Day Care ◆ Pine Playhouse Child Care Center ◆ Sunshine Preschool 	
<u>Village of Poynette</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Country Critters Day Care ◆ Main Street Youngsters ◆ Teddy Bear Day Care ◆ TLC Family Day Care 	
<u>Village of Randolph</u> None in Columbia County (Available in Dodge County)	<u>City of Portage</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Alphabet Express ◆ Hugs & Kisses Day Care ◆ Kathy's Country Kids ◆ Kiddie Korral ◆ Learning Tree Day Care Center, Inc. ◆ Linda's Child Care ◆ Lisa's Little People ◆ The Little School ◆ Nikki's Family Day Care ◆ Open Arms Day Care Center ◆ Playday Day Care ◆ Portage Before/After School Program ◆ Portage Head Start Center Renewal Unlimited ◆ Precious Years Day Care ◆ Tammy's House ◆ Teddy Bear Family Day Care ◆ UMOS Migrant Day Care
<u>Village of Rio</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Bev's Day Care ◆ Margie's Learning Express ◆ Precious Moments Family Day Care ◆ Rio Street Rascals ◆ Teddy Bear Day Care 	
<u>Village of Wycocena</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Punkin Patch ◆ Storybook Center 	
<u>City of Columbus</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Beal's Day Care ◆ Cardinal Country Day Care ◆ Columbus Club House ◆ Columbus Preschool ◆ Head Start/Central WI-Columbus Renewal Unlimited ◆ Mary's Family Dare Care ◆ Redbud Day Care LLC ◆ Sylvester and Tweety Day Care 	
<u>City of Wisconsin Dells</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Jim McClyman Family Day Care ◆ Joyce Ragan Family Day Care ◆ Kountry Kids ◆ Little Tots ◆ Mawbey Day Care ◆ St. Cecelia's Day Care ◆ Sweeney's Family Day Care 	

Source: Columbia County UW Extension Office

Law Enforcement

The Columbia County Sheriff has jurisdiction over all areas of the County including the Town of West Point. The main duties of the Columbia County Sheriff's department are to maintain the County Jail, serve civil process, investigate deaths and crimes, provide court services and enforce Federal and State laws and County ordinances. The Department's staff currently includes 92 full-time employees. Due to population growth, increased criminal activity, and reduction in federal and state funding the staff will need to be increased by two deputies per shift within the next 10 years. The department's vehicle inventory includes 39 active law enforcement vehicles. The Department also has 21 special use vehicles that include two Harley Davidson patrol motorcycles. In addition, the Department loans 26 vehicles to other County departments.

Additional duties of the Department include the Boat and Snowmobile Patrol and the County's K9 units. Boat Patrol duties include patrolling the waterways of Columbia County, enforcement of State laws and County Ordinances pertaining to water safety, and search for drowned or missing persons in water-related incidents. The Snowmobile Patrol duties include patrolling County snowmobile trails, on a limited basis, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The main duties of the K9 units for the Columbia County Sheriff's Office are to remain active responding to increased calls for canine searches involving vehicle, building and school searches. They also provide public services and awareness programs in public demonstrations as well as assist in a drug interdiction program throughout the year.

Aside from providing law enforcement patrols of the County, the largest responsibility of the Sheriff's Department is the County Jail. The Columbia County Jail has the responsibility of accepting and housing persons sentenced to the jail by the court system. In addition persons are held in the county jail after being arrested by warrant, being arrested without a warrant pending a court appearance, or for violations of probation. The Columbia County Jail also holds inmates from state institutions and other county inmates as requested. Every year the number of offenders escalates and sentences are getting longer, therefore increasing the demand to house inmates securely and safely. As a result, the Sheriff's Department is currently in the process of expanding the County Jail and Huber facility.

4.4.13 Fire and EMS Facilities

The Town of West Point's fire and EMS services are provided by two fire departments and emergency medical service districts. The Sauk City Fire Department and EMS provide services to the western half of the Town. The Lodi Fire Department and EMS provides services in the eastern half of the Town. Descriptions of the fire departments are provided below. The location of the fire districts in Columbia County are illustrated on Map 4-8 in Appendix I and the location of EMS districts are illustrated on Map 4-9 in Appendix I.

4.4.13.1 Lodi Fire Department and EMS

The Lodi Fire Department provides fire service and EMS to the City of Lodi, the Town of Lodi, and the eastern portion of the Town of West Point. There is a part-time Fire Chief and two full time Emergency Medical Technicians. There are 32 fire fighting volunteers, 19 volunteer EMT's and 15 drivers. The current Fire Station was built in 1954 with an addition in 1973. The building is 6,467 square feet with seven bays. A new building is needed within the next 10 years. Firefighting equipment includes three engines, two ambulances, one heavy rescue, two tankers, two ATV's, one rescue sled, and three emergency generators. There is concern over the declining volunteers and increased call volume. Possible full-time staff should be considered for the future. The department's water supply rating is good.

