

## Community Facilities

### Introduction

When choosing a community to live in, the community facilities that serve residents' basic needs are an important factor. Education, safety, and health care are factors that potential residents and employers look at when choosing where to live or locate a business. In many cases, the needs for community facilities cross municipal boundaries, and as a result, regional intergovernmental coordination and coordination between the public and private sector are fundamental to providing the best quality community facilities. Improved coordination allows communities to combine resources to eliminate duplication of services and achieve economies of scale.

Intergovernmental coordination is already occurring across the region. Local governments within the region have mutual aid agreements for fire and police services and both public school districts serve multiple communities. Coordination between the public and private sector facility providers is also imperative. Private entities in Dubuque County provide education, emergency medical services, hospital services, and childcare facilities. Local governments need to work with private facilities providers to provide the highest level of service to their residents.

The goal of this chapter is to provide high quality community facilities to all residents of Dubuque County by maintaining the existing intergovernmental and public-private facilities relationships, and looking for areas to establish new relationships. This chapter will provide an inventory of the Dubuque County's community facilities, as they exist today, and will then provide a list of goals and objectives that will help the region provide the best quality community facilities to its residents. The region's primary community facilities are included in **Maps 1.1 through 1.7**.

### Education

There are two public school districts within Dubuque County: Dubuque Community School District and Western Dubuque Community School District (WDCSD). The Dubuque Community School District provides Pre K-12 education for children in the cities of Dubuque, Asbury, Durango, Graf Sageville, Sherrill, and the eastern half (approximate) of Dubuque County. Dubuque Community School District operates fourteen elementary schools, three middle schools, and two high schools.

The Western Dubuque Community School District provides Pre K-12 education for the western half of Dubuque County including: Balltown, Rickardsville, Centralia, Peosta, Bankston, Holy Cross, Luxemburg, New Vienna, Epworth, Farley, Dyersville, Worthington, Cascade, and Bernard. WDCSD operates six elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools.

In addition to public schools, Dubuque County is home to several private schools. Holy Family Catholic School (HFCS) provides pre-K through 12 education in the City of Dubuque. Holy Family currently operates five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. A group of catholic schools provides private education in the western half of Dubuque County. Private schools in western Dubuque County include three K-6 schools, two K-8 schools, one K-3 school, one 4-8 school, and one 7-12 high school. The table below contains enrollment information for all Dubuque County schools.

School Enrollment	Dubuque Community	Western Dubuque Community	Holy Family Catholic Schools	Private Schools in Western Dubuque
Elementary	4,675	1,174	818	890
Middle School	2,382	578	457	280
High School	3,298	1,036	586	340
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,355</b>	<b>2,788</b>	<b>1,861</b>	<b>1,510</b>

Data Source: Dubuque Community Schools, Western Dubuque Community Schools, Holy Family Catholic Schools, and the Arch Diocese of Dubuque.

### Future Needs

The Dubuque Community School District is in the process of developing a long range facilities plan. The District expects to have the plan completed in 2011.

Western Dubuque Community School District contracted with Key Concepts, LLC., to produce a facilities study in 2008. Information used in the study was based on the Districts 2007-2008 school year, and was provided by the US Census Bureau, the WDCSD, the Iowa Department of Management, the Iowa Department of Education, and the Iowa Association of School Boards. Census data indicated population growth in the district, with the fastest growth occurring in the City of Peosta. The study noted recent enrollment increases at Peosta and Epworth schools, and declining enrollment at Cascade Jr./Sr. High. The report presented seven organizational concepts, along with analysis of the costs and benefits associated with each. Since the publication of the facilities study, the district has taken on several construction projects including Drexler Middle School in Farley, construction of a new elementary school in Dyersville, and an expansion of Cascade Elementary School. WDCSD has also adopted a new school attendance center boundary map. The map, also developed by Key Concepts, LLC., was adopted in February of 2011.

Holy Family Catholic schools are in the process of creating a new facilities plan. In February 2011, the district released a demographic analysis that was compiled by AltaVista Research, Inc. The report included analysis of data from multiple sources including Iowa Vital Statistics, Woods and Poole (Trends and Predictive Data), American Community Survey, Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Bureau of Planning, Research and Evaluation, and Holy Family Catholic Schools Data. The report presented the following conclusions from the analysis.

