

## Chapter 7: Utilities and Community Facilities

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Residents and businesses in the City of Appleton are served by a diverse set of public and private utilities and other service providers. Wisconsin's Smart Growth Law requires that comprehensive plans describe current utilities and public facilities, and provide guidance concerning the future need for new services or the rehabilitation of existing ones. This chapter provides a discussion of a majority of the utilities and public facilities in Appleton, excepting those such as parks and cultural facilities, which are addressed elsewhere in greater detail within the **Comprehensive Plan**.

Appleton's quality of life is enhanced by outstanding and reliable utilities and services. These help to make Appleton a good place for residents and businesses alike. The City will continue to maintain a high standard of service for those utilities, services, and facilities under its direct management, and will work with others to ensure that they are supported in continuing to deliver quality service to their customers.

## Water and Wastewater Utilities

Responsibility for Appleton's water and wastewater systems is split between the Department of Public Works, which maintains the distribution and collections systems, the water utility which operates the water treatment plant and storage facilities, and the wastewater utility which operates the wastewater treatment plant.

### Water Supply and Distribution

Appleton's first public water system was approved in an election held in 1881. This service, designed to provide fire protection and a drinking supply, was originally supplied under contract to private firms. In 1914 the City purchased the water distribution system and water plant assets. Several improvements were made over the following decades. By the mid-1990's it was apparent that a new treatment facility would be needed. The city made the decision in 1997 to build a new, state-of-the-art facility. Construction of the new Water Treatment Plant at the Manitowoc Road location was completed in July 2001. The 24 million gallon per day (MGD) facility features pretreatment with potassium permanganate and powdered activated carbon, lime softening, granular activated carbon contactors and ultraviolet light process.

The water treatment plant serves about 100,000 residents in the City of Appleton, Village of Sherwood, and Town of Grand Chute, as well as a part of the Town of Harrison. Current peak water demand is 12 million gallons per day. Because of the difference in the 24 MG capacity and a peak flow of 12 MG, Appleton can pursue other wholesale water agreements.

Appleton's drinking water is drawn from Lake Winnebago. While generally a good source of drinking water, a 2003 report by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources notes that periodic events may result in increased levels of contaminants. This points to the need for watershed management and stormwater management practices to improve water quality.

The water utility maintains six storage facilities with a total capacity of about seven million gallons. These include the Matthias Tower (1.0 million gallons), the Oneida Tower (0.5 million gallons), the North Reservoir (3.2 million gallons), the Linbergh Standpipe (1.0 million gallons), and the Ridgeway Tower (0.3 million gallons). These are located in three primary pressure zones supplied by the plant at the 914 foot elevation. The sixth tower is located in a secondary zone at the 1,000 foot elevation, and is supplied from the north reservoir. It has a capacity of 1.0 million gallons. The City is completing the Glendale Tower, with a capacity of 1.0 million gallons in the Northeast Industrial Park. Other expansion plans may include replacement of the Oneida Tower with a 1.0 million gallon tank. In addition, future growth north of the city limits or in the Town of Grand Chute



may create the need for an additional pressure zone, and the need for a tower near Edgewood Street and Haymeadow Street.

The water distribution system is maintained to provide a pressure of 35-75 psi, and to provide a minimum flow of 3,200 gallons per minute for two hours for fire protection. Most parts of the service area meet these criteria. Some lower pressure areas exist, in part due to transmission problems created by crossings of the Fox River and localized undersized and dead-ended water mains. A new transmission line was installed across the College Avenue Bridge and across the Fox River near Lutz Park to improve reliability of the overall system and improve pressure in the area southwest of the downtown.

Appleton's water distribution system is more than 100 years old in some areas. This creates challenges with maintenance, particularly where mains may be undersized. The City estimates spending approximately \$60 million by 2030 to improve the distribution system. Improvements are somewhat dictated by the ability to pay for street reconstruction in conjunction with repairs.

Planning is currently underway to extend water main to Appleton's north side growth corridors, as well as to construct a second raw water line from the Lake Station to the Water Plant, and a second intake line from Lake Winnebago to the Lake Station.

The City currently has fewer than 250 lead services within the public portion of the distribution system, with plans to eliminate almost all of these lead services within the City's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

## Wastewater Collection and Treatment

Appleton's wastewater treatment plant was first constructed in the 1930's, upgraded in the 1960's, and upgraded most recently in the 1990's. The US Environmental Protection Agency sets standards for removal of suspended solids, ammonia, nitrogen, mercury, phosphorous, and other contaminants. Under new phosphorus rules, the City will need to improve chemical treatment of phosphorus. Operating and chemical costs for this process will be adjusted accordingly. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is considering an effluent trading program that may be an alternative.

