
Chapter Six: Utilities and Community Facilities

This chapter of the *Plan* contains background information, goals, objectives, policies and recommended programs to guide future utilities and community facilities in Dekorra.

A. Existing Utilities and Community Facilities

1. Water Supply

Dekorra is not presently served by municipal water service; residents receive their water via private wells. Poynette provides municipal water services to residents within the corporate limits of the Village. The Town does not anticipate providing municipal water service over the 20-year planning period, except perhaps in the new Utility District. Areas shown as being within the Urban Transition Area shown on Map 6 may be provided with municipal water service when development is imminent.

2. Sanitary Sewer Facilities

There are two sanitary districts in Dekorra, both along Lake Wisconsin. District One serves the area north and west of CTH V, and District Two serves the area on either side of CTH CS (see Map 8). However, there is no sanitary sewer service provided or contemplated in these districts at the present time.

The Town's new Utility District near the Interchange is designed to facilitate sanitary sewer service to existing and planned land uses in this area. The Town has worked with WisDOT and WisDNR on the construction of a sewage treatment plant west of the rest areas and force sewer mains from the rest areas to the Utility District/Interchange Area.

Construction of the new sanitary sewer facilities was completed in 2007. The system has adequate capacity to serve the 20-year needs of the rest areas, plus future growth in the Utility District/Interchange Area. Modules could be added in the future to accommodate additional development as needed.

3. On-Site Water Treatment Systems

All development in the Town currently utilizes individual on-site wastewater treatment systems, often referred to as septic systems, which generally discharge the wastewater to underground drainage fields. Many of the Town's existing systems were installed prior to 1970, when standards for on-site systems began to be upgraded.

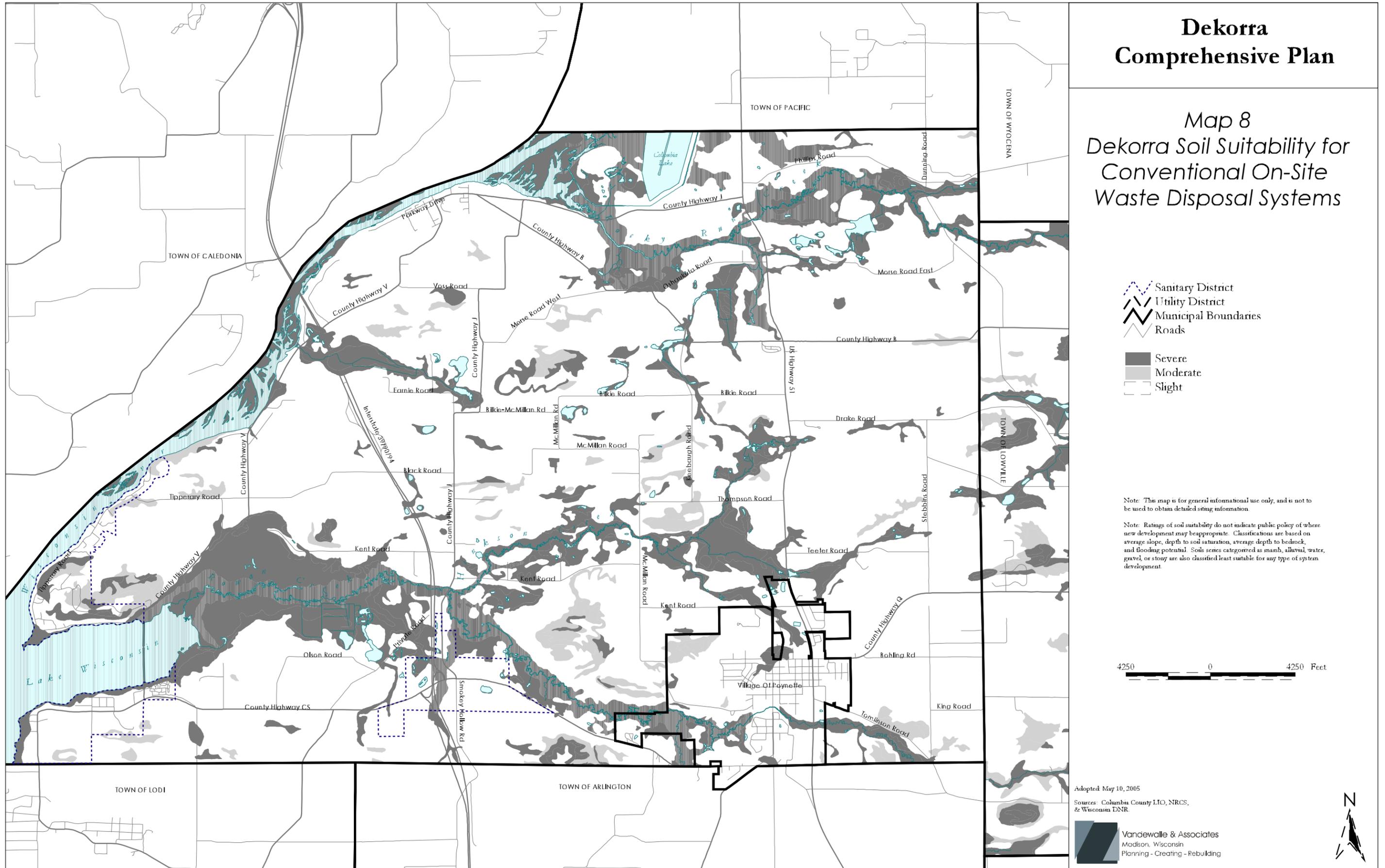
The Wisconsin Department of Commerce (COMM) regulates the siting, design, installation, and inspection of most private on-site treatment systems. In 2000, the State adopted a revised private sewage system code called COMM 83. This revised code allows conventional on-site systems, mound systems, and alternative systems, such as those that employ biological or chemical treatment. There are six types of on-site disposal system designs authorized for use today: conventional (underground), mound, pressure distribution, at-grade, holding tank, and sand filter systems. In some cases, alternative waste disposal systems can be used in areas where conventional systems are not feasible due to unsuitable soil conditions. In Columbia County, the Department of Planning and Zoning administers the private sewage system ordinance under the same code.

Map 8 shows soil suitability for conventional on-site wastewater treatment systems in Dekorra. The suitability classifications (from severe to slight limitations) are derived from the Columbia County soil survey. Classifications are based on average slope, depth to soil saturation, average depth to bedrock, and flooding potential. In general, there is a

high probability that a conventional system could be used in areas identified on Map 8 as having “slight limitations”. As areas move toward “severe limitations”, the probability increases that mound or alternative treatment technologies would have to be used.

Dekorra Comprehensive Plan

Map 8 Dekorra Soil Suitability for Conventional On-Site Waste Disposal Systems



- Sanitary District
- Utility District
- Municipal Boundaries
- Roads
- Severe
- Moderate
- Slight

Note: This map is for general informational use only, and is not to be used to obtain detailed siting information.

Note: Ratings of soil suitability do not indicate public policy of where new development may be appropriate. Classifications are based on average slope, depth to soil saturation, average depth to bedrock, and flooding potential. Soils series categorized as marsh, alluvial, water, gravel, or stony are also classified least suitable for any type of system development.



Adopted May 10, 2005
Sources: Columbia County LID, NRCS,
& Wisconsin DNR

Vandewalle & Associates
Madison, Wisconsin
Planning - Creating - Rebuilding



4. Solid Waste Disposal Sites

There are no active solid waste disposal sites in the Town, and none planned. The Columbia County Recycling and Waste Processing Facility is located in Pardeeville.

Solid waste disposal sites, or landfills, are potential sources of groundwater pollution. With the passage of stringent federal regulations in the late 1980s, many smaller landfills closed. Many of these older landfills were located in worked-out sand and gravel pits, or in low-lying wetland areas. These landfills sites pose a much greater risk to local groundwater quality than modern landfills because of poor location and absence of liners or advanced leachate collections systems. To protect drinking water quality, WisDNR requires a separation of 1,200 feet (a little less than ¼ mile) between open or closed landfills and new private water supply wells.

5. Stormwater Management

Dekorra does not have or intend to have an urban storm sewer system. Dekorra has an Erosion Control and Stormwater Runoff ordinance that applies to all land-disturbing activities (as defined in Section 11.01 of the Building and Construction Codes). In addition, Columbia County requires the submittal of a stormwater management plan with all new subdivision requests. The Wisconsin DNR requires an erosion control plan and permit for all projects that disturb one or more acres of land. The landowner is required to ensure that a site-specific erosion control plan and stormwater management plan are then implemented.

6. Town Hall

The Town Clerk's office is located in the Village of Poynette municipal building at 106 S. Main Street. The Town conducts meetings at the Dekorra Elementary School, typically in the gym area. The facilities are not considered adequate for the 20-year planning period. A committee was formed to study the possibility of a new Town Hall/community center, possibly with other gathering spaces at the time conceptual planning is undertaken. This is still an issue that needs to be addressed.

7. Law Enforcement

The Columbia County Sheriff's Department serves as the primary law enforcement agency for Town residents. The patrol officer serving Dekorra is stationed at a dispatch office in the Portage, on STH 33. The Town considers these law enforcement services adequate. The Town has a constable, who is primarily involved with enforcing the Town's ordinances.

8. Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Service

The Town participates in a joint fire district with the Village of Poynette, with the firehouse located in the Village. This service provides both fire and EMS service to the entire Town. At this time, there are no planned changes to these services, which are considered adequate at this time.

9. Trash Collection and Recycling Services

Residents of the Town contract privately with either Green Valley or Waste Management Inc. to receive on-site trash and recycling pickup on a weekly basis. The Town runs a trash drop-off/recycling site at McMillan and Hall Roads, paid through property tax bills as a special charge. No changes in these services are anticipated.

10. Libraries

Residents in Dekorra patronize the Poynette library. The Town has historically contributed funds to subsidize this service. Library patrons can use their Columbia County Library card at any of the libraries in the seven-county South Central Wisconsin Library System. The library and the United States Postal Service also provide free delivery for persons who are physically unable to visit the library. The Town considers the current library arrangement to meet foreseeable resident needs.

11. Schools

Most students in Dekorra attend schools in the Poynette School District. The Poynette school system includes two elementary schools, one elementary/middle school, and one high school. One elementary school, Dekorra Elementary, is in the Town located on Bilkie Road. Current enrollment in the system totals 1,078 students. The district is projecting enrollment decreases over the next five years.

A small portion of the southwestern part of the Town is in the Lodi School District. The Lodi School District has one primary school for pre-school to Grade 2, one elementary school for grades 3-5, a middle school for grades 6-8, a high school, and a charter high school for children with differing educational needs. All schools are located within the Village of Lodi. The 2002 Lodi district enrollment was 1,640 students.

There are a few households in the far north east corner of the Town in the Portage School District.

12. Parks and Recreation Facilities

The MacKenzie Environmental Education Center and Poynette State Game Farm is located at the eastern edge of the Town. The Center provides educational and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The Game Farm raises pheasants for release on both public and private hunting grounds. These facilities are more fully described in Chapter Three.

There are a number of small Town parks and recreational facilities within the Town, mainly located along the Wisconsin River. The Town recently obtained new parkland near its northeast corner. There are no County parks within Dekorra.

The Town and Village of Poynette have recently explored establishment of a joint sports authority to operate a combined park system. The Town has also appointed its own committee to explore future uses for Town-owned lands and prepare a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan to enable the Town to obtain state and federal grants.

13. Child Care Facilities

There are several small child care facilities, pre-schools, and family day care homes in the Poynette-Dekorra area. There is a perpetual shortage in child care services in the area and state. The Town will not get involved in providing child care services.

14. Churches and Cemeteries

There are two churches in Dekorra; Inch Methodist, on CTH B and USH 51, and Dekorra Lutheran, on CTH CS and Smith Road. These churches serve as both community gathering places and prominent buildings on the rural landscape.

There five cemeteries located within the Town. Each of the two churches has an associated cemetery. Others include the Schofield Cemetery (inactive, Town-owned) at USH

51 & Thompson Road, the Hastie Cemetery at CTH J & Black Road, and Dekorra Cemetery in the Old Dekorra Village Area. Other smaller burial areas are located throughout the Town.

15. Medical and Health Care Facilities

Health care needs in Dekorra will increase as the “baby boom” population approaches retirement age. The Dean/St. Mary’s Regional Clinic, affiliated with Dean Health Systems, is located at 237 West Seward St in the Village of Poynette. The clinic has one full-time and one half-time physician and a full-time dentist, and provides general family medical and dentistry services. Specialty services are referred to other Dean Health facilities, primarily in Madison.

The Town’s proximity to the Madison metropolitan area provides a wide array of health care providers, including the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, St. Mary’s Hospital, Meriter Hospital, and several HMO provider facilities.

16. Wireless Telecommunications Facilities

Due to the proliferation of wireless communications, the construction of telecommunication towers is an issue that towns are addressing more and more often. There are three telecommunications towers located in the northwestern portion of Dekorra. The Town should utilize the guidelines in this *Plan* when considering requests to site new telecommunications facilities (see Chapter Four).

17. Power Plants and Transmission Lines

The Columbia Power Plant is located just north of the Town of Dekorra along the Wisconsin River. It is a 1054 megawatt facility built in the late 1970s. The American Transmission company operates a transmission line through Dekorra. There are no planned upgrades to these facilities at the present time.

B. Utilities & Community Facilities Goals, Objectives, Policies, Programs

1. Goal

Supply utilities, facilities, and services in line with resident expectations and the rural atmosphere.

2. Objectives

- a. Coordinate utility and community facility systems planning with land use, transportation and natural resource planning.
- b. Protect the Town’s health and natural environment through proper siting of on-site wastewater treatment systems and stormwater management facilities.
- c. Promote the use of existing public facilities, and logical expansions to those facilities to serve future development wherever possible.
- d. Support the provision of a full range of utilities and community facilities in the Dekorra area, recognizing that many of these utilities may not be appropriate in a rural setting such as the Town. A “full range” includes utilities and facilities like sanitary sewer service, stormwater management, public water supply, solid waste disposal, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunications facilities, power plants/transmission

lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities, police, fire, rescue, libraries, schools, and other governmental facilities.

3. Policies and Programs

- a. **Work with the School District** to keep Dekorra Elementary School operating.
- