

## **ELEMENT 4: UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

*Utilities and community facilities element.* A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the local governmental unit such as sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment technologies, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunications facilities, power-generating plants and transmission lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities and other public facilities, such as police, fire and rescue facilities, libraries, schools and other governmental facilities. The element shall describe the location, use and capacity of existing public utilities and community facilities that serve the local governmental unit, shall include an approximate timetable that forecasts the need in the local governmental unit to expand or rehabilitate existing utilities and facilities or to create new utilities and facilities and shall assess future needs for government services in the local governmental unit that are related to such utilities and facilities.

### **4.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### **4.1.1 INVENTORY OF UTILITIES**

#### **4.1.2 INVENTORY OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

#### **4.1.3 INVENTORY OF OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

### **4.2 SWOT ANALYSIS**

### **4.3 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES**

#### **Vision**

*To provide for future growth while protecting public health and natural resources by maximizing the use of existing infrastructure and distributing facilities to ensure a consistent level of services.*

## **4.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Utilities and community facilities provide the foundation on which a community is built and maintained. Utilities include sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water systems, and electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, and solid waste disposal systems. Community facilities include parks, schools, health and safety services, and libraries, among other things. Utilities and community facilities contribute to the quality of life in Polk County and affect the community's ability to attract and retain residents, visitors, businesses, and industries.

Information not included here which may be needed during the development of local plans includes:

- condition and availability of public structures or major equipment (e.g., town halls, fleet vehicles, heavy equipment)
- service areas and capacity of utilities and treatment systems (e.g., sewer, water, stormwater, natural gas, fiber optic)
- condition, capacity, and location of parks and libraries
- analysis of capacity of existing facilities (e.g., child care, schools, elderly services) compared to current and projected population

### **4.1.1 INVENTORY OF UTILITIES**

#### *Sanitary Sewer and Wastewater Treatment*

Several major federal laws have been enacted over the past 100 years to protect our nation's waters, and each of these laws imposed subsequently greater restrictions upon the discharge of pollution into lakes, rivers, and streams. With the passage of the 1972 Clean Water Act, all discharges of pollution required a permit, the use of best management practices was encouraged, and billions of dollars were provided to construct sewage treatment plants.

*Ten Polk County communities and three sanitary districts have collection and treatment facilities for the proper treatment of wastewater (see Table 4.1). No area in Polk County is within a sewer service planning area.*

Future considerations regarding sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment should involve further data gathering such as locational information on where septic and holding tanks are in Polk County. As water resources are one of the primary considerations for the future of Polk County, sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment monitoring should have a high priority.

**Table 4.1—Municipal Wastewater Systems in Polk County**

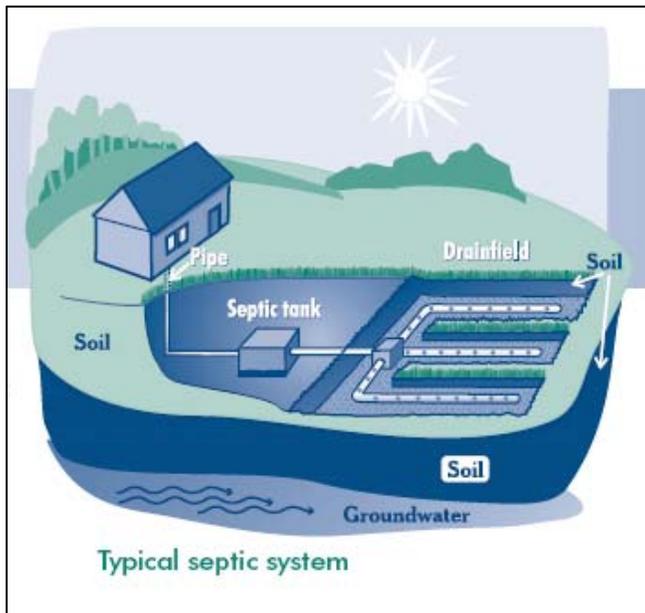
Municipality/District	Monthly Design Flow (GPD)	Monthly Average Flow (GPD)	Construction Year
Amani Sanitary District			
Cushing Sanitary District #1			
Lake Wapogasset Bear Trap Lake S.D.			
Village of Balsam Lake			
Village of Centuria			
Village of Clayton	<i>This data is currently not available via the Wisconsin DNR database. For more information, please contact the community's public works department or engineering firm.</i>		
Village of Clear Lake			
Village of Frederic			
Village of Luck			
Village of Milltown			
Village of Osceola			
City of Amery			
City of St. Croix Falls			

source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

### On-Site Septic Systems

Nearly all development in Polk County that is not located in a city, village, or sanitary district shown in Table 4.1 uses private on-site sewer systems. These systems can be divided into three basic types, with pretreatment increasing in use:

**Figure 4.1 – Typical Septic System**



source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems, rev. March 2005.

### In-Ground Gravity Systems –

Most systems in Polk County include a gravity flow design where waste flows from the home to the septic tank and from the septic tank into a soil absorption field (see Figure 4.1). The wastewater is purified as it moves down through the soil and into the groundwater.

### Pressurized Systems –

Typically, pressurized systems can either be a mound, at-grade, or in-ground. These systems either add a lift pump to pump the storage chamber or incorporate a mound absorption

area to increase soil depth for purification purposes.

For all conventional systems, a soil depth of at least three feet is needed to adequately purify the wastewater before it discharges into the groundwater. As noted in Element 5 some areas of the naturally occurring soil in Polk County is unsuitable for proper operation of in-ground gravity or pressurized on-site sewer systems; therefore, when new systems are constructed, it is common for soil to be imported to the site to help ensure that the new system operates properly.

**Holding Tank Systems** – Lots along lakeshores and in areas of high groundwater tables often lack the required soil depth or drain field area requirements for conventional septic systems. As a result, residents may use a holding tank to dispose of their wastewater. A holding tank is an underground storage unit with no outlet into the soil. The contents of the tank must be pumped regularly and transferred to a proper disposal facility. This type of waster disposal system is particularly prevalent in lakefront development areas where lot sizes prohibit full septic systems.

Pretreatment systems have been gaining in popularity for difficult sites or poor soils, or when an existing private septic system is failing on a small lot. Larger commercial operations in areas without municipal sewer may also be required to pre-treat wastewater. These systems reduce the high levels of organic matter through aeration by treating wastewater in conjunction with a standard gravity or pressurized system.

The Wisconsin Department of Commerce (COMM) regulates the siting, design, installation and inspection of most private on-site sewage systems in the state. In 2000, the state adopted a revised private system policy called COMM 83. The revised policy allows for conventional sewage systems and advanced pre-treatment sewage systems. There are several types of on-site disposal system designs authorized for use today: conventional (underground), mound, pressure distribution, at-grade holding tank, and sand filter systems. Sanitary permits are required under state law. To obtain a permit, one must contact a Wisconsin-licensed master plumber who will complete the necessary forms and obtain the sanitary permit. The plumber is also responsible for installing the private sewage system.

Under COMM 83, Wisconsin counties can further regulate private on-site waste disposal systems through a sanitary code. Polk County has adopted the *Polk County Private Sewage System Ordinance* which is enforced through the County Zoning Administrator.

The Wisconsin Fund administered by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce provides funding assistance to eligible landowners for the replacement or rehabilitation of failing private on-site wastewater treatment systems.

Septic and holding tanks in Polk County present one of the larger potential sources of water pollution. Many of the tanks in Polk County are old and some are not functioning properly. Being that one of the main priorities of the County is to protect water quality, this issue should be addressed more completely. Means to address the issue is to increase monitoring of tanks, consider development of sanitary districts by public or private means, and allow for additional methods for treatment.

### *Water Supply*

In the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act, Congress mandated that safe drinking water be provided to and paid for by the consumer. Today, Wisconsin water providers must provide an abundant water supply that is not only safe, but also free of objectionable taste and odor, turbidity, and staining elements. While the amount of water treatment varies from community to community, water is typically treated for corrosion control, disinfection, and fluoridation prior to consumption.

Polk County communities receive their water from groundwater sources. Groundwater sources in the area include drilled wells, dug wells, and screened wells with and without gravel packs. Drilled wells are typically the deepest wells and access large aquifers that are lower than the aquifers tapped for shallow private wells. Dug wells are considered the least desirable type, as they lack the 60-foot casing and cement grout now required of newly constructed wells to prevent contamination. Most dug wells in the area have been replaced.

The United State Geological Survey recently completed a groundwater study. At the time of this plan, the study has not been officially published, however preliminary results are available. The study was quite broad and based significantly on computer-based modeling. In order to get more accurate information on the state of the groundwater in Polk County, additional testing sites and regular monitoring would need to be done. Because groundwater is the sole source of drinking water within the County, the quality of the groundwater directly affects the health and well-being of the residents and visitors of Polk County. There are existing sources of some monitoring data, such as test results from new construction or new wells. Compiling these data sources could give Polk County a decent baseline from which to judge whether things are getting better or worse in the future.

Table 4.2 shows the active municipal and community water supply systems in Polk County.

**Table 4.2 – Municipal and Community Water Systems in Polk County**

System Name/Owner	Municipality or P.O. Address	Approx. Population Served	# of Wells
Amani Village Sanitary District	2372 30 <sup>th</sup> Ave. & Kingsway Village of Osceola	100	2
Amery Waterworks	City of Amery	2,800	2
Balsam Lake Waterworks	Village of Balsam Lake	1,031	3
Centuria Waterworks	Village of Centuria	900	2
Clayton Waterworks	Village of Clayton	765	2
Clear Lake Waterworks	Village of Clear Lake	1,061	2
Dresser Waterworks	Village of Dresser	871	2
Frederic Waterworks	Village of Frederic	1,241	4
Luck Waterworks	Village of Luck	1,225	2
Milltown Waterworks	Village of Milltown	1,146	2
Osceola Waterworks	Village of Osceola	2,680	2
St. Croix Falls Waterworks	City of St. Croix Falls	2,079	5

*source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Drinking Water System database as of 7/30/08*

With the exception of the population served by public systems identified in Table 4.2, the majority of remaining Polk County residents depend on individual private wells for their water supply needs. These wells draw water from the upper aquifer, which can be more susceptible to contamination.

Water storage facilities are classified as pressure tanks, ground reservoirs, or elevated storage tanks. The majority of public water storage facilities in the area are elevated storage facilities such as water towers. The capacity of the elevated storage facilities is a critical component of providing adequate fire protection via fire hydrants and related facilities. Capacity issues regarding water storage will be addressed in individual comprehensive planning and capital improvements planning efforts.