- While population in Iowa is growing in general, the greatest growth areas are Hispanic and other non-Caucasian demographics, as well as geographic areas.
- Private schools' share of students in Iowa has trended down over the last 25 years.
- HFCS's share of students has also gone down, but may have stabilized somewhat recently.
- Most population growth in the area has been in communities near Dubuque but not in Dubuque per se.

- Some surrounding towns frequently referred to as “bedroom communities,” have seen significant growth in the last 10 years. Two examples include Asbury and Peosta.
- External factors such as significant changes in state funding for pre-K programs, school consolidation in public or parochial schools, and tuition rates in the Holy Family System could all have major impacts to the local level that are difficult to predict and model.
- The current economy is working against private schools, including HFCS, from the standpoint of making the cost of private education more challenging to keep affordable for lower and middle income brackets.

### **Colleges and Universities**

Loras College is a Catholic liberal arts college located in Dubuque that was established in 1839. Loras College offers undergraduate degrees in over forty areas of study, and several graduate degrees. Total enrollment at Loras College for the 2010-2011 school year was 1,565.

Clarke University was founded in 1843 in Dubuque by Sister Mary Frances Clarke. Originally founded as a liberal arts college for women, Clarke University has expanded and now offers over forty undergraduate and five graduate programs to both men and women. Clarke University’s official enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year was 1,202.

The University of Dubuque was originally established as a seminary in 1856. Over time, the curriculum was expanded and a liberal arts college was established. The college officially became the University of Dubuque in 1920. Today, the University of Dubuque offers twenty-four undergraduate majors and five graduate majors. In 2008, the University of Dubuque had an official enrollment of 1,451.

Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) is a two-year community college with locations across Northeastern Iowa. NICC has three locations in Dubuque County: Dubuque Center for Education in Dubuque, and Town Clock Center for Professional Development in Dubuque, and the Peosta Campus in Peosta. NICC offers Associate’s degrees, GED preparation, English literacy classes, and adult transition services. The Town Clock Center is a full-service learning and conference center offering non-credit personal and professional development opportunities for individuals as well as customized sessions designed for businesses, organizations, or community groups.

Based in Epworth, Iowa, Divine Word College is a Roman Catholic seminary that educates men and women for missionary service as priests, brothers, sisters, and laypersons. Divine word offers an education that combines spiritual education, a liberal arts curriculum, and language learning. Established in 1931, Divine Word College today offers three major areas of study and the Intensive English Language Institute.

Emmaus Bible College, originally established in Toronto, Canada in 1938 moved to Dubuque in 1984. All students who attend Emmaus earn a bible major. Students may also add a second major in Elementary Education, Computer Information Systems, Intercultural Studies, or Youth Ministries. Currently, 250 students are enrolled at Emmaus Bible College.

Established in 1854, Wartburg Theological Seminary is an Evangelical Lutheran seminary that trains students to become leaders in the Lutheran Church. The Seminary campus is located on the southwest side of Dubuque, and has an enrollment of approximately 200 students.

### **Libraries**

Dubuque County is served by four public libraries. The Carnegie-Stout Public Library in Dubuque is the largest with a collection of over 270,000 volumes, 600 periodical and newspaper subscriptions, and a wide variety of audio and video materials. Collections of special note are an obituary file dating to the late 1850s and a newspaper index to the Telegraph Herald and other local newspapers. The Dubuque County Library serves the communities of Dubuque County with branches located in Asbury, Epworth, Farley, and Holy Cross. The County Library has agreements to provide library service to communities that do not have their own library. The Peosta Community Library will be opening in July, 2011 at NICC, this is a joint venture between NICC, the Dubuque County Library and the City of Peosta. The James Kennedy Public Library is located on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East in Dyersville, and the Cascade Public Library is located in downtown Cascade.