The plant has a capacity of 102 million gallons per day, which is adequate to meet the needs of the service territory and accommodate continued growth. Inflow and infiltration are a concern that sometimes causes heavy precipitation loads and consumes all of the plant's excess capacity.

The wastewater treatment plant is looking to further study the digester gas and production uses from the anaerobic digesters. This gas is composed of methane and carbon dioxide and the plant is creating 400,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/day. Process and building heat are being used to great extent, seasonally. The City is using half of what is generated so there is a possibility of further energy capture and use.

The wastewater treatment plant is also currently composting yard brush, leaves, and biosolids. While there are close to 300 of these composting facilities utilizing biosolids in the United States, Appleton is the only city in Wisconsin to do so. This current program is in the pilot stage.

About 74,000 people are served by the wastewater collection system. The system boundaries are primarily set by elevation, and are approved by the East Central Regional Planning Commission. While the city would prefer that the system operate by gravity, there are currently 14 lift stations.



Appleton's wastewater collection system is more than 75 years old in some areas. This creates challenges with inflow and infiltration into cracked and leaking pipes. The City is currently analyzing options to most cost-effectively reduce inflow and infiltration into the system. The City estimates spending approximately \$40 million by 2030 to improve the collection system.

Planning is currently underway to extend sanitary sewer to Appleton's north side growth corridors. Growth in the northern part of the service territory will result in the need for additional lift stations and force mains. These create a continuing increase in maintenance and operational costs.

## Stormwater Management

The Fox Cities region was identified in 2002 as subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Stormwater Phase II Final Rule, requiring that the communities listed must not only manage stormwater quantity, but must now also manage stormwater quality. In 2012, the EPA approved the Lower Fox River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment and phosphorus, adding additional regulatory requirements for water quality.

Appleton prepared a Stormwater Management Plan in 2005, and completed updates to the plan in 2008 and 2014. These plans have prompted to the City to enact best practices (such as street sweeping), to make improvements to existing stormwater management facilities, and to construct additional stormwater management facilities.

The city now owns and/or maintains 41 wet ponds, 11 dry ponds, 8 biofilters, one stormwater lift station and an underground flood storage facility capable of storing 14.1 acre feet of runoff. Designs for ponds at Northland Avenue, which includes another lift station, and Leona Street are underway and planned to be constructed within our 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

The City has adopted ordinances that require and regulate buildings in floodplains, construction site pollutant control, post-construction stormwater management, and illicit discharge detection and elimination.

Planning is currently underway to install practices to manage stormwater quantity and quality in Appleton's north side growth corridors. These growth areas require coordination of stormwater management with other utilities and transportation systems so that all systems function efficiently and effectively, and meet regulatory goals. The additional practices in these areas will increase operation and maintenance costs.

In order to fund and manage these activities, the City has established a stormwater utility. This is set up as an enterprise fund with a fee based on an equivalent runoff unit (ERU). An ERU is defined by the square footage of impervious surface for an average home, and represents the runoff impact for such a home. The size of an ERU varies by community, but for the City of Appleton, one ERU is equal to 2,368 square feet. Rates are based on actual results and projected future costs.

## Electrical Power and Natural Gas Utilities

WE Energies is a private utility company providing electrical power and natural gas services to Appleton customers. Natural gas was historically purchased through a single supplier (ANR Pipeline), however, Guardian Pipeline has recently constructed a 30-inch pipeline from Ixonia to Green Bay, with two laterals serving the Fox Cities. This system is now looped and is estimated to meet demand for another 20 to 30 years. In the last five years, WE Energies has expanded its gate station on Ballard Road in Appleton to further improve distribution to local customers. WE Energies continues to upgrade and consolidate its substations.



WE Energies currently has a conversion plan for upgrading the 4kV portions of its electric distribution system, typically located in the older portions of Appleton, to the new voltage standard of 12.47kV. This is scheduled to be complete in the next 5-10 years.

The electrical power distribution system is comprised of feeders and laterals with loads of 34.5 kV or less. These originate at four substations: a bulk substation on South Oneida Street north of Highway 441; a substation located on Lake Park Road at Highway 441, a substation at French Road and Highway JJ, and the Casaloma substation. American Transmission Company (ATC) provides bulk power to these substations through its distribution network.

The Outagamie County landfill incorporates a cogeneration system that converts methane gas to electricity. The system has the capacity to produce electricity for 3,000 households. Both electricity and waste heat from the cogeneration system are used in the County's solid waste and highway buildings to reduce the energy purchased from utilities. Excess electrical energy that is produced is sold to WE Energies.

WE Energies offers programs to its customers to defray the cost of investing in renewable energy, including wind and solar power systems.

The City of Appleton and WE Energies have partnered to generate electricity, burning methane from the City's wastewater plant to power generators that are connected to the electrical grid.