### *Stormwater Management*

Stormwater management is important in order to reduce or prevent soil erosion, mitigate flooding, and limit run-off of pollutants, nutrients, and sediment to water bodies. Communities approach stormwater management in a wide variety of ways and solutions are often site specific.

For most of Polk County, as well as for most rural areas in the state, stormwater facilities are limited to ditches along roadways, combined with culverts under roads and drives. Many farmers also use drainage tile in their fields to drain stormwater in low areas. More developed areas, villages, and cities have a varying range of ditches, storm water retention areas, curb and gutter, and storm sewer. Most systems in both urban and rural settings use a combination of engineered stormwater solutions and natural approaches which take advantage of existing swales, creeks, ponds, or other potential storage areas.

Currently, municipalities in Census-defined urbanized areas and municipalities with more than 10,000 population are required by state and federal law<sup>2</sup> to develop a stormwater program with measurable goals, required permitting, and educational efforts for municipal-owned stormwater conveyances which discharge to public waters. No such urban areas exist currently in Polk County.

State law also requires landowners to develop an erosion control plan and obtain necessary Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources erosion control and stormwater discharge permits for all construction sites where one or more acres of land will be disturbed. The exceptions to this are for public buildings and Wisconsin Department of Transportation projects which have special regulations.

The lack of a federal or state mandate does not limit a municipality's ability to plan for or regulate stormwater. The County's subdivision regulations cover all unincorporated areas of the county and include a site plan review process with stormwater management requirements and erosion controls. In addition, ten towns (Alden, Black Brook, Clear Lake, Eureka, Farmington, Garfield, Lincoln, Milltown, Osceola, and St. Croix Falls) and the villages of Frederic and Dresser have adopted local subdivision regulations. All Polk County incorporated cities and villages are zoned, and may have erosion control regulations and stormwater management practices as part of their zoning ordinances.

Cities, villages, and towns with village powers may create a stormwater utility that is responsible for maintaining and managing the surface water management system. Stormwater utilities have the ability to charge fees to generate revenue to support these activities. A stormwater management plan describes community-wide surface water management needs. This local tool is useful in determining actions to improve surface water quality and stormwater detention storage needs. Stormwater detention facilities are typically ponds that collect storm water and help prevent damage caused by large rainfalls and small-scale flooding. According to a Wisconsin Chapter of the American Public Works Association survey, no municipalities in Polk County have created a stormwater utility or have adopted associated user charges. Most communities engage in some level of stormwater management planning, typically as part of project or capital improvements budgeting.

State funding for local governments is available to address land management activities which contribute to urban and rural runoff in priority watershed areas. A large area of southern Polk County falls within the Upper Willow River and South Fork Hay River Priority Watersheds for which projects have been

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<sup>2</sup> Rules applicable to stormwater management can be found in the Federal Clean Water Act and Chapter NR 216, Wis. Admin. Code and are regulated through the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and permitted under the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES). More information can be found at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/runoff/stormwater.htm>.

completed. A priority watershed project was also completed for the Balsam Branch. Priority watershed projects are currently active for Osceola Creek, Horse Creek Lake, and Big Wood Lake.

Stormwater flooding has been an increasing concern in Polk County. The *Polk County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* identifies stormwater flooding issues and “hotspots” for the County and each municipality which participated in the plan. Utilizing the recommendations of this plan at the County and local level would be beneficial.

### *Telecommunications Facilities*

In broad terms, telecommunications facilities allow users to communicate and share data over long distances. Telecommunications facilities and networks are critical components to public safety, economic development, and quality of life. Inventorying telecommunications facilities is difficult given the quickly changing nature of technology, ever-expanding service areas, and the multitude of providers in a deregulated market. Further, detailed service area maps for all telecommunication options are not available. Communities may need to identify their specific telecommunications issues and goals, prior to obtaining specific information and maps from their local telecommunications providers.

With the adoption of the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act regulating wireless communications providers, local government action on telecommunications has commonly focused on wireless communications towers. Access to wireless, seamless communication networks is becoming increasingly important in the modern world. Due to the increase in use of wireless communication for public safety, business, and personal use, constructing telecommunication towers is an issue that many municipalities are addressing more often than in the past. Polk County has adopted a Telecommunication Tower Ordinance, although legislation passed in 1996 severely limits the ability of local governments to regulate cell towers except for health and safety reasons.

Table 4.3 shows the telephone providers for Polk County municipalities, some of which offer other telecommunications services, such as cable and Internet access. Large areas of Polk County have access to broadband (high-speed) Internet via telephone or cable lines, though some gaps do exist. Over 95 percent of the households in the southern one-third of the county have broadband access via telephone or cable lines. As an alternative, some areas of the county may have broadband access via other means (e.g., satellite).

**Table 4.3 – Telephone Providers in Polk County**

Municipality	Amery Telecom Inc	CenturyTel of NW Wisc LLC	CenturyTel of Midwest Wisc, LLC	CenturyTel of the Midwest-Kendall, LLC	Charter Fiberlink, LLC	Clear Lake Telephone Co, LLC	Farmers Independent Telephone Co.	Frontier Communications St. Croix LLC	Lakeland Communications Inc.	Lakeland Telecom Inc.	Luck Telephone Company	Milltown Mutual Telephone Company	Telephone USA of Wisconsin LLC
	<b>Towns</b>												
Alden	X	X						X					
Apple River	X								X			X	
Balsam Lake	X												X
Beaver	X		X										
Black Brook	X					X							
Bone Lake		X		X					X			X	
Clam Falls		X											
Clayton	X		X			X							
Clear Lake						X							
Eureka					X				X		X		X
Farmington		X		X				X					
Garfield	X	X		X									X
Georgetown												X	
Johnstown			X									X	
Laketown		X				X			X		X		X
Lincoln	X			X									
Lorain		X											
Luck		X									X		
McKinley		X	X									X	
Milltown												X	X
Osceola		X		X									X
St Croix Falls				X									
Sterling						X					X		
West Sweden		X											
<b>Villages</b>													
Balsam Lake									X	X			X
Centuria									X	X			X
Clayton	X												
Clear Lake						X							
Dresser		X		X									X
Frederic		X											
Luck									X		X		
Milltown									X			X	
Osceola		X		X									
<b>Cities</b>													
Amery	X												
St. Croix Falls				X									X

source: Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Local Service Providers database as of 7/31/08

Due to its high bandwidth and low data loss, fiber optic is preferred, if not required, for many technology businesses and information services. Fiber optic communicates by sending light through optical fiber as opposed to traditional electrical transmission by copper wire. Fiber optic does come with a higher price tag however, and is more difficult to splice into. For many communities, providing fiber optic service to their industrial or business park(s) is a priority.

Providing fiber optic capability to Polk County was brought up at the County Planning meetings. In combination with the commuting trends and the economic development future for Polk County; it would be very beneficial to the County to have fiber optic capability and the necessary redundancy to ensure service. The County would like to be part of meetings or discussions with all stakeholders (county, state, cities, towns, villages, private sector, and citizens) to evaluate options available for obtaining this infrastructure, considering all options from a county-owned or public infrastructure, to a public-private collaboration, to a solely private network. In any event, the network expansion should be something that is well thought out and planned for. Some options could include coordinating the installation of new lines along transportation routes during construction and maintenance of those roads to defray cost of installation. Another alternative is to establish utility right-of-ways that are not part of the road right-of-way and are less likely to cause limitations to transportation infrastructure.

### *Power Plants, Substations, and Transmission Lines*

Power plants are industrial facilities that generate electricity for distribution to a large area. Substations are industrial installations at which electricity is received from one or more power stations for conversion from alternating to direct current, reducing the voltage or switching before distribution by a low-tension network for general consumption.

Transmission lines are the largest electric lines on the landscape. These lines generate the most public interest because they are the most noticeable electric lines and because of the potential human and animal health effects associated with them. Transmission lines transport electricity from power plants to substations and operate at several thousand volts (typically ranging from 46,000 to 345,000 volts), stand anywhere between 60 and 100 feet tall, and serve several hundred thousand customers.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) is the branch of the Wisconsin State government with the overall responsibility of regulating electric utilities. Map 4.2 shows the primary electric transmission lines, substations, and line owners in west central Wisconsin. If more specific information on power plants, substations, or transmission lines is needed, communities should contract the PSC, line owners, or their local electric utility.

*Electric Utilities*

Electric service is provided to Polk County by Xcel Energy (Northern States Power Co.), Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company, Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, and St. Croix Electric Cooperative.

*Natural Gas Utilities*

Natural gas is provided to Polk County by Wisconsin Gas Company and Midwest Natural Gas Inc. Large rural areas of the county do not have access to natural gas.

**4.1.1 INVENTORY OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

Polk County residents are served by a wide assortment of educational facilities at the elementary, primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. In addition, some facilities offer preschool, kindergarten, special education, religious, business, industrial, trade, and vocational training. The specialized educational opportunities, such as Head Start, tend to be clustered in the larger communities. Overall, municipalities in the County generally have a limited role in the planning and function of educational facilities, primarily relying on the educational institution itself for required planning and operations.

*Non-Public Schools*

Three private schools serve Polk County residents as shown in Table 4.4. The State database for these schools is arranged by school district, rather than by county, so additional private schools may exist in Polk County that are located in school districts headquartered outside the County. Local communities typically do not participate in the planning and function of these private schools.

**Table 4.4 – Private Schools in Polk County (2008)**

Public School District Area	Private Schools	2008 Enrollment
Amery	Mustard Seed Faith Academy (PK-7)	57
Frederic	Frederic 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventist (2-6)	8
St. Croix Falls	Valley Christian School (K4-12)	70

*source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction*

## Public Schools

Public education for grades K-12 is available for all Wisconsin residents. Table 4.5 lists the public school facilities for districts headquartered in Polk County and their 2008 enrollment. Map 4-1 shows the school districts in Polk County.