### **Health Care**

The Finley Hospital and Mercy Medical Center in the City of Dubuque provide a full range of health care services to Dubuque County residents. The Finley Hospital has 126 staffed beds, 875 employees, and 376 volunteers. Mercy Medical Center is a non-profit catholic hospital that has 263 beds, and 1,200 staff including a medical staff of 230. In addition to their Dubuque location, Mercy Medical Center operates a 25-bed hospital in the City of Dyersville. Mercy - Dyersville serves 17 rural communities with emergency, acute and skilled care, and offers extensive rehabilitation services, surgery, home care, specialty clinics and more. A 40-bed nursing home and physician practice are also on the campus.

In addition to the two larger hospitals, there are three main physician's groups in Dubuque County: Medical Associates Clinic and Health Plans, Dubuque Internal Medicine, and The Tri-State Independent Physician's Association. These groups provide a broad range of primary care and surgical specialties. Dubuque County is also served by approximately 100 physicians in independent or group practices.

Crescent Community Health Center is a medical and dental clinic located in Dubuque that provides basic (primary) medical and oral health care. Crescent Community Health Center serves individuals and families who are uninsured, underinsured, and those with various types of insurance. The clinic determines service costs for uninsured patients using a sliding fee scale that is based upon the household income and size. Crescent Community Health Center welcomes patients from any area.

### **Future Needs**

The Dubuque County Board of Health identified the needs that are the highest priority for the county in the Community Health Needs Assessment. The Priority Needs identified for Dubuque County are:

- Promote Healthy Behaviors
- Prevent Injuries

- Protect Against Environmental Hazards
- Prevent Epidemics and the Spread of Disease
- Prepare for, Respond to, and Recover from Public Health Emergencies
- Strengthen Public Health Infrastructure

### **Child Care**

Iowa law limits the number of children a center may provide child care for without a license or registration as a child development home. A provider caring for six or more children must be registered, and a provider caring for seven or more children must be licensed. According to Iowa Department of Human Services, there are 40 licensed daycare centers and 120 registered child development homes in Dubuque County. There are also numerous unregistered centers that care for five or fewer children. Registered and licensed childcare centers in Dubuque County have the capacity to care for 4,372 children.

### **Law Enforcement**

Dubuque County is served by seven municipal law enforcement agencies and the Dubuque County Sheriff's department.

**Dubuque County Sheriff's Department** – The recognized societal obligations of the Dubuque County Sheriff's Office are the preservation of the peace, the prevention of crime, the safe-guarding of civil rights, and the maintenance of social order with justice, equity, and freedom for all. The department provides law enforcement service primarily to the rural areas and smaller municipalities of Dubuque County. The divisions of the department consist of patrol, jail, criminal investigation, courthouse security, and civil process.

The Sheriff's Department has a staff of 106 employees. The department consists of seventy full time sworn deputies, eleven part-time Correctional Officers, eight courthouse security officers, four full time clerical positions, two part-time clerical positions, three full-time control room operators, five maintenance persons, and three ancillary employees.

The Sheriff's Office has jurisdiction in all incorporated and unincorporated areas of Dubuque County and has 28E Mutual Aid agreements with all local police departments in the county.

**City of Dubuque Police Department** - The Dubuque Police Department is responsible for providing community service and protection, creating a safe and secure environment for the citizens of Dubuque. It also provides for maintenance, materials, supplies, and repairs necessary for the operation of the department at the Dubuque Law Enforcement Center and department vehicles; as well as completing all requirements to maintain its status as an accredited law enforcement agency. Service is provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Police Department consists of the following sworn staff: one Chief of Police, one Assistant Chief, six Captains, twelve Lieutenants, fifteen Corporals, seventy-four Officers; and civilian staff consisting of one

full-time Information Services Support staff, two full-time Confidential Account Clerks, two full-time Records Clerks, two part-time records Clerks, one full-time Records Supervisor, and one part-time Receptionist.

**Asbury Police Department** - The Asbury Police Department is located at 4985 Asbury Road. Calls for service are handled by the Dubuque County Sheriff's Office through the Dubuque County Communications Center. The Asbury Police Department provides a number of crime prevention programs including neighborhood watch, operation identification, and vacation home checks.