## Telecommunications

Private companies provide numerous alternatives for conventional, cellular, and VOIP telephone services within the City of Appleton. Internet services are provided to most customers by companies offering DSL or cable services. The Appleton Area Metropolitan Fiber Optic Network (AAMFON) partnership, formed in 2002, provides fiber optic service to many data intensive users in the area. It was originally formed by the City of Appleton, Appleton Area School District, Town of Grand Chute, Outagamie County and Fox Valley Technical College, and has since expanded to include Lawrence University, Xavier Schools, and a number of smaller entities. Mobility services are also covered by major telecommunications companies and provided at state of the art levels of service.

Article XIII of Appleton's Zoning Ordinance (Sec. 23-420) addresses the siting and design of wireless telecommunication facilities (cell towers). The City's ability to regulate wireless telecommunications facilities is limited by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and Wisconsin State Statute 66.0404. The City encourages wireless telecommunications providers to co-locate facilities, and to utilize existing structures such as the City's water towers as an equipment location.

## Police, Fire, and Emergency Services

Police, fire, and emergency services are provided by the City of Appleton. Personnel matters, including hiring, disciplining and terminating sworn staff members, is overseen by the Police and Fire Commission, a non-political body appointed by the Mayor.



## Police Protection

The Appleton Police Department is proud of its reputation as one of the most innovative and professional organizations in the nation. The department's employees uphold the highest standards in policing and are encouraged to creatively find ways to fight crime and solve problems.

The department has 110 sworn officers, and 27 full time civilian employees, who are fully committed to strategies designed to fulfill the mission of "Excellence in Police Service" to the community and all those who are served. The department adheres to the core values of compassion, integrity, and courage.

The department receives support and assistance from the community in accomplishing its mission. The department has over 200 Neighborhood Watch groups, over 50 outstanding police volunteers, and several unique community programs and partnerships. The department also has mutual aid agreements in place with most surrounding communities, in addition to participating in several regional policing initiatives.

In 2015 the Five Pillars Initiative was created to engage and reenergize the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. After a four month process of receiving feedback from the community, the department identified five areas where energy and time has been focused. The Administration Pillar is focused on ensuring the department's policies, procedures, and statistics are aligned with its mission. The Inclusion and Engagement Pillar focuses on identifying citizens who don't feel engaged with the department, or who lack trust in it, and building relationships with them. The Education Pillar focuses on the key to understanding; continuing to educate and grow department staff but also focusing on educating the community so they know what the department does and why they do it. The Youth Intervention and Mentoring Pillar works with children to do what it can to raise them as law abiding and successful citizens

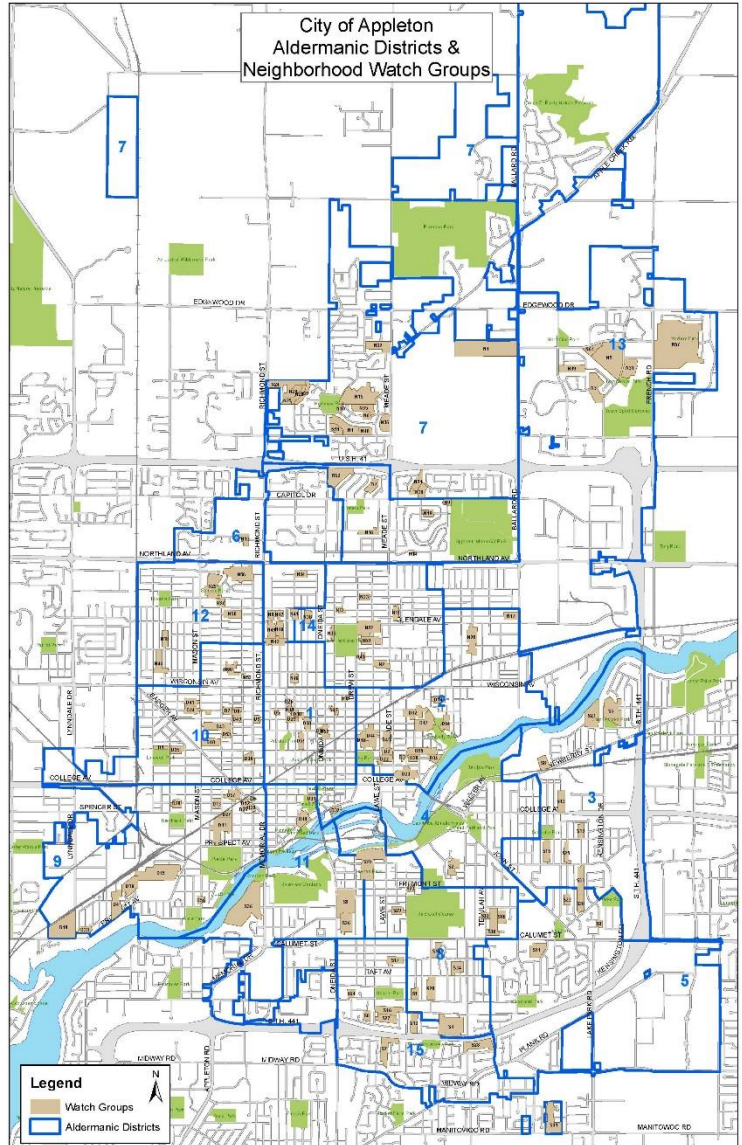


Figure 1 Neighborhood Watch groups in Appleton

and people. The Community Survey Pillar seeks input from the community about what they feel are the major issues in the community and how they should be addressed.

## Fire Protection and Emergency Services

The City of Appleton operates its own fire department with automatic/mutual aid assistance agreements with most of the surrounding municipalities in the Fox River Valley. The department has a staff of 96 persons providing fire prevention and suppression, safety education, emergency medical response, and rescue. The department's mission states:

*In partnership with the community, the Appleton Fire Department protects and preserves lives and property from the adverse effects of fires and dangerous conditions through prevention, education, rescue and response.*

The department's fire prevention division conducts commercial and residential inspections, reviews sprinkler and alarm systems, conducts fire protection plan review, and consists of a battalion chief, one full-time fire inspector, a fire protection engineer, and six firefighters/inspectors.

The operations division provides emergency response to fires, medical situations, hazardous material spills, and rescue operations. In addition, the division offers fire inspections, community fire/safety education, emergency evacuation planning, pre-incident preparedness, and technical assistance. Special operations provided by the department include first responder emergency medical services, confined space rescue, water and ice rescue, structural collapse, and rope rescue. The department is partnered with several other fire/rescue departments and response teams to make up the Northeast Wisconsin Regional Response Hazardous Materials Team and Wisconsin Task Force - Structural Collapse/Technical Rescue Team.

The department operates from six stations distributed throughout the community. Response times from all locations are considered good, at about four minutes. The department is evaluating options for a seventh station or potential relocation of some existing stations. Other options may consider joint operations or a merger with neighboring departments.

Insurance Service Offices (ISO) rating represents the effectiveness of fire protection in a municipality on a scale of one through ten. Class One is superior fire protection and Class Ten meets no minimum criteria. This rating is used by insurance companies as a factor when setting insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses. The City of Appleton's ISO rating is two.

## Municipal Facilities

Appleton adopted its Facilities Master Plan in 2010 to guide decisions concerning its 13 primary buildings and four parking structures. This plan has noted several areas of concern to address:

- City Hall currently occupies the fifth and sixth floors of the City Center, which it owns in a condominium format. This space does not provide the City with an "identity" either from the outside or from the inside, where there is no central reception area. Security is a concern, as the entire facility is accessible. Additionally, there is a need for more space to house City functions. The City is Committed to a flexible approach for meeting current space needs.
- The library is in need of additional space, as further identified elsewhere in this chapter.
- Downtown parking was listed as a concern in the Facilities Master Plan, and was recently studied. The 2015 Downtown Parking Study identifies opportunities for parking

improvements in the downtown area and offers an implementation plan for such improvements. The City is currently addressing these opportunities.

- There are perceptions of safety concerns at Washington Square due to people waiting near the transit center.

## County Government Facilities

A majority of Outagamie County's facilities are located in downtown Appleton on South Walnut Street. The administration offices, health and human services, public safety, emergency management, court, and jail are at this location. A space needs study for the campus was conducted in 2015. In June 2016, the county approved a 36.9 million dollar, 114,000 square foot expansion of the downtown campus, with construction planned to begin in 2017. The expansion includes updates/additions to the Justice Center and Administration Complex, as well as relocation of the Sheriff's Department to a site with closer highway access.

Appleton's Downtown Plan contains specific recommendations related to the county facilities. The plan (Chapter 14 of the **Comprehensive Plan**) suggests that the county campus should be developed within the existing footprint and relate to and compliment the Fox Cities Exhibition Center. The Downtown Plan highlights the importance of the City and County working together on expansion plans.

## Appleton Public Library

The City's library is an important educational and cultural institution which services over 1,600 people per day. In addition to the collections the library provides a variety of programming, meeting space, and access to technology. The library works with over 200 organizations in the community to provide programming and services. It serves as a vital third place, neither home nor work, where community members can meet each other and learn from one another.

The Appleton Public Library occupies an 85,000 square foot building located in the downtown. The facility was opened in 1981 and was expanded in 1996. The library is a member of the Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS), which is housed in the library and serves sixteen member libraries. Through OWLS' online catalog, InfoSoup, the library provides cardholders access to over 1.7 million items and over 600,000 titles. The library sees heavy use, with a circulation of 1,166,697 in 2015 (including the children and adult collections). Usage has changed in recent years with circulation declining while program attendance saw substantial increases. Door count has also remained strong. These changes follow trends seen nationally as libraries move to focus more on the outcomes and impact of their offerings for their community. National surveys show that citizens continue to value libraries highly as community assets.