**Table 4.5 – Public Schools in Polk County (2008)**

District	Public Schools	2008 Enrollment
Amery	Amery High	562
	Amery Intermediate	347
	Amery Middle	405
	Lien Elementary	454
Clayton	Clayton Elementary	209
	Clayton High	139
	Clayton Middle	75
Clear Lake	Clear Lake High	228
	Clear Lake Junior High	95
	Gaylord A Nelson Educ Center	331
Frederic	Frederic 7-12 School	269
	Frederic Elementary	267
Luck	Luck Elementary	229
	Luck High	310
Osceola	Osceola Career Charter School	11
	Osceola Charter Preschool	78
	Osceola Elementary	412
	Osceola High	576
	Osceola Intermediate	395
	Osceola Middle	407
St. Croix Falls	Saint Croix Falls Elementary	285
	Saint Croix Falls High	370
	Saint Croix Falls Middle	335
	Dresser Elementary	81
Unity	Unity Elementary	419
	Unity High	371
	Unity Middle	307
<b>Total Enrollment</b>		<b>7,967</b>

source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

# MAP 4-1 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Polk County  
Wisconsin



State of Wisconsin

- US HIGHWAY SHIELD
- STATE HIGHWAY SHIELD
- COUNTY ROAD SHIELD
- US HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY ROAD
- HYDRO BODY

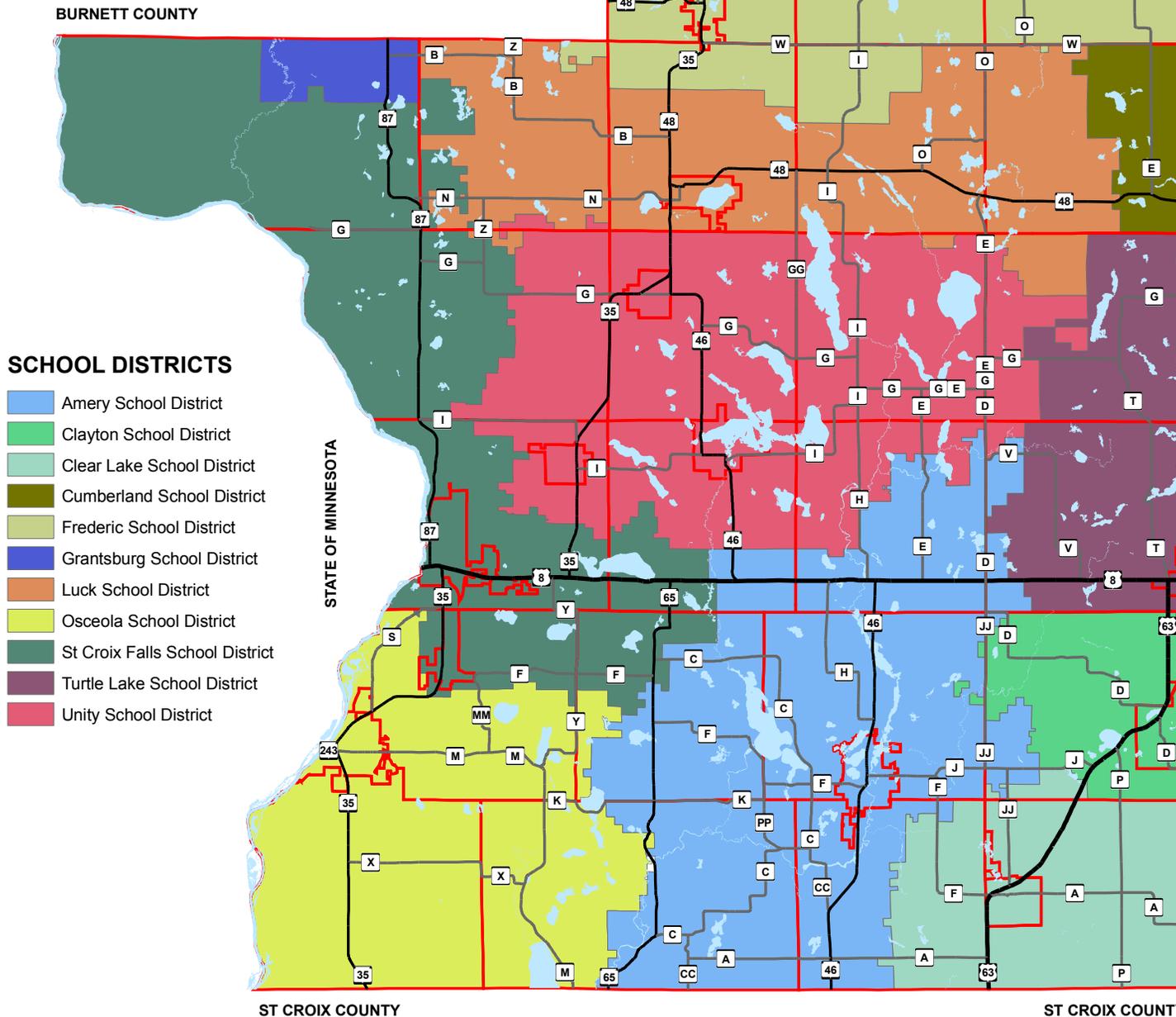
0 1.5 3 6 Miles



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This drawing is the result of a compilation and reproduction of land records as they appear in various Polk County Offices. The drawing should be used for reference purposes only. Polk County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.



## SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Amery School District
- Clayton School District
- Clear Lake School District
- Cumberland School District
- Frederic School District
- Grantsburg School District
- Luck School District
- Osceola School District
- St Croix Falls School District
- Turtle Lake School District
- Unity School District

### *Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs)*

CESA agencies were established in 1965 to replace county school supervisors. The state’s 12 regional CESAs offer a variety of leadership and program services that link the state’s 428 school districts with each other and with the Department of Public Instruction. CESA’s provide specific programs identified by school districts as priorities; often several schools jointly share CESA services. All public school districts in Polk County fall within CESA District #11 which is located in Turtle Lake.

### *Vocational, Technical, and Adult Education*

Wisconsin has a very strong technical college system that works closely with industry, businesses, and the public sector to provide practical workforce training in a wide variety of fields. The state is divided into sixteen vocational districts with a technical college serving each district with a variety of classes, seminars, and vocational degree programs.

**Map 4.1 – Vocational Districts in the Region**



source: Wisconsin Technical College System webpage.  
<http://www.wtcsystem.edu/colleges.htm>

Technical college programs include apprenticeships, staff development, agriculture, marketing, driver education, health careers, law enforcement, home economics, trade and industrial, and adult education. Also, clinics and seminars are held throughout the year.

Polk County is located within the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) vocational district (see Map 4.1). According to the WITC website ([www.witc.edu](http://www.witc.edu)), nearly one in nine residents in their district have taken some sort of

class through a WITC campus, branch campus, or outreach center.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College has regional campuses in New Richmond, Rice Lake, Ashland, and Superior with branch campuses in Hayward and Ladysmith and an outreach center in Spooner. Total 2007-2008 WITC enrollment for credit courses was 7,382, while noncredit enrollment exceeded 20,000.

### *University of Wisconsin System*

The University of Wisconsin system of public universities consists of two doctoral research universities (UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee), eleven comprehensive universities, thirteen two-year colleges, and the Statewide UW-Extension system.

West central Wisconsin provides the location for three comprehensive universities, being home to UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout (Menomonie), and UW-River Falls (see Table 4.6). Of the thirteen University of Wisconsin colleges in the state offering associates degrees, UW-Barron County located in Rice Lake is the only one located in west central Wisconsin. Residents may also access associates-degree programming via the Internet-based UW Colleges Online.

**Table 4.6 – Enrollment of UW Campuses in West Central Wisconsin**

Campus	1998-99 Enrollment	2007-08 Enrollment	% change
UW-Eau Claire	10852	10854	0.02%
UW-River Falls	5617	6452	14.87%
UW-Stout	7731	8477	9.65%
UW-Barron County	491	606	23.42%

*source: University of Wisconsin system*

University of Wisconsin-Extension partners closely with county governments to provide supportive services to all residents, businesses, and governments. This is a very active expression of the “Wisconsin Idea”, which is a philosophy that the University of Wisconsin System is a partner in improving the quality of life of all Wisconsin residents through education.

### *Other Colleges and Universities*

There are no independent colleges or universities located in west central Wisconsin which are fully accredited, degree-granting, and a member of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Over the years, there have been discussions and meetings in Polk County to discuss options regarding post-secondary educational facilities. In fact, there was a white paper developed that researched the options and studied the feasibility of developing a post-secondary educational facility in the county.

The Polk County Strategic Plan, consistent with input from the countywide public meetings, reiterates the desire and need for continued high-quality educational opportunities. The need for a post-secondary educational facility has been a topic of discussion in the County for many years. The goals, objectives and policies developed in this section emphasize the continued commitment to investigate options regarding post-secondary educational options.

### **4.1.2 INVENTORY OF OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

In most cases, the planning and operations of the following community facilities and services occurs at the local or facility level. Often, the local community may only be marginally involved, with most planning and operational decisions made by the private entity that operates the facility or provides the service. As such, the majority of the specific circumstances, needs, issues, or policies associated with these community facilities and services are addressed in the individual community plans and not in this conditions and trends report. Given that the county is increasing in population, some corresponding increases in the level of services can be anticipated.

#### *Libraries*

Communities in Polk County are served by 10 public libraries which are part of the Polk County Library Federation:

- Amery Public Library
- Balsam Lake Public Library
- Centuria Public Library
- Clear Lake Public Library
- Dresser Public Library
- Frederic Public Library
- Luck Public Library
- Milltown Public Library
- Osceola Public Library
- St. Croix Falls Public Library

The Polk County Library Federation offers rotating materials throughout the ten libraries, operates a books-by-mail program, provides audio-visual materials and educational assistance, and helps coordinate cooperative purchases.

The ten public Polk County libraries are also members of the Indianhead Federated Library System, a state-funded library agency serving ten counties in west central Wisconsin. The Library System assists and connects these local libraries through the sharing of materials, computer library cataloging, training assistance, cataloging of materials, web hosting, and outreach support.

Some communities or interest groups (e.g., historical societies) may also have small-scale collections of books and related resources at other facilities. Library facilities are also available at many public schools.

The planning and operation of libraries are the primarily the responsibility of the library board, often working collaboratively with the local school district, library system, and community.

### *Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities*

Solid waste is commonly referred to as garbage, trash, refuse or rubbish. Solid waste disposal is one of the more expensive investments a community makes. An adequate solid waste disposal system is important in attracting business and industry. Industry usually generates more waste than residential uses, and all generated solid waste requires proper disposal.

Municipalities in Polk County take different approaches to solid waste collection. Some municipalities have contracted with a private refuse hauler for curb-side garbage collection or a drop-off/dumpster site, while residents in other communities contract directly with the waste hauler. Depending on contract terms, haulers may offer special services, such as collection of recyclables, appliances, construction materials, and yard waste.