**Cascade Police Department** - The Cascade Police Department serves the City of Cascade with emergency and non-emergency services. The services include, but are not limited to police emergency, crime prevention, and education for organizations, civic groups and private business. The Department is involved in an unofficial School Resource Program and works closely with the schools within the school district. The police department is based on community oriented police services.

**Dyersville Police Department** - The Dyersville Police Department is staffed by six full-time officers, three part-time officers, and two bike officers (college interns) during the summer months. Police responsibilities include: traffic enforcement, criminal investigations, dispute mediation, accident investigation, crisis intervention, animal calls, school and youth programs, radar and security checks for businesses, gun safety, and community event support.

**Epworth Police Department** - The Epworth Police Department has one police officer and occasional part-time officers. The City has mutual aid partnerships with the City of Peosta, the City of Farley and with Dubuque County.

**Farley Police Department** – The Farley Police Department provides law enforcement services to the city of Farley. One full time officer and one part time officer staff the Department.

**Peosta Police Department** - Peosta currently has one full-time police chief, the City has also formed mutual aid partnerships with the City of Epworth and Dubuque County. In FY 2012, the Department will be adding a part time (24 hours per week) officer.

#### Future Needs

The City of Dubuque Police Department has projected that it will need to increase the number of patrol areas from six to seven as the city expands and annexes more land. In 2007, Dubuque adopted a plan to add an additional 14 police officers over a five year period. The last of these officers will be added to the force in FY 2011.

#### **Fire and Emergency Medical Services**

##### Fire Departments

The fire departments that serve Dubuque County are responsible for the protection of life and property from fire, the handling of emergencies involving hazardous materials, natural and manmade disasters, as well as semi-emergency situations where time is a critical element in protecting the health and safety of the citizens. The Departments also provide maintenance, materials, supplies and repairs necessary for the operation of fire stations and Fire Department vehicles. In addition, some departments provide emergency and non-emergency medical treatment and transport for citizens and visitors of the County. The City of Dubuque Fire Department is the largest with six fire stations and 90 employees. The table below contains a list of the fire departments that serve Dubuque County.

Asbury	Bernard	Cascade	Centralia-Peosta
Dyersville	Dubuque	Epworth	Farley
Holy Cross	Key West	New Vienna	Sherrill
Worthington			

#### Future Needs

The City of Dubuque has looked into the possibility of adding a seventh fire station on the City’s west side. New residential and commercial development in the area has created higher demand for fire services. According to the City’s Capital Improvement Budget, a Fire and Emergency Response Study was completed in November 2006 by the Matrix Consulting Group. The report stated, “As development occurs, the City should add one additional station and relocate one current station to accommodate the increase in fire department workload. The scenario would consist of adding a station at or near Chavenelle Road to provide service to the west side of the City.” To act on this recommendation, the city created a CIP budget item to provide funds to begin preparing the site, with design of the facility anticipated in FY 2015. In fall 2007, the City Council approved a purchase agreement with Dubuque Initiatives for 1.8 acres along the NW Arterial in the Dubuque Industrial Park to provide a site for the new West End fire station.

#### Emergency Medical Services

In Dubuque County, emergency medical services are provided by several public and private agencies. A list of the EMS providers currently operating in Dubuque County can be found below.

Name	Service Level	Service Type	City
Bi-County Ambulance Inc	Ambulance	PS	Dyersville
Dubuque Fire Department	Ambulance	PS	Dubuque
Epworth Community Vol. Firemen Inc.	Ambulance	PS	Epworth
Farley Emergency Medical Services, Inc.	Ambulance	EMT - Paramedic	Farley
Holy Cross Volunteer Fire Dept	Ambulance	EMT - Paramedic	Holy Cross
Asbury Community Fire Department	Ambulance	PS	Dubuque
Paramount EMS	Ambulance	PS	Dubuque
Bernard Rescue Unit, Inc.	Ambulance	PS	Bernard
Sherrill Fire Department	Ambulance	PS	Sherrill