4.4.13.2 Sauk City Fire Department and EMS

The Sauk City Fire Department and EMS services the Western portion of the Town of West Point. The staff includes 37 volunteers. The current Fire Station, located in Sauk City, was built in 1960 and has 15,960 sq. ft. Remodeling to the facility will occur in 2005. Equipment includes three engines, one platform ladder, two tankers, one squad car, one suburban truck, one brush truck and an ATV.

4.4.14 Libraries

Public libraries serve an important function in making a wide range of informational materials available to the Town's population. Demand for library services has been on the increase and is expected to continue to increase for the foreseeable future. Support should be given to improve and expand libraries whenever possible to ensure all town residents have at least a minimal level of access to informational materials. The libraries closest to the Town of West Point are located in the Villages of Prairie du Sac and Sauk City and the City of Lodi. It appears that Town residents have adequate access to library services for the duration of the planning period.

4.4.15 Schools

The Town of West Point is served by two public school districts. The Sauk Prairie School District serves the western half of the Town. The district has five elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. The Lodi School District serves eastern half of the Town. The district contains two elementary schools, a middle school, a high school, and a charter school. No school facilities from either district are located within the Town of West Point. Map 4-10 in Appendix I illustrates the boundaries of the school districts and the locations schools in Columbia County including the Town of West Point.

Enrollments at both of the school districts serving the Town of West Point have increased between 2000 and 2004. The Sauk Prairie School District had a increase of 18 students for a 0.69 percent increase. The Lodi School District had a decline of 55 students for 9.63 percent decrease. The Pardeeville School District also had a increase of 98 students for a 6.18 percent increase. Table 4-5 provides enrollment information between 2000 and 2004 for all school districts serving Columbia County including enrollment information for individual schools in each district.

TABLE 4-5
Public School District Enrollment, Columbia County

District/ School	Grades	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	# Change 2000 – 2004	% Change 2000 – 2004
LODI	All Grades	1,585	1,641	1,654	1,683	98	6.18%
Lodi Primary School	K thru 2	362	376	374	375	13	3.59%
Lodi Elementary School	3 thru 5	380	389	382	379	(1)	(0.26%)
Lodi Middle School	6 thru 8	366	385	399	402	36	9.84%
Lodi High School	9 thru 12	456	476	483	500	44	9.65%
Charter School	N/A	21	15	16	27	6	28.57%
SAUK PRAIRIE	All Grades	2,621	2,625	2,672	2,639	18	0.69%
Black Hawk Elementary	K thru 2	127	126	126	120	(7)	(5.51%)
Grand Avenue Elementary	3 thru 5	398	397	389	403	5	1.26%
Merrimac Elementary	K thru 4	75	69	71	51	(24)	(32.00%)
Spruce Street Elementary	PK thru 2	389	348	365	368	(21)	(5.40%)
Tower Rock Elementary	3 thru 5	110	123	107	112	2	1.82%
Sauk Prairie Middle School	6 thru 8	683	703	683	654	(29)	(4.25%)
Sauk Prairie High School	9 thru 12	839	859	931	931	92	10.97%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

In addition to public schools, Columbia County is served by nine private schools. These private schools consist mainly of schools associated with local churches. Most of the private schools provide instruction up to the eighth grade level with the exception of the Wisconsin Academy in the Town of Columbus that provides instruction for grades 9 through 12. None of these facilities are located in the Town of West Point, however these facilities do provide opportunities for private school education to those Town residents that seek it.

Residents of the Town of West Point also have access to a variety of post-secondary schools and technical colleges. Madison Area Technical College has a campus in the City of Portage, with its main campus 30 miles away in the City of Madison. The University of Wisconsin has a two-year center in the City of Baraboo in Sauk County. The UW Madison campus is a four-year campus, located approximately 30 miles from the Town in the City of Madison, and is one of two doctoral universities in the UW System. Another four-year campus, UW Steven's Point, is located 60 miles north of Columbia County in the City of Steven's Point. In addition, both Ripon College in the City of Ripon and Edgewood College in the City of Madison are located approximately 40 miles from Columbia County.

4.4.16 Other Governmental Facilities

A variety of other governmental facilities provide services to the Town of West Point. Many of these facilities are listed and described below.

4.4.16.1 West Point Town Hall

Each town government in Columbia County operates a town hall. The town halls are used to conduct town government meetings and to serve as an administrative office for each town. The Town of West Point Town Hall is located at the intersection of State Highway 188 and Rausch Road in the Town of West Point. The facility was constructed in 2004 and contains 4,200 square feet. The facility is expected to be adequate for the duration of the planning period. The locations of town halls in Columbia County including the Town of West Point are illustrated on Map 4-11 in Appendix I.

4.4.16.2 Columbia County Administrative Facilities

Columbia County maintains several public buildings or facilities. Most of these facilities are located in the City of Portage and the Village of Wyocena. These facilities serve all parts of Columbia County including the Town of West Point. Columbia County's public buildings and facilities are listed below. The locations of Columbia County's public buildings or facilities are illustrated on Map 4-11 in Appendix I.