Polk County is the recycling responsibility unit for the entire county. Some residents may have recycling collection through their private waste hauler, though most residents utilize one of the county's recycling drop-off centers:

Polk County Recycling Center	3 miles east of St. Croix Falls on USH 8
Alden	Town Hall
Amery	behind Amery Fire Dept. Facility
Balsam Lake	Government Center
Black Brook	Town Hall
Cushing	Cushing Co-op Grain Dept.
Clam Falls	East of Clam Falls Tavern
Eureka	Town Hall
Farmington	Town Hall Garage
Frederic	Village Shop
Georgetown	Town Hall
Lincoln	Town Hall
Luck	Village Shop
Osceola	Village Shop
Wanderoos/Garfield	near Town Hall & Fire Hall

Polk County has adopted a recycling and solid waste ordinance with mandatory separation of recyclable materials covering those municipalities for which it is the responsibility unit.

The county maintains an excellent webpage (<http://www.co.polk.wi.us/recycling>) covering the county's recycling program, including what can be recycled, drop-off locations, and contact information.



Polk County's recycling program webpage also includes information on the county's special collection services. As state grant assistance allows, Polk County conducts a combined household/agricultural "Clean Sweep" twice a year to provide residents a safe means of disposing hazardous chemicals, paints, solvents, etc. Beginning in 2008, this program has been expanded to include pharmaceuticals. Small businesses, non-profits, and governmental agencies may also be eligible to participate in the Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) Program, which offers an inexpensive option for the disposal of hazardous waste. For more information on recycling in Polk County, please contact the Recycling Center (715-483-1088), the Solid Waste Office (715-485-9294), or visit their website.

### *Law Enforcement*

Law enforcement services fall under the statewide Wisconsin mutual aid agreement, with additional support and coordination through Wisconsin Emergency Management—Emergency Police Services in times of crisis. Overall, most planning and operations related to law enforcement occurs at the local level, though there is a high level of coordination with the county on communications and overall emergency management concerns. The following constitute the primary law enforcement agencies in Polk County:

- Amery Police Department – 120 Center St. West, Amery 54001
- Balsam Lake Police Department – P.O. Box 506, Balsam Lake 54810
- Centuria Police Department – P.O. Box 53, Centuria 54824
- Clayton Police Department – P.O. Box 63, Clayton 54004
- Clear Lake Police Department – P.O. Box 48, Clear Lake 54005
- Dresser Police Department – P.O. Box 547, Village Hall, Dresser 54009
- Frederic Police Department – P.O. Box 567, Frederic 54837
- Luck Police Department – 401 Main St. Box 315, Luck, 54853
- Milltown Police Department – P.O. Box 277, Milltown 54858
- Osceola Police Department – P.O. Box 217, Osceola 54020
- St. Croix Falls Police Department – 710 S. Hwy 35, St. Croix Falls 54024
- Polk County Sheriff's Dept – 1005 West Main, Suite 900, Balsam Lake 54810
- Wisconsin State Patrol

Polk County Emergency Management provides additional support to the County's emergency response providers and local governments through emergency operations planning, training, coordination, crisis response, and recovery. In addition to county and local emergency operating plans, the *Polk County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan*, adopted in 2008, identifies proactive strategies to mitigate the potential impacts of a natural hazard event. Map 4-2 shows the service areas of the law enforcement agencies in Polk County.

# MAP 4-2 LAW EMERGENCY SERVICE ZONES

Polk County  
Wisconsin



State of Wisconsin

- US HIGHWAY SHIELD
- STATE HIGHWAY SHIELD
- COUNTY ROAD SHIELD
- US HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY ROAD
- HYDRO STREAM
- HYDRO BODY
- CITY/VILLAGE
- TOWNSHIP
- LAW ESZ

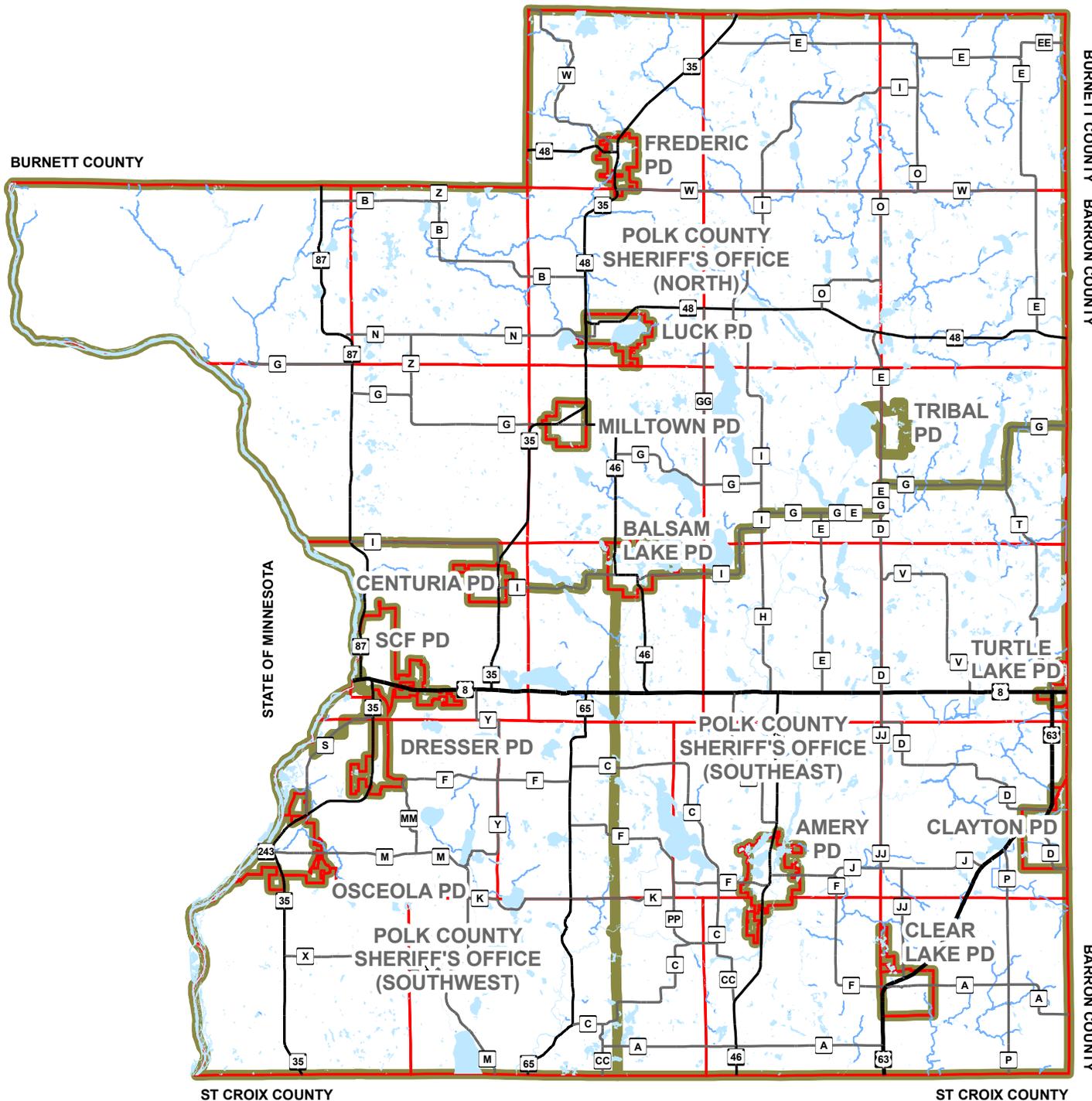
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BURNETT COUNTY BARRON COUNTY

BARRON COUNTY

BURNETT COUNTY

ST CROIX COUNTY

ST CROIX COUNTY

### *Fire Departments*

Nineteen fire departments provide fire protection for Polk County communities, and each gives mutual aid to neighboring departments in responding to large-scale emergencies. Overall, most planning and operations related to fire departments occurs at the local level, though there is a high level of coordination with the County on communications and overall emergency management concerns. Map 4-3 shows the service areas of the respective fire departments for Polk County.

### *First Responders*

First responders are trained in medical techniques, medical equipment, patient assessment, and emergency scene management beyond basic first aid. First responders respond directly from their home (or other location) to the scene of an emergency. At the scene, the responders provide critical medical care until an ambulance arrives. First responders are sometimes associated with local fire departments, and many firefighters also have first responder training.

Responders receive 59 hours of certified training and are state licensed, with many going on to be licensed as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). EMT's require up to 756 hours of training prior to certification, while full paramedics require 1,200 hours. Most first responders are volunteers who must complete a bi-annual 30-hour refresher course, in addition to specialized and local (often monthly) training programs.

First responder service is contracted by the local municipality. Map 4-4 identifies the first responder service areas in the county.

### *Ambulance*

There are nine ambulance providers serving Polk County, their service areas are shown on Map 4-5. Overall, most planning and operations related to ambulance and rescue services occurs at the local level or is undertaken by the private, contracted firm, though some coordination occurs with local hospitals and with the County on communications and emergency management.

### *Hazardous Materials Response*

Polk County does not have a County Level "B" Hazardous Materials Response Team, though local fire department personnel may have been trained to the operations level. As needed, the West Central Wisconsin Regional Response Team, based in the Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire Fire Departments, can be contacted for additional reconnaissance and research support. This Level A team can also be requested to respond to the most serious of spills and releases requiring the highest level of skin and respiratory protective gear. This includes

all chemical, biological, or radiological emergencies requiring vapor-tight Level A gear with self-contained breathing apparatus.

Planning and exercises regarding hazard materials is coordinated through the Polk County Emergency Management Office in conjunction with the Polk County Local Emergency Preparedness Committee.

# MAP 4-3 FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICE ZONES

Polk County  
Wisconsin



State of Wisconsin

- US HIGHWAY SHIELD
- STATE HIGHWAY SHIELD
- COUNTY ROAD SHIELD
- US HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY ROAD
- HYDRO STREAM
- HYDRO BODY
- CITY/VILLAGE
- TOWNSHIP
- FIRE ESZ

0 1.5 3 6 Miles

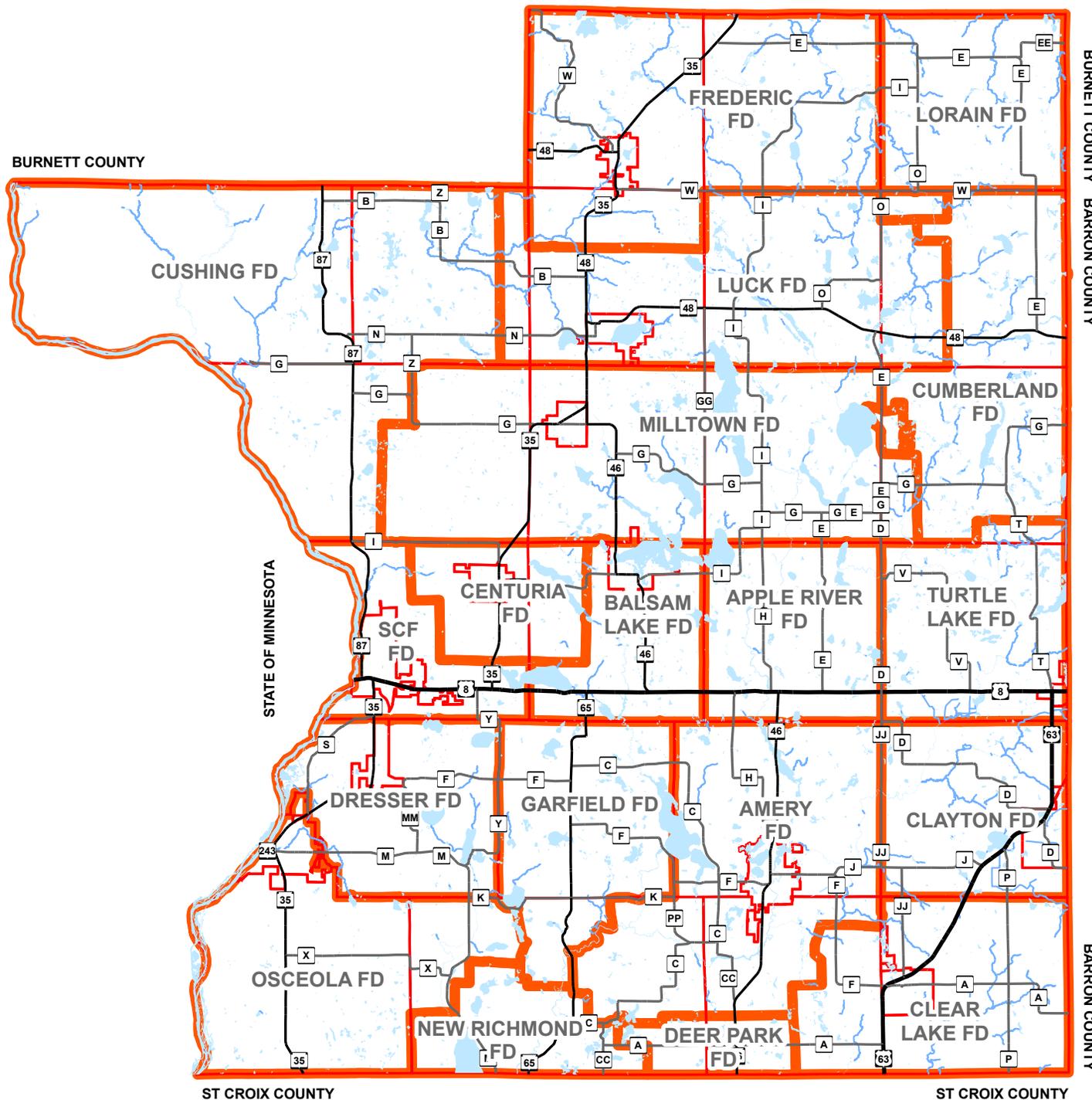


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6/16/09

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BURNETT COUNTY BARRON COUNTY

BARRON COUNTY

BURNETT COUNTY

ST CROIX COUNTY

ST CROIX COUNTY

STATE OF MINNESOTA

# MAP 4-4

## 1ST RESPONDERS EMERGENCY SERVICE ZONES

Polk County  
Wisconsin



State of Wisconsin

- US HIGHWAY SHIELD
- STATE HIGHWAY SHIELD
- COUNTY ROAD SHIELD
- US HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY ROAD
- HYDRO STREAM
- HYDRO BODY
- CITY/VILLAGE
- TOWNSHIP
- FIRST RESPONDERS ESZ

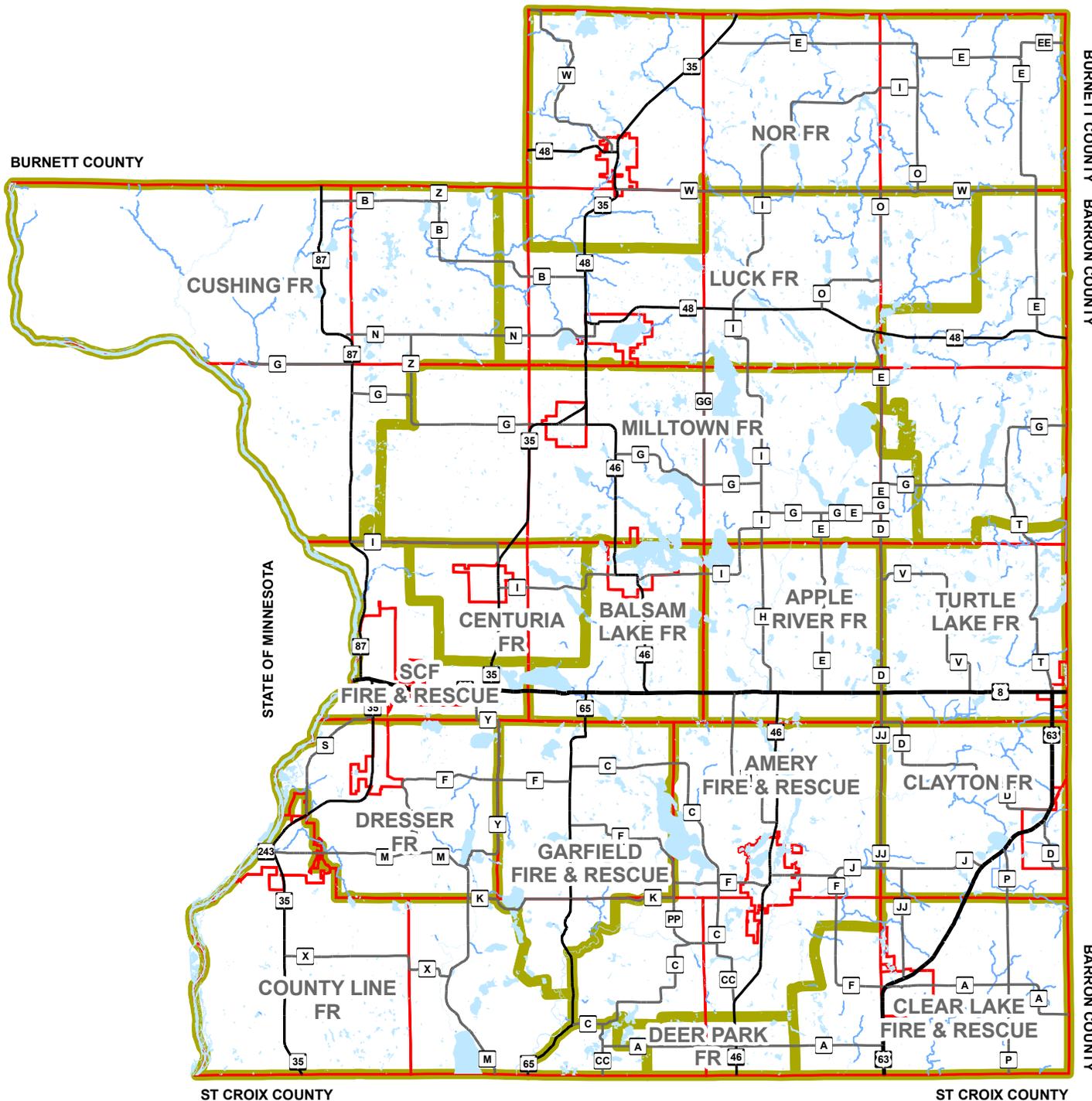
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ST CROIX COUNTY