The library commissioned a space needs study in 2008. This study identified the need for a facility with an area of 140,000 square feet. The concept of a main facility with branch locations was rejected as inefficient. In 2009, the library conducted a Program Design Study, which recommended the construction of a new facility. In 2012-2013, the library conducted a community-based strategic planning process that included community conversations and presentations, visits to other libraries, a community survey, and a Community Advisory Committee. In 2014, the Program Design Study was updated, a site selection process was conducted, and concept and budget development took place. The Bluff Site (Trinity Lutheran Church and Fox Banquets) was selected as a location for a new site. The site was proposed to the Common Council, but ultimately rejected. In November of 2014, the City of Appleton Common Council approved the Mayor's 2015 budget, which included \$5 million in Capital Improvement Project funds for the library. The library is currently waiting on the completion of the comprehensive planning study and





mobility study, and will then re-evaluate existing and new potential sites before moving forward with the planning process.

## K-12 Schools

Appleton is served primarily by the Appleton Area School District. It is also served by several private schools offering pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade education and parts of the City fall within the Freedom Area School District.

### Appleton Area School District

The Appleton Area School District currently enrolls 16,300 students in 39 schools or academic programs. Enrollment has remained stable over several years, and little overall change is projected. As neighborhoods change, the district may need to consider constructing an additional school or altering the boundaries of existing schools to accommodate increasing enrollment.

The district maintains a total of 22 neighborhood school sites, an administrative center, and a maintenance facility. Many of the district's schools were constructed decades ago, and the average classroom age is over 50 years. These schools have been maintained and updated as necessary to provide new technology and ADA compliance. The district has made many improvements to its current facilities over the past several years. In 2014, a referendum passed approving \$25 million in improvements to school facilities. Approved improvements include new multipurpose rooms at Huntley Elementary and Einstein Middle School, as well as expansions and improvements to the commons and kitchen areas at West High School. A large part of the approved dollars will go to updating building entrances at 12 schools for improved security, replacing windows at seven schools to improve comfort and energy efficiency, and updating science and technical education rooms at several schools.

Significant improvements have been made or are planned for athletic facilities in the district. Athletic fields at East and North High Schools were upgraded to turf in 2015. West High School is in the process of constructing a new outdoor athletic stadium on its campus, and will install turf in 2016. Field improvements were paid for by private donations and corporate sponsorships.



**2015-2016 Appleton Area School District Enrollment**

<b>School</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
<b>Elementary</b>	
Badger Elementary School	318
Berry Elementary School	454
Columbus Elementary School	156
Edison Elementary School	293
Ferber Elementary School	609
Foster Elementary School	299
Franklin Elementary School	398
Highlands Elementary School	587
Horizons Elementary School	361
Houdini Elementary School	608
Huntley Elementary School	730
Jefferson Elementary School	352
Johnston Elementary School	499
Lincoln Elementary School	398
McKinley Elementary School	556
Richmond Elementary School	293
Appleton Bilingual School	149
Appleton Community 4K	994
Appleton Public Montessori	155
Classical School	477
Fox River Academy	80
Odyssey Magellan School	171
<b>Middle</b>	
Einstein Middle School	549
Madison Middle School	657
Roosevelt Middle School	198
Wilson Middle School	409
Kaleidoscope Academy	346
<b>High</b>	
East High School	1332
North High School	1608
West High School	1050
Appleton eSchool	25
Career Academy	108
Central High School	92
Appleton Technical Academy	72
Renaissance School for the Arts	197
Tesla Engineering School	132
Valley New School	66
<b>Elementary/Secondary Combined Schools</b>	
Appleton Cooperative Education Center	0
Wisconsin Connections Academy	522
<b>AASD TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>16300</b>



The student population is predominantly white, although other minorities are present among the student population. Minorities make up 26 percent of the student body, with the largest segment made up by Asian/Pacific Islander (11 percent), followed by Hispanic (9 percent) and Black, not Hispanic (5 percent). About one-third of the student population meets criteria to be classified as low income, although this percentage is as high as 70 percent in some schools. English Language Learner (ELL) programs are offered at all levels at North High School, Roosevelt Middle School, and McKinley Elementary School.

Appleton students tend to perform at or above state averages across all grade levels and subjects. At the high school level, Appleton students average a 21.0 score on the ACT exam, which is a required test for admission to many colleges. The statewide average score was 20.0. The district graduation rate is 93.5 percent for the 6-year rate, which exceeds the state average of 91.5 percent.

Appleton Area School District - ACT Exam Results					
Subject	East High	North High	West High	District	State
English	19.2	21.6	19.3	20.1	19.0
Math	20.4	22.4	20.6	21.0	20.0
Reading	20.5	22.7	20.1	21.3	20.1
Science	20.5	22.3	20.6	21.1	20.2
Composite	20.3	22.4	20.3	21.0	20.0

The Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) is given to students in grades 3 through 8 and 10. Student performance on these assessments is reported in proficiency categories (Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Minimal). Appleton students again score at or above average in terms of the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced.

### Private Schools

There are two private high schools located in Appleton. These are Fox Valley Lutheran High School and Xavier High School. The FreedomProject Academy offers a home-school option for high school education as well as grades 3-8. Other private schools providing pre-kindergarten through middle school education include Celebration Lutheran School, Fox Valley Montessori Academy, Mount Olive Evangelical Lutheran School, Riverview Lutheran School, Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran School, Xavier Elementary School (Marquette Street and McDonald Street campuses), and Xavier Middle School.

Over 2,700 students are enrolled in private school in the Appleton Area School District. 571 students are enrolled at Fox Valley Lutheran High School and 572 are enrolled at Xavier High School. 85 children are enrolled in private Pre-K education programs and 164 students are enrolled in private K4 programs.

### Higher Education Facilities

Lawrence University is located within Appleton. Concordia University, Globe University, Marian University, the Milwaukee School of Engineering, and Rasmussen College have branch campuses in the city, and Fox Valley Technical College is located in the Town of Grand Chute. Other nearby colleges or universities include the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, the University of Wisconsin – Fox Valley (Menasha), Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (Green Bay), the



University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, Saint Norbert College (De Pere), and Moraine Park Technical College (Fond du Lac).

## Lawrence University

Lawrence University is located in downtown Appleton. Chartered in 1847, Lawrence University is a nationally recognized undergraduate college of the liberal arts and sciences. Lawrence is accredited as a degree-granting institution by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The Conservatory of Music is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music. The University operates on three ten-week terms from late September through mid-June.

Lawrence offer majors in traditional liberal arts disciplines and interdisciplinary programs. Lawrence offers three majors in the conservatory of music and 32 majors in the college. Ranked among the best of the nation's small, private colleges, Lawrence enrolls 1,515 full-time undergraduates from 46 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and more than 40 other countries. The 84-acre campus is comprised of 58 instructional, residential, recreational, and administrative facilities. More than 90 percent of all students live on campus in one of eight residence halls or 17 small houses.

## Fox Valley Technical College

Fox Valley Technical College has campuses in Appleton and Oshkosh, as well as five smaller regional centers in surrounding communities. The Appleton campus is located at 1825 North Bluemound Drive.

Fox Valley Technical College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The college has been accredited since 1970. It serves a five-county area including Calumet, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago Counties, with a district population of approximately 475,000 people.

The college has over 10,000 degree-declared students, serves over 1,000 apprenticeship students, and serves an additional 30,000 people taking continuing education courses. About 60 percent of program students attend part-time. Approximately 2,800 students graduate each year.

The college offers programs in over 300 associate degree, technical diploma and certificate programs in fields of study including Agriculture, Horticulture & Natural Resources; Aviation; Business, Management & Finance; Construction; Culinary and Hospitality; Engineering Technologies; Health Science; Human Services; Information Technology; Manufacturing; Marketing, Sales, and Service; Public Safety; Transportation; and General, Global and Individualized Studies.

There are eleven unique programs not offered at other Wisconsin technical colleges. These include Agriculture/Outdoor Power Equipment, Aircraft Electronics, Computer Control Engineering Technology, Diesel Equipment Mechanic, Natural Resources Technician, Outdoor Power Equipment Technician, Production Welding, Residential Building Construction, Vehicle Refinishing & Repair Technology, Web Development & Design Specialist, and Wood Manufacturing Technology

The college serves about 1,900 employers with contracted services annually, training over 21,000 employees via contracted training.



## Solid Waste and Recycling

Solid waste collection is provided by the City of Appleton's Public Works Department. The department operates two sites for municipal yard waste, at the municipal services building and north of Valley Transit. Both sites accept grass clippings, brush, yard waste, and motor oil. The municipal service building yard waste site also accepts antifreeze, metal, appliances, tires, car batteries, unserviceable American flags, and refuse.

Hazardous waste disposal is managed through the Outagamie County "Clean Sweep" Program. Hazardous materials include pesticides, herbicides, poisons, lead-based paints, gasoline and some cleaning materials.

Automated curbside co-mingled collection is provided on a bi-weekly basis with city-issued recycling carts by a private contractor hired through Outagamie County.