- ◆ Carl C. Frederick Administration Building

The Carl C. Frederick Administration Building is located at 400 DeWitt Street in Portage. This facility houses the following county departments: Building & Grounds, Accounting, Corporate Counsel, County Clerk, County Treasurer, District Attorney, Land Information, Planning & Zoning, Register of Deeds, Veterans Service, Real Property Lister, Circuit Courts, Clerk of Circuit Court, Child Support, Court Commission and Register in Probate.

- ◆ Health and Human Services Building

The Health and Human Services building is located at 2652 Murphy Road in Portage. This facility houses the Health and Human Services Department.

[The Columbia County Annex Building](#)

The Columbia County Annex Building is located at 120 W. Conant Street in Portage. This facility houses the following county departments: Human Resources, Land & Water Conservation, Management Information Services, University of Wisconsin Extension Service and Dairy Herd Improvement Agency.

◆ The Columbia County Highway and Transportation Facility

The Columbia County Highway and Transportation Facility is located at 303 W. Old Hwy 16 in Wyocena. This facility houses the Highway and Transportation Department. A new highway building was approved as part of a \$20 million dollar bonding resolution in 2003. The project was originally proposed six years earlier because the existing facility was nearly a century old and had numerous inefficiencies and workplace hazards. Construction of the new 127,000 square-foot highway facility began in the summer of 2004 and was completed by year-end. Some of the new building's features include in-floor heat from 7.5 miles of underground tubing, a ventilated, heated painting facility, a moisture-free sandblasting facility, heated storage space for 62 truck and other large vehicles, a large parts department, and an indoor truck wash. The new facility greatly improves the safety, efficiency and working conditions for county highway employees. The new facility is anticipated to satisfy the county needs for decades to come. The Highway and Transportation Department also maintains five satellite shops at Cambria, Columbus, Lodi, Portage and Poynette.

◆ Economic Development Corporation

The Columbia County Economic Development Corporation is located at 311 E. Wisconsin, Suite 108 in Portage.

◆ Columbia County Jail

The Columbia County Jail is located at 403 Jackson Street in Portage. A jail expansion project was approved as part of a \$20 million dollar bonding resolution in 2003. The project was constructed on the site of the former Sheriff's Department Administrative Building and Columbia County Job Service Building that were demolished for the jail expansion project. The new structure is 76,000 sq. ft and has five stories. The facility includes a 192-beds for housing county inmates under the Huber provision. The lower level includes a kitchen, laundry facility, male/female locker rooms, a booking area and two administrative offices. The existing jail and new addition are connected with a hallway to accommodate the transfer of food and laundry.

◆ The Columbia County Law Enforcement Center.

The Law Enforcement Center is located at 711 E. Cook Street in Portage. This facility houses the County Sheriff's Department and dispatch center, Corner's Office, Emergency Management Office and ARC of Columbia County. The Law Enforcement Center is located in the former John Roche Building that was remodeled as part of the Columbia County Jail expansion project. The former Sheriff's Department Administrative Building was demolished as part of the project.

◆ The Columbia County Solid Waste Facility

The Solid Waste facility is located at W7465 Hwy 16 in the Town of Pacific. This facility houses the Solid Waste Department and the County's composting and recycling facilities. These facilities are discussed in more detail in the Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling section of this element.

- ◆ Columbia Health Care Center
Columbia Health Care Center is located at 323 W. Monroe Street in Wyocena. This facility is a County run 124 bed nursing home and assisted living facility.
- ◆ Columbia County Humane Society
Columbia County Humane Society is located at N7768 Industrial Road in Portage. This Facility provides animal control for the Town of West Point
- ◆ Columbia County Fairgrounds
The Columbia County Fair Grounds are located in Veteran’s Memorial Park in the City of Portage. This 41.9-acre park is located on the southeast portion of the City between Superior Street and Wauona Trail. The park includes five ball fields and Little League Baseball. The park also hosts many of Portage’s citywide celebrations and major softball tournaments. It has play equipment, hockey rink, restroom facilities, showers, camping, and R.V. facilities.

4.4.16.3 Post Offices

Columbia County has 14 United States Post Offices that provide mail service to County residents. The locations and Zip Codes for Post Offices that serve the Town of West Point are listed below:

- Lodi 53555
- Prairie du Sac, 53578 (Sauk County)
- Sauk City 53583

4.4.16.4 Correctional Institutions

In 1986, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections opened a maximum-security prison in Portage, known as the Columbia Correctional Institution. It encompasses 110 acres of land and houses adult male felons. It has an operating capacity of 600 inmates and a current population of 825. Within the perimeter, there are ten living units, each containing 50 cells and one 150-bed barrack unit currently housing minimum-security inmates. In addition to the living complexes, the physical plant of the institution includes a large visiting room, chapel, meeting rooms, health services area, staff offices, an intake and reception area, canteen, laundry, main kitchen, library, recreation field and gymnasium, an industry building, school and vocational education workshops. The location of the Columbia Correctional Institution is illustrated on Map 4-11 in Appendix I.