ST CROIX COUNTY

BURNETT COUNTY BARRON COUNTY

BARRON COUNTY

# MAP 4-5 MEDICAL EMERGENCY SERVICE ZONES

Polk County  
Wisconsin



State of Wisconsin

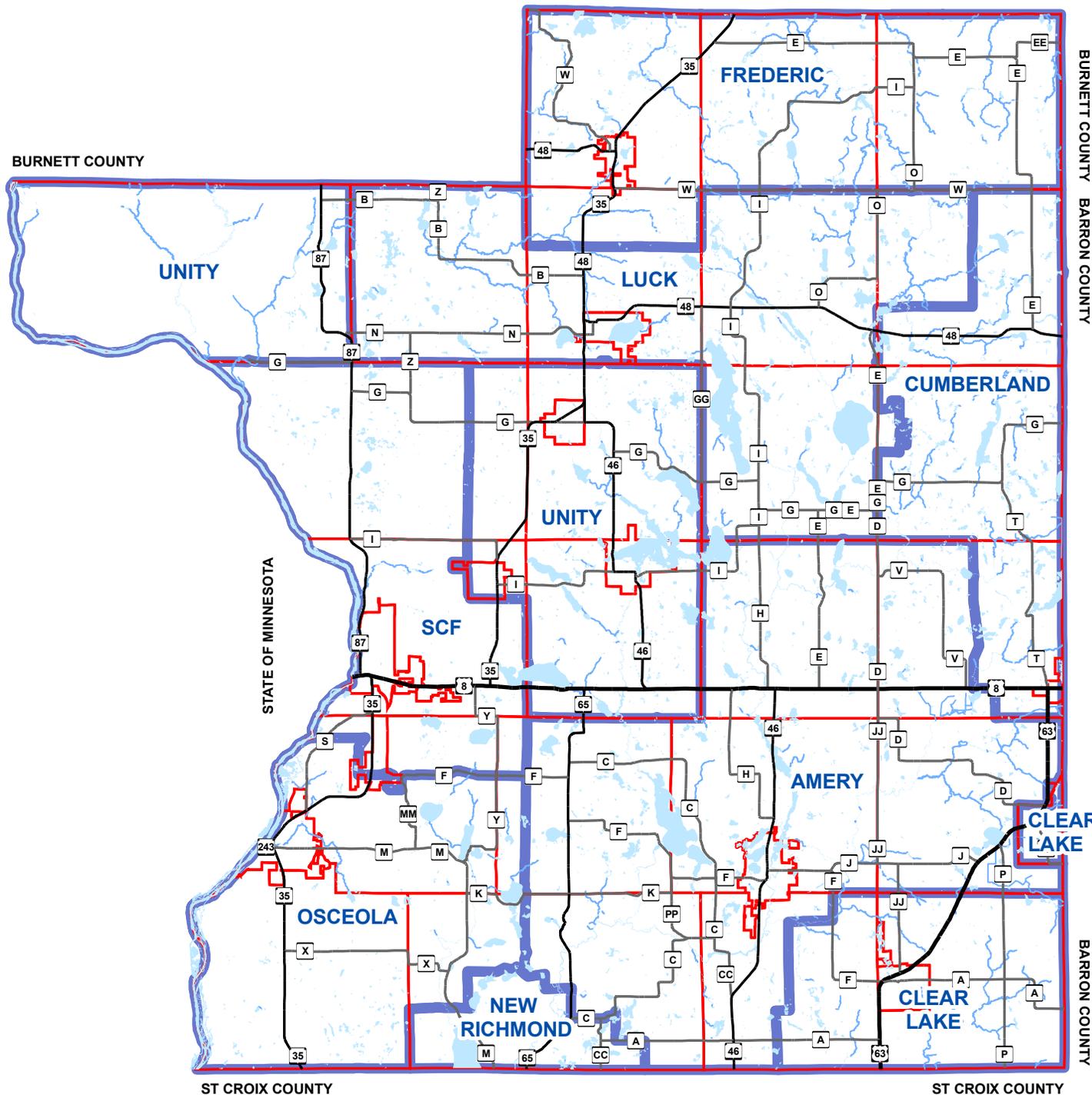
-  US HIGHWAY SHIELD
-  STATE HIGHWAY SHIELD
-  COUNTY ROAD SHIELD
-  US HIGHWAY
-  STATE HIGHWAY
-  COUNTY ROAD
-  HYDRO STREAM
-  HYDRO BODY
-  CITY/VILLAGE
-  TOWNSHIP
-  MEDICAL ESZ



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### *Medical Facilities*

Medical facilities are becoming increasingly important regional assets, improving the health of residents, while offering an important source of employment and a better quality of life. Most planning and operations related to medical facilities is undertaken by the private hospital or clinic, and includes little involvement of the local community. Table 4.7 lists the general medical clinics and hospitals in Polk County.

**Table 4.7 – Clinics and Hospitals in Polk County**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Approx. Capacity</b>
Amery	Amery Regional Medical Center	25 beds
Big Round Lake	Big Round Lake Clinic (St. Croix Chipp.)	
Clear Lake	Clear Lake Clinic	
Frederic	Frederic Regional Medical Clinic	
Luck	Luck Medical Clinic	
Osceola	Ladd Memorial Hospital	23 beds
St. Croix Falls	St. Croix Regional Medical Center	25 beds
Balsam Lake	Unity Clinic	

*source: Polk County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, Wisconsin Department of Health Services*

### *Child Care Services*

Wisconsin State Law requires that anyone caring for four or more children under the age of seven years who are unrelated to the provider must obtain a license through the Department of Children and Families. Table 4.8 is a list of state licensed child care facilities in Polk County for family child care (up to eight children) and group child care (nine or more children). Seventy-seven percent of the county's 35 child care facilities are licensed for family child care. Communities may need to consider population and demographic trends compared to the capacity of available child care in their area to help determine if child care needs are being met.

**Table 4.8 – Licensed Child Care Facilities in Polk County**

City	Day Care Name	Capacity
AMERY	COZY CARE DAY CARE	8
	GROWING YEARS	8
	MARIANN'S LITTLE LAMBS	8
	SHERRY'S DAY CARE	8
	TENDER TIMES CHILD CARE	8
BALSAM LAKE	BALSAM LAKE CESA #11 HEAD START	34
	KIDS QUEST	8
	STACY'S LICENSED DAY CARE	8
CENTURIA	CUDDLE BUGS CHILD CARE	8
	LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY CHILD CARE	8
	SANDY'S FAMILY DAY CARE	8
CLEAR LAKE	LITTLE LAMBS CHRISTIAN DC CTR LLC	30
CUSHING	BECKY'S HOUSE FAMILY DAY CARE	8
	GENE'S JUMPSTART PROGRAM	8
	KID'S CORNER CHILDCARE	8
DRESSER	COUNTRY CARE	8
	QUALLE BEAR DAYCARE	42
FREDERIC	CHRISTY JENSEN'S DAYCARE	8
	COUNTRY WONDERLAND FAMILY DAY CARE	8
	LINDAS FAM CHILD CARE	8
LUCK	ABC EXPRESS PRESCHOOL	24
	BRENDA'S KIDDIE KARE	8
	TAMMY'S FAMILY DAY CARE	8
MILLTOWN	LIL' RASCALS PLAYHOUSE	8
OSCEOLA	ABOVE ALL BEGINNINGS CHILD CARE INC	91
	BUSY BEE'S CHILD CARE CTR	29
	CORINNE'S DAY CARE	8
	GRACE FOR KIDS	8
	HILLTOP DAY CARE	8
ST CROIX FALLS	BETHIE'S BUSY BEES	8
	BIG HUGS CHILD CARE CENTER	32
	KIDS VIEW DAY CARE	44
	THE LITTLE SCHOOL	8
TURTLE LAKE	DAR'S BUSY BODIES DAY CARE	8
	ROCHELLE'S LITTLE TYKES DAYCARE	8

source: Wisconsin Department of Children & Families, July 2008.

## *Assisted Living Facilities, Nursing Homes, and Senior Programs*

Senior care facilities are becoming increasingly important regional assets to meet the needs of our aging population in a manner that permits residents to age with dignity. Since 1982, the State of Wisconsin has maintained a moratorium on the construction of new nursing home beds due to high vacancy rates. This has created a shortage in some areas, meanwhile encouraging the use of alternative assisted-living approaches. In 2005, Polk County nursing homes were at 89.6% capacity, which is slightly above the state overall average. The actual availability of beds at any given time in Polk County can vary.

Polk County has a variety of assisted living facilities. The higher costs of many of these facilities, combined with decreased access to related governmental support, sometimes encourages residents to choose nursing care over assisted living. As the baby boomer generation ages, demand for such facilities is expected to increase. And with advances in medicines and technology, there has been an increasing trend in the provision of "in-home care" as an alternative to group homes or nursing care, which is also less costly overall.

Table 4.9 lists the assisted living facilities and nursing homes in Polk County, along with their capacities. These facilities are organized by five types:

**Adult Day Care** provides services for part of a day, primarily on weekdays, in a group setting to adults who need assistance with activities of daily living, supervision, or protection. Adult day care centers are not licensed by the state, but may be certified.

**Adult Family Homes** provides residence and care for up to four adults of minimum age 18 who are not related to the operator, with up to seven hours per week of nursing care per resident. Counties certify one- and two-bed adult family homes, while the state licenses homes with three or four adults.

**Community-Based Residential Facilities** are places where five or more adults receive care, treatment, or services that are above the level of room and board, but include not more than three hours of nursing care (at the intermediate level or below) per week per resident. These facilities often provide services to a particular group, such as persons with dementia, developmental disabilities, or mental health problems. CBRFs are licensed by the state.

**Residential Care Apartment Complexes** are independent-living apartments where five or more adults are provided up to 28 hours per week of supportive and/or nursing services. These complexes may be a distinct part of a nursing home or community-based residential facility and are certified by the state.

**Nursing Homes** provide constant nursing care and supportive services to residents who have significant deficiencies with activities of daily living. Residents are typically the elderly, younger adults with physical disabilities, and those requiring rehabilitative therapies. Nursing homes are licensed by the state.

Communities will need to consider population and demographic trends compared to the capacity of available assisted living facilities and nursing homes in their area to help determine if needs are being met.

There is a large variety of additional supportive services available to the elderly and those with disabilities, ranging from in-home support to transportation to financial services to social activities. Such services are provided through a mix of governmental and non-profit institutions, often relying on volunteer support. Senior information and lunches are available at five sites in Polk County:

- Amery – Congregational Church
- Clear Lake – Ridgeview Apartments
- Dresser – Peace Lutheran Church
- Frederic – Comforts of Home Community Room
- Milltown – Milltown Community Center

For more information on aging and disability programs in Polk County, please contact the Polk County Office of Aging (715-485-8599) or visit its webpage: (<http://www.co.polk.wi.us/Aging/>).

**Table 4.9 – Assisted Living Facilities in Polk County**

City	Facility Type	Facility Name	Capacity or # of Beds
AMERY	Nursing Home	GOLDEN AGE MANOR	114
	Nursing Home	WILLOW RIDGE HEALTHCARE FACILITIES LLC	83
	CBRF	RIVERBEND	11
	Resid. Care Apt. Complex	AMERY ASSTD LIV -RIVER BEND	26
	Resid. Care Apt. Complex	EVERGREEN VILLAGE	8
BALSAM LAKE	CBRF	AURORA RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVES INC #066	5
CENTURIA	Adult Family Home	AURORA RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVES INC #034	4
	CBRF	SOPHIES MANOR ASSISTED LIVING II INC	20
CLEAR LAKE	Adult Family Home	ROSEWOOD ADULT FAMILY HOME	4
	CBRF	CLEAR LAKE MANOR	8
FREDERIC	Nursing Home	FREDERIC NURSING AND REHABILITATION COMMUNITY	50
	Adult Family Home	VAUGHAN/SORENSEN AFH	4
	CBRF	COMFORTS OF HOME - FREDERIC	20
LUCK	Adult Day Care	PATRICIAS	6
	Nursing Home	UNITED PIONEER HOME	75
MILLTOWN	Adult Family Home	ANGELS IN WAITING	4
OSCEOLA	Nursing Home	L O SIMENSTAD NURSING CARE UNIT	40
	Adult Family Home	MORNING GLORY - COMMUNITY HOMESTEAD	4
ST CROIX FALLS	Nursing Home	GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY-ST. CROIX VALLEY	91
	CBRF	COMFORTS OF HOME - ST CROIX II	16
	CBRF	COMFORTS OF HOME-ST CROIX FALLS I	15
	Resid. Care Apt. Complex	ST CROIX VALLEY GOOD SAM APT COMPLEX	8

source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, July 2008.