Centralia/Peosta Emergency Services	Ambulance	EMT - Paramedic	Peosta
Key West Fire and EMS	Ambulance	PS	Dubuque
Advanced Medical Transport-Dubuque	Ambulance	PS	Dubuque
Cascade Emergency Medical Services	Ambulance	PS	Cascade
Worthington Community Fire Dept	Non-transport	First Responder	Worthington
New Vienna Luxemburg Fire Dept	Non-transport	EMT - Basic	New Vienna
Dubuque County Support Service	Non-transport	EMT - Basic	Dubuque
Dyersville Fire Department	Non-transport	First Responder	Dyersville

PS - Paramedic Specialist

Data Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

### **The Dubuque Law Enforcement and County Communications Center**

The Dubuque Law Enforcement Center (DLEC) is located at 770 Iowa St. in Dubuque. The DLEC was completed in 1974 and houses the Dubuque Police Department, The Dubuque County Sheriff's Office, The Dubuque Communications Center, and the Dubuque County Jail.

The Dubuque County Communications Center is located inside the Dubuque Law Enforcement Center and serves all of Dubuque County. In July of 1985 the City of Dubuque and Dubuque County consolidated all public safety communications within Dubuque County into a Joint Public Safety Answering and Dispatch Point (PSAP). The Emergency Communications Center is the answering point for all emergency and non emergency calls requesting Ambulances, Fire and Law Enforcement for the residents of and visitors to City of Dubuque and Dubuque County. The Communications Center will dispatch the proper units and provide appropriate care and information until responders have arrived at the scene. The Emergency Communications Center is also the afterhours answering point for most city services. The Communications Center is responsible for all the 911 phone and radio equipment used in Dubuque County. Service is provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Emergency Communications Department consists of the following staff: 1 Emergency Communications Manager, 3 Lead Dispatchers, 9 Public Safety Dispatchers, and 6 part-time Public Safety Dispatchers.

### **Multi Disciplinary Safety Team (MDST)**

Dubuque is one of six communities in Iowa that supports a Multi Disciplinary Safety Team (MDST). The Dubuque MDST is made up of engineers, planners, law enforcement, transit, emergency responders. The primary focus of the Dubuque MDST is traffic safety. The Dubuque MDST uses multidisciplinary approaches to help address local safety concerns as they arise. Their efforts include: traffic conditions, transportation planning, event traffic, public emergencies, school traffic, business traffic, parking patterns, traffic management, incident management, and construction planning.

### **Parks**

**Dubuque County** - The Dubuque County Conservation Board manages approximately 2,300 acres in eighteen sites throughout the County. The parks and nature preserves managed by the Conservation

Board provide hunting, fishing, campgrounds, biking and hiking trails, nature preserves, picnic areas, and boat ramps. The Swiss Valley Nature Center is the primary facility for the Conservation Board's environmental education programs. Conservation staff provide hands on learning to over 13,000 students and public at Swiss Valley each year. The Conservation Board also maintains several recreational trails including the Heritage Trail, a twenty-six mile trail that runs between Dubuque and Dyersville.

**City of Dubuque** - The Park Division and Recreation Division of the Leisure Services Department manage the City of Dubuque's Recreational Facilities. These divisions provide services to the entire community through diverse recreational programs for all ages and an integrated, efficient, and safe system of parks, trails, and recreational facilities. The department also plans, develops, and maintains the formal public landscaping and natural areas in and around the City, demonstrating an appreciation for the environment. Park Division staff grow 70,000 annual flowers in a greenhouse and plant them in the park system and on city property. The Division also maintains the landscaping on Highway 20, the Port of Dubuque, gateways to the downtown area, and other locations within the City. The City of Dubuque Recreation Division staff offers a variety of recreational programs for people of all ages. Program areas include adult athletics, recreation classes, summer playground program, programs for low and moderate income families, and aquatic programs. Recreation staff also operate the 18-hole Bunker Hill golf course.