There are three licensed landfills in Outagamie County, including the County-owned facility and the privately-owned Appleton Coated, LLC landfill and the Thilmany Phase 5 Red Hills landfill. According to the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the private landfills in the region have sufficient capacity to meet the area's long-term needs. Additionally, Outagamie, Brown, and Winnebago Counties formed a partnership in 2001 to provide a cooperative program of solid waste disposal and material recycling facilities, resulting in greater economies of scale and lower costs. Starting in 2022, the Outagamie County site will become a transfer station as the landfill material will then go to the Brown County Landfill.

The City of Appleton (City) wastewater treatment plant produces approximately 25,000 cubic yards (20,000 wet tons) of biosolids each year. The City conducted an economic analysis for a compost pilot project in 2012. The report recommends starting with a 5,000 cubic yard biosolids composting program. It states that composting 5,000 cubic yards at the Outagamie County Landfill property would be the most cost effective option if anticipated revenues from compost sales and avoided land application costs are realized. The City is moving forward with hiring a market consultant for compost marketing. The intent would be to eliminate the need for a major biosolid storage facility.

## Health Care Facilities

There are two primary hospitals located in Appleton. The ThedaCare Regional Medical Center (1818 North Meade Street) on the City's north side, and St. Elizabeth Hospital (1506 South Oneida Street) just south of the Fox River.

### ThedaCare Regional Medical Center

The ThedaCare Regional Medical Center is part of ThedaCare, created when Appleton Medical Center and Theda Clark Medical Center joined together in 1987. ThedaCare is a community-owned not-for-profit health system comprising Appleton Medical Center, New London Family Medical Center, Riverside Medical Center in Waupaca, Theda Clark Medical Center in Neenah, ThedaCare Physician offices, and other health care services. ThedaCare has over 5,300 employees and \$550 million in revenue.

The ThedaCare Regional Medical Center opened its doors in 1958 (then the Appleton Medical Center) after a 12-year fund raising effort. A new, eight story tower was constructed in 2010, with approximately 160 beds. The hospital has a number of other practices in other locations in the city. ThedaCare Hospital is a leader in cardiac, cancer and orthopedic care. It pioneered local treatment of cardiovascular disease in northeastern Wisconsin and initiated the first family fertility

program in the area. In February, 2016 ThedaCare also opened its Regional Cancer Center on E. Capitol Drive. Other recent expansions include the Valley Orthopedic Clinic and Fox Valley Hematology and Oncology practice.

ThedaCare Regional Medical Center is exploring the potential for consolidating its facilities into a single facility. Moving the facility from its Meade Street location would have significant land use and economic development impacts.

A recent analysis conducted by Larry DeGhetaldi M.D., President of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation in Santa Cruz California, show that the two lowest cost counties in Wisconsin for Medicare expenditures are La Crosse and Outagamie. The City is well positioned from a health care standpoint to not only provide medical care for members of its community, but also draw patients from a larger trade area. This would have the potential it increase employment and spur economic development in the City.

### St. Elizabeth Hospital

St. Elizabeth Hospital is part of the Affinity Health System, consisting of 23 clinics throughout the region, three hospitals (Calumet Medical Center, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Mercy Medical Center), and Network Health Plan. Affinity Health System is one of the top 100 integrated healthcare networks in the nation. It was formed in 1995 with the joining of Ministry Health Care and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare, two Catholic organizations.

St. Elizabeth Hospital traces its roots to 1899, when it was founded by four Catholic sisters from St. Louis. The hospital has since grown to 352 licensed patient beds and more than 420 skilled medical staff. In recent years it has made substantial investments in facilities and equipment such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment, the Affinity Breast Center, a new neonatal intensive care unit, and the UW Cancer Centers.

The hospital's location on South Oneida Street has presented some challenges for its operations. Hemmed in by existing neighborhoods, the hospital has found it difficult to expand its facilities and to provide adequate parking and circulation. Access to the location is less than ideal, as Oneida Street is the only arterial street and there are no good east to west connections. The hospital has expressed concern about the impact of future reconstruction of Oneida Street and potential disruptions to both regular and emergency traffic.

In 2006, the hospital launched its master renovation plan, a four-phased expansion project that was completed in 2015. The third phase, completed in 2014, included updating of the labor and delivery and postpartum area, and a major expansion of the central utility plant. As part of the fourth phase, St. Elizabeth's opened a new cafeteria, which is open to the public, and completed construction of the Fremont Bed Tower, a five-story facility with 90 private patient rooms.

### Additional Services

Appleton is served by a large number of other health care and related services, both within the City and in surrounding areas. These include several medical clinics and ambulatory care centers, physicians, dentists, physical therapists, and other health care professionals.

### Child Care Facilities

Wisconsin began to require licensing of day care centers in 1949. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families currently lists 42 licensed family day care providers, and 56 group day care providers in the City of Appleton. Licensed family child care providers care for four to eight



children. This care is usually in the provider's home. Licensed group child care centers provide care for 9 or more children. These centers are usually located somewhere other than a residence.