### *Parks and Recreation Facilities*

Visitors and residents of Polk County have many recreational opportunities. The majority of park and recreational planning in Polk County occurs at the local level or, for County and state facilities, under the direction of Polk County Parks Department and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, respectively. Any circumstances, issues, or policies associated with parks and recreational facilities specific to a community will be addressed in the utilities and community facilities element of the individual community's plan.

Recreation facilities in the County are largely associated with the County's natural resources. Polk County boasts 23,619 surface acres of lakes and 200 miles of rivers and streams. Outdoor enthusiasts can also enjoy one of seven golf courses, about 115 miles of multi-use trails, over 50,000 acres of public lands, and six shooting ranges. Polk County owns over 17,000 acres of County Forest lands alone.

During winter months, snowmobilers can enjoy over 370 miles of groomed, public snowmobile trails and cross-country skiing is available at numerous of locations (e.g., Kennedy-Garfield Park, Interstate Park, Cattail Trail, Gandy Dancer Trail). Some communities also provide ice-skating rinks and cross-country ski trails.

Polk County currently has four off-road recreation trails of county or regional significance. The Clayton-Clear Lake Trail runs between these two villages. The Cattail State Trail runs from Amery east 17.8 miles to Almena. The Gandy Dancer State Trail is 98 miles in length, traveling from St. Croix Falls, east to Centuria, then north to Danbury, Minnesota. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail also crosses the county from St. Croix Falls, merging with the Gandy Dancer Trail for some time, then east from the Frederic area. There has been discussion of potentially extending the Cattail Trail to the south and connecting to the Willow River trail in St. Croix County, as included in the *St. Croix County Parks and Recreation Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* adopted in 2008.



No complete inventory of all parks and recreation areas in the County exists. Some recreation areas may be on private land or maintained by a community organization, while school facilities (e.g., playgrounds, ballfields, basketball courts) are often used by the public for outdoor recreation in many communities. And the definition of parks and recreation areas can vary significantly by community. For

instance, in a rural area, a small, unimproved pull-out for fishing along a river bank may perform an important recreational function.

Table 4.10 is a list of the primary County and municipal recreational facilities in Polk County. Data for Table 4.10 was taken from the *Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan* which is currently being updated, the *2008 Polk County Tourism Guide*, plans on file at WCWRPC, and community webpages. Not included are boat ramps, trails, unimproved waysides, school facilities, smaller playgrounds, and scattered state and federal lands.

Privately owned facilities are also not listed in Table 4.10, such as those provided by a community group or maintained by a homeowners' association. Some communities require developers to provide such parks as part of their development or make payments towards parkland in lieu of dedications. In additional cases, towns may work cooperatively with, and contribute to, neighboring incorporated areas in the development of parklands.

Many of the available nature-based outdoor recreational amenities (e.g., County Forest, Wildlife Areas) are discussed in the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources section of this report. Bicycling is covered previously in the Transportation section.

Also not listed in Table 4.10 is the 27.8-acre Woodley Property owned by the county in the Town of Apple River. Due to the property's proximity to the Apple River, it has significant recreational potential should it be developed as such.



If state grant funding is being considered for outdoor recreation amenities, a state-reviewed outdoor recreation plan, adopted within the last five years, is a

required prerequisite. Polk County last updated its outdoor recreation plan in 2004 and is currently updating this plan. The *Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan* provides further detail on many of the recreational facilities in the county and should be referenced to supplement the information in this section. However, not all city, village, and town facilities were included in the Plan's scope.

**Table 4.10 – Primary Parks in Polk County**

Owner	Facility	Location
Federal (Ntnl Park Srvc)	St. Croix National Scenic Riverway	along St. Croix River
State of Wisconsin	Interstate Park	T. Osceola & St. Croix Falls
	Joel Marsh Wildlife Area	T. Beaver & Clayton
	Rice Beds Wildlife Area	T. Beaver & Johnstown
	Wolf Creek	T. of Eureka
	Straight Lake Wilderness State Park	T. of Luck
	St. Croix River State Forest	T. of Sterling
Polk County	Apple River County Park	T. of Apple River
	Atlas County Park	T. of Laketown
	Black Brook County Park	T. of Black Brook
	D. D. Kennedy Environmental Area	T. of Garfield
	Garfield Cross Country Ski Trail	T. of Garfield
	Lotus Lake County Park	T. of Osceola
	Somers Lake Recreation Area	T. of Clam Falls
	Mackie Lake	T. of McKinley
	Polk County Forest Lands (17,149 ac)	T. Sterling, Lorain, McKinley, and others
Town of Bone Lake	Bone Lake Town Park	T. of Bone Lake
Town of Farmington	Farmington Town Park & Ballfield	T. of Farmington
Town of Garfield	Lake Wapogasset Park	Town of Garfield
Town of Garfield	Garfield Town Park	Town of Garfield
Village of Balsam Lake	Pine Park	V. of Balsam Lake
	Balsam Lake Beach	V. of Balsam Lake
Village of Centuria	Centuria Village Park	V. of Centuria
Village of Clayton	Public Beaches on Lakes Magnor & Camelia	V. of Clayton
Village of Clear Lake	Clear Lake Village Park	V. of Clear Lake
	Clear Lake Veterans Memorial	V. of Clear Lake
Village of Dresser	Thye Memorial Park	V. of Dresser
	Dresser Memorial Park	V. of Dresser
	Tennis Courts & Skating Rink	V. of Dresser
	Railroad Park	V. of Dresser
	Wilderness Parkway	V. of Dresser

**Table 4.10 – Primary Parks in Polk County** *continued*

Owner	Facility	Location
Village of Frederic	Soo Line Depot Square	V. of Frederic
	North Watertower Park	V. of Frederic
	Coon Lake Park	V. of Frederic
Village of Luck	Luck Village Park	V. of Luck
	Softball Field	V. of Luck
	Municipal Golf Course	V. of Luck
	Fort Luck Park	V. of Luck
	John Haukeness Wildlife Area	V. of Luck
Village of Milltown	Bering Park	V. of Milltown
	Mellgren Field	V. of Milltown
Village of Osceola	Oakey Park	V. of Osceola
	River St. Neighborhood Park	V. of Osceola
	West Side Playground	V. of Osceola
	Millpond Park	V. of Osceola
	Cascade Falls	V. of Osceola
	Third Avenue Triangle	V. of Osceola
	The Bluff	V. of Osceola
	Wetlands Presevation Trailway	V. of Osceola
City of Amery	South Twin Park	C. of Amery
	North Park	C. of Amery
	North Twin Park	C. of Amery
	Soldier's Field	C. of Amery
	Triangle/Schumacher Park	C. of Amery
	Soo Line Park	C. of Amery
	Softball Field	C. of Amery
	York Park	C. of Amery
	Dam Site Park	C. of Amery
	Michael Park	C. of Amery
City of St. Croix Falls	Water Tower Park	C. of St. Croix Falls
	Lions Park	C. of St. Croix Falls
	Jerusalem Pond	C. of St. Croix Falls
	Overlook Park	C. of St. Croix Falls
	Florence Baker Riegel Memorial Park	C. of St. Croix Falls
	Riverfront Park	C. of St. Croix Falls
	Downtown Mini-Park	C. of St. Croix Falls

*Cemeteries*

Table 4.11 lists the cemeteries in Polk County as identified at the Polk County USGenWeb site (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wiPolk/>) and in the book *Cemetery Locations in Wisconsin* compiled by Linda Herrick and Wendy Uncapher. Cemeteries are arranged by general township area with town names given for ease of reference; the actual cemetery location may be within a city or village located within a listed town. This list does not necessarily include all smaller cemeteries, family plots, or Native American burial sites. Further, some of these cemeteries may be no longer in use. As needed, each individual

community plan may identify any additional known cemeteries and any issues, needs, or policies related to those cemeteries in their community.

**Table 4.11 – Polk County Cemeteries**

Township Area	Cemeteries
Alden	East Emmanuel
	Little Falls Lutheran
	Wagon Landing (Mason Landing)
	West Emmanuel
Apple River	Apple River Township aka Shiloh
	Balsam Luthern
	Range aka Elim
	St. Ann's
	St. Mary's
Balsam Lake <i>includes V. of Balsam Lake</i>	Balsam Lake
Beaver	Mount Hope
Black Brook	Black Brook
Bone Lake	Bone Lake
	Zion Lutheran
Clam Falls	Clam Falls
	Lewis (Lundeen)
Clayton <i>includes V. of Clayton</i>	Clayton (Marsh Lake or Mission)
	Swedish Emmanuel
Clear Lake <i>includes V. of Clear Lake</i>	Clear Lake
	Moe
	Swedish Congregation
Eureka	Grannum
	McAskill Family
	New Home
	North Valley
	Pleasant Hill
	Pleasant Valley
	St. John Lutheran
Farmington	Assumption Catholic
	Farmington Center
	Oak Grove Lutheran
	Ramsey
	St. Mary's Catholic

**Table 4.11 –Polk County Cemeteries** *continued*

<b>Township Area</b>	<b>Cemeteries</b>
Garfield	Deronda
	El Salem
	Garfield
	Trinity Luthern
Georgetown	Georgetown Free Lutheran
	Holy Rosary (Georgetown Catholic)
	Georgetown Evangelical (Georgetown Lutheran)
	Bunyan Union Protestant (Union Free)
Johnstown	German Evangelical Lutheran (Christ Lutheran)
	Indian (Johnstown Township)
Laketown	Cushing
	Haustrup
	Laketown Lutheran (Tamarack)
	Pleasant Valley (Union)
Lincoln <i>includes C. of Amery</i>	Amery
	Apple River Free Mission
	Lincoln
	Fox
	Poor Farm
	Travelers Rest (Volga)
	East Lincoln
Lorain	Lorain (Lorain Methodist)
Luck <i>includes V. of Luck</i>	Lawson
	Luck
	St. Peter Lutheran
	West Denmark
McKinley	Corpus Christie
	McKinley
	McKinley Township
Milltown <i>includes V. of Milltown</i>	Milltown
	St. Patrick's Catholic (Long Lake Catholic)
Osceola <i>includes Villages of Osceola &amp; Dresser</i>	Bethesda Lutheran (Sand Lake Lutheran)
	Mount Hope
	Pleasant Prairie (Hale)
	St. Peter's (Dresser)
St. Croix Falls <i>includes City of St. Croix Falls &amp; V. of Centuria</i>	Fristad Lutheran (Centuria)
	St. Croix Falls
Sterling	The Barrens (Evergreen or Old Settlers)
	Strout
	Wolf Creek
West Sweden <i>includes V. of Frederic</i>	West Sweden
	Maple Grove
	Grace Evangelic Lutheran
	St. Dominic

### *Dams*

In total, Polk County has 46 dams, most being small earthen works for livestock or recreational ponds and flowages. Only 16 dams have more than 10-acre feet of normal storage. Fifteen new dams, all of which are small and would be privately owned, are currently being planned or are approved, but not yet built. One private-owned dam on a tributary to Little Mirror Lake is being removed.

In most cases, if one of the smaller dams failed, the runoff downstream would have minimal impact. For instance, when the Kennedy Mill Dam in the Town of Garfield washed out in 2001, damage was confined to the area immediately downstream from the dam; no flooding problems were caused by this dam failure farther downstream, and water levels on Lake Wapogasset rose by only one-quarter inch. An exception was the 2002 failure of the Upper Osceola dam which caused substantial damage downstream within the Village of Osceola; this dam was not replaced and a buy-out of 19 manufactured housing units was implemented which will prevent such damage in the future. There may be the potential to remove some of the older smaller dams which no longer serve a function, in order to improve water quality and lower the risk of failure.

The following is a list of governments which own dams, dikes, or levees in Polk County:

Polk County (4)	Kennedy, Woodley/Ridler, Atlas/Long Trade Lake, Big Butternut Lake
Polk & Barron County (1)	Horseshoe Lake Canal
Town of Clam Falls	Godfrey Lake Dam
Town of Milltown	Half Moon Lake Dam
C. of Amery/T. of Lincoln	Amery Dam
V. of Osceola	Lower Osceola Dam
V. of Turtle Lake	Skinaway Lake Dam
Wisconsin DNR (5)	Straight Lake (2), Lake of the Dalles, Beaver Brook, Joel Marsh WLA
U.S. Fish & Wildlife (2)	Prairie Flats 1 & 3 (Small)

There are four high hazard dams in the county, of which only one (Amery Dam) is owned by a municipality or governmental entity. Two of the high hazard dams (Lower Balsam Lake Dam and St. Croix Falls Dam) are owned by utility companies. The fourth high hazard dam (Big Rock Creek Farm Dam) is privately owned and associated with a fish hatchery. The hazard rating does not reflect the attributes or strength of the dam, but is based on potential loss of life and property damage if the dam should break and the controls in place down river to limit such damage (e.g., floodplain zoning). All of these dams are highly regulated, inspected regularly, and have emergency action plans on file with the Polk County Emergency Management office.

The Ridler/Woodley Dam currently has neglected status. The dam was constructed in the early 1900's for electric generation and served such a purpose until the 1970's. The earthen section of the dam failed in 1965. In May 2001, the dam started leaking and was topped, resulting in major damage to the powerhouse and spillway, but the structure was saved after a massive local sandbagging effort. In February 2002, Polk County acquired the dam by tax deed. In 2002, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) ordered the draw-down of the dam and its removal or replacement (Order #3-NO-2002-49045st). Polk County replied with a letter of intent to abandon the dam, though the dam's removal has not yet taken place. While downstream vulnerability to homes and private property has been deemed low by the DNR, the failure of the Woodley dam could impact other downstream bridges and dams, such as the high-hazard potential dam at Amery. At the time of the development of this plan, the Woodley Dam has been removed.

For additional details on the dams of Polk County, their hazard ratings, and some key development trends in dam shadows, please see the *Polk County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan*.

### *Other Government Facilities*

No comprehensive list of every government facility in Polk County exists. Such facilities can range from administrative and recreation buildings to airports and dams. Utilities, such as municipal wastewater, have corresponding facilities. The law enforcement and emergency services identified previously also have associated facilities, though some of these services may be co-located with other municipal functions. The following government facilities or related services have been discussed in other sections of this report:

Airports & Transportation Infrastructure	see transportation section
Public Wastewater Treatment Facilities	previously in this section
Municipal & Community Water Systems	previously in this section
Law Enforcement & Emergency Services	previously in this section
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities	previously in this section
Schools	previously in this section
Libraries	previously in this section
Dams	previously in this section

Polk County and local municipal governments each have at least one structure in which administrative functions are carried out and services are provided. Towns, villages, and smaller cities typically have a single hall or municipal building, while larger villages, cities, and counties may have multiple buildings. Separate structures are also required for road, highway, public works, and maintenance; these sites may include recycling drop-off facilities as well. In towns, the "town

shop” is often co-located with the town hall, but not in all cases. Most counties have a primary Highway Department facility, with a number of smaller ancillary facilities for the storage of vehicles, salt, sand, etc., strategically located throughout the county.

## **4.2 SWOT ANALYSIS**

### Strengths:

- Electrical & natural gas distribution lines located near population centers
- Soils that filter storm water & allow for storm water infiltration
- Excellent water supply in most locations
- Access via road network
- New existing facilities (i.e. school & government)
- 3 new medical centers
- Existing recycling facility and satellite locations for recycling
- Volunteer staffing of emergency services
- County-wide dispatch system
- Federal/State/County/Local recreational resources

### Weaknesses:

- Small community reliance on a few individuals for essential services
- Lack of redundancy in telecommunications/data
- Development concentrated in areas without adequate sewer and water facilities/capacity
- Safety force/emergency services response times in certain locations within the county
- Staffing of emergency services (# of deputies on patrol at one time)
- Lack of elder care facilities
- Most must drive to facilities and services (overreliance on personal transportation)
- Lack of post-high school educational opportunities
- Limitations to cell phone coverage due to geography/topography
- Geographic boundaries don't provide for best emergency response
- Residential development without provision for shared facilities in case of failure/ground water impacts

### Opportunities:

- Increase recycling
- Increase protection of groundwater
- Increase emergency service boundaries
- Increase consolidation to improve service levels and decrease monetary expenditures
- Increase elder care opportunities
- Parks & Recreation planning to provide equal access for all residents

- Energy production & distribution alternatives (wind, solar, biofuels, methane, incinerator, etc.)
- Use of stormwater Best Management Practices
- Cluster Development-Housing/Shared Water and Sanitary
- Telecommunications IMP (WIFI)
- Electrical, natural gas, and telecommunication services represent money leaving the county. Are there ways that we could capture some of this and keep it in the county?

Threats:

- Inappropriate development negatively impacting groundwater resources
- Inability of existing water & sanitary systems to accommodate new growth
- Landfill capacity/Cost of disposal
- Decreasing funding for recycling and resource protection
- The number of cemeteries/capacity
- Lack of redundancy in telecommunications and power
- Lack of redundancy in staffing of critical services
- Lack of funding at all levels of government
- Overreliance on volunteers for emergency services

### **4.3 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES**

#### ***Goal 1: Ensure adequacy capacity for future growth***

##### Objectives:

##### Electrical:

- 1) *Generation: provide for emerging technologies*
- 2) *Distribution: adequate traditional distribution and enable emerging technology*
- 3) *Efficiency/Conservation: Reduce demand*

##### Natural Gas

- *Distribution: enable expansion of existing*
- *Generation: Enable technology*

##### Telecom

- *Provide adequate redundancy*
- *Eliminate cell phone coverage voids*
- *Enhance broadband capacity and options*

##### Water

- *Adequate capacity for industrial and commercial expansion*
- *Encourage development where adequate resources exist*
- *Encourage monitoring/sampling for potential contaminants in groundwater*

##### Sanitary

- *Encourage development in areas served with adequate service*
- *Encourage shared septic/sanitary facilities in new developments*
- *Provide for appropriate disposal of septage/holding tank waste*

##### Solid Waste

- *Ensure adequate disposal facilities (hazardous waste, traditional waste streams, E-waste, etc.)*
- *Reduce amount of materials ending up in landfills*
- *Encourage increased recycling*

##### Elder Care

- *Provide adequate capacity/options for aging population*

- *Options to allow for aging in place*
- *Locate in proximity to adequate facilities*

#### Hospitals

- *Evaluate level of service based on development patterns*

#### Cemeteries

- *Study adequate capacity*
- *Maintenance of existing*
- *Alternative burial practices*

#### Fire and Rescue

- *Emergency communications adequacy/standards*
- *Consolidation/redistribution to maximize coverage/response times*

#### Law Enforcement

- *Look at shared services/consolidation*

#### Schools

- *Evaluate consolidation/shared services*
- *Support alternative delivery (home school, charter, virtual)*
- *Pursue post-secondary options*

#### Parks and Recreation

- *Work with local governments to distribute based on population*
- *Options to upkeep*
- *Implement recommendations of the Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan*
- *Resolve compatibility issues on trails*

#### Child Care

- *Licensing/minimum standards*
- *Locations*

#### Libraries

- *Consolidation*
- *Service options/alternatives*

## **Goal 2: Safeguard public and environmental health**

### *Elder Care*

- *Adequate options for "Aging in Place"*
- *Quality of care*
- *Cost of care versus services provided (consumer protection)*

### *Waste Disposal*

- *Encourage increased recycling and reuse*
- *Adequate disposal of hazardous materials*
- *Adequate solid waste disposal, transfer stations, and*

### *land fills*

- *Options for reuse of construction materials*

### *Emergency Services*

- *Adequate dispatch*
- *Minimize response time*

### *Sanitary*

- *Monitoring of all on-site sanitary systems*
- *Encourage development in proximity to centralized disposal/treatment systems*
- *Encourage disposal of septage/holding tank waste at licensed treatment facilities*
- *Evaluate treatment alternatives (large scale)*
- *Develop standards that allow for alternative options*

### *(small scale)*

### *Water*

- *Wellhead protection (pollutants, geothermal impacts)*
- *Agricultural pollutants*
- *Non-point source pollution*
- *Reuse of grey water*
- *Impacts from non-metallic mining*

### *Medical/Hospital/Clinics*

- *Ensure adequate access*

### *Service Delivery*

- *Evaluate boundaries/constraints that reduce levels of service*
- *Encourage intergovernmental cooperation/consolidation*
- *Evaluate and develop options/alternatives based on reduced numbers of volunteers*

***Goal 3: Evaluate and promote alternative energy and energy efficiency options***

*Objectives:*

- 1) Solar, wind, geothermal, hydro-electric, bio-fuels, etc.*
- 2) Utilize existing programs that promote energy efficiency, such as Focus on Energy*
- 3) Consider alternative fuel vehicles for county fleet*