The City of Dubuque Park Division staff maintains:

- 47 parks with 878 acres
- 25 park shelters
- 19 tennis courts
- 18 restrooms
- Four accessible fishing piers
- Two skate parks
- 262 units of play equipment
- Disc golf course
- In-line hockey rink
- Eight softball fields, one baseball field
- 4600 street trees
- 18 miles of trails
- 1000 picnic tables

**State of Iowa** - The Mines of Spain Recreation Area and E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center are located on 1,380 acres of wooded and prairie land just south of the City of Dubuque. The area has been designated as a National Historic Landmark and includes Julien Dubuque's Monument at a point just above where Catfish Creek meets the Mississippi. One of Iowa's "Watchable Wildlife Areas," it features the E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center which serves as the Visitor Center and the Park Office. Park attractions include the Horseshoe Bluff Interpretive Trail, a 15 acre wetland, creeks, forest, prairies, cropland, meadows and views of the Mississippi River. The Mines of Spain State Recreation Area was dedicated in 1981. It was acquired with the assistance of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. In 1993, the area was designated as a National Historic Landmark.

**City of Asbury** - The City of Asbury maintains three parks and a pedestrian trail. Maple Hills Park is located at the end of Burr Oak Drive and has a softball diamond, tot lot and picnic tables. Asbury Park is located on Asbury Road by Springgreen Drive. Asbury Park has a baseball diamond, basketball court, two tennis courts, and two hard surface volleyball courts, all of which are lighted. Asbury Park also has

swings, slides, tot toys, picnic tables, grills, restrooms, a sand volleyball court and shelters. Information on reserving a shelter can be obtained by calling the city clerk's office at City Hall. Althaus Wetland and Nature Preserve is located off Wintergreen Drive. The citywide trail system connects from Althaus Wetland to Maple Hills Park. The City is developing a new park between Park Place and Summer Drive. The City also operates the 18-hole Meadows Golf Club.

**City of Farley** - The City of Farley maintains two city parks. Westside Park, a small park on the city's west side includes a shelter, swings, slides, and monkeybars. Farley City Park is home to four ball diamonds, several pavilions, swings, monkeybars, a merry-go-round, horseshoe pits, and tennis, volleyball and basketball courts.

**City of Dyersville** - Dyersville offers a wonderful selection of recreational areas and programs, which rivals park systems at communities many times its size. With 100 acres of land, the Park and Recreation Department oversees the city's parks, shelters, skateboard park, baseball, softball and soccer fields, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, concession stand, the Aquatics Center and a variety of recreational programs.

**City of Peosta** - Peosta has two parks. The Peosta City Park is located at 8579 Tennis Lane and is open from 6 a.m. through 11 p.m. daily. Amenities include a pavilion, playground equipment and a tennis court. The Peosta Community Centre located at 7896 Burds Road offers a variety of adult and children's fitness and recreational activities including basketball, volleyball, racquetball and tennis courts, indoor walking track, batting cage, cardio and weight training equipment, fitness classes, and other various programs. There is also a banquet room that can seat up to 620 guests and meeting room space available for smaller gatherings. A.J. Spiegel Park is located behind the Peosta Community Centre. The baseball complex consists of a semi-pro baseball diamond and two little league/softball fields. The baseball diamond is the home field for Clarke University of Dubuque, the Peosta Cubs Semi-Pro team, and the Peosta Babe Ruth team.

**City of Epworth** - The City of Epworth operates two parks. Centennial Ballpark is a Softball and baseball complex that offers league and tournament events. Tower Park, located near the center of town, offers a playground and a picnic facility with pavilion and grills. The park also offers public tennis courts for open play of tennis and basketball 8 am to 8 p.m. The City also maintains the Jacoby Walkway, a one-mile walking trail along Jacoby Drive at the south city limits. The City plans to extend the trail to the east and to the north to connect with the city sidewalk system.

**City of Cascade** - The City of Cascade has three community parks. The Community Park is the largest park at just over 8 acres. It offers a large playground a baseball/softball diamond, concession stand, two tennis courts, a basketball court, two sand volleyball courts, several pavilions, restrooms, and large parking lot. The Swimming Pool Park contains the Cascade Municipal Swimming Pool. The pool offers a concession stand, a small water slide, and diving boards. The park also has a small play area with playground equipment. The Riverview Park offers a great view and access to the North Fork Maquoketa River and the river falls. The park is a little over an acre in size and offers a pavilion, restrooms, small child playground, and a river landing.