## Senior Facilities

The Thompson Community Center closed its doors in March 2016. Most services are set to continue at a future Appleton location, while others such as dances, luncheons, card games, bingo, billiards and room rentals have been discontinued.

## Cemeteries

St. Joseph Cemetery, St. Mary Parish Cemetery, Highland Memorial Park, Zion Cemetery, and Riverside Cemetery are the principal active cemeteries located within Appleton.

## Objectives and Policies

The overall goal for utilities and community facilities established in Chapter 4 (Issues & Opportunities) states that: "Appleton will provide excellent public utility and community services at a reasonable cost, and will work with private utility companies to ensure quality service delivery." This will be carried out through the implementation of the following objectives and policies:

### **7.1 OBJECTIVE: Provide a pattern of development that minimizes impacts to municipal services and utilities.**

- 7.1.1 Prioritize development and redevelopment that minimizes the need for additional public and private infrastructure such as water storage facilities and sewage lift stations.
- 7.1.2 Collaborate with other units of government to share utilities, services, and community facilities where appropriate, and where resulting in improved services or lower costs.
- 7.1.3 Continue to utilize planning tools, such as the Capital Improvements Plan, to implement improvements.
- 7.1.4 Coordinate land use, transportation, and utility and community facilities planning through integrated planning processes to the greatest extent possible.

### **7.2 OBJECTIVE: Ensure that municipal services and utilities, as well as privately distributed energy sources are delivered in a safe and sustainable manner.**

- 7.2.1 Continue to participate in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Green Tier Legacy Program.
- 7.2.2 Develop policies and programs which anticipate and respond to new forms and types of distributed, renewable energy generation.

### **7.3 OBJECTIVE: Work with other public/private utilities and service providers to assist them, when appropriate to do so, in delivering services to Appleton residents.**

- 7.3.1 Continue to collaborate with the Appleton Area School District and private schools on issues such as joint development and use of recreational fields, telecommunications infrastructure, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and similar issues.
- 7.3.2 Work with the hospitals in the City to address access and expansion issues that may hinder their growth or efficient operation.



- 7.4 OBJECTIVE: Maintain the existing public water and sanitary sewer infrastructure.**
- 7.4.1 Continue to maintain existing assets through regular monitoring of conditions and implementation of related utility plans such as the City’s Water System Master Plan (June 2007).
  - 7.4.2 Implement the recommendations contained in the final report titled “Evaluation of Phosphorous Treatment Optimization and TMDL Compliance.”
  - 7.4.3 Further study the digester gas and production uses from the anaerobic digesters to improve capture and use of the gases created.
  - 7.4.4 Continue to pursue permitting for the wastewater treatment facility’s biosolid composting pilot program.
- 7.5 OBJECTIVE: Implement effective stormwater management practices.**
- 7.5.1 Continue to implement the City’s Surface Water Management Plan and its WPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS-4) permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- 7.6 OBJECTIVE: Continue to partner with other agencies, organizations, and businesses to proactively address public health and mental health issues in the community.**
- 7.6.1 Continue to support the goals and objectives of the City’s Health Department, area counties and other community agencies.
- 7.7 OBJECTIVE: Continue to partner with other agencies, organizations, and businesses to support programs and activities for at-risk populations.**
- 7.7.1 Continue to partner with and support organizations which build strong communities by supporting at-risk populations.
- 7.8 OBJECTIVE: Support creation of a new or remodeled library downtown.**
- 7.8.1 Continue to support the efforts of the library to best meet the needs of its users and contribute to a vibrant downtown.
- 7.9 OBJECTIVE: Continue to support practical, cost-effective and collaborative approaches to solid waste management and recycling.**
- 7.9.1 Continue to explore opportunities related to effective bio-solids management, including seeking successful permitting of the bio-solids program.
  - 7.9.2 Continue to partner with Outagamie County to provide high quality, cost effective solid waste and recycling services to residents.



- 7.10 OBJECTIVE: Continue to coordinate, partner, and collaborate with educational institutions to support access for all to education.**
- 7.10.1 Explore an education summit or process to develop mutual goals and objectives among area educational institutions and the City, including but not limited to Appleton Area School District, Lawrence University, Fox Valley Technical College.
  - 7.10.2 Support project based learning that connects those seeking an education with actual work experience in the community.
  - 7.10.3 Support lifelong learning programs with community organizations and the Library.
- 7.11 OBJECTIVES: Support Police, Fire and Emergency Services.**
- 7.11.1 Continue to support implementation of police, fire, and emergency service plans and programs.
- 7.12 OBJECTIVES: Support the Access Appleton pilot program and follow up initiatives to encourage greater destination accessibility for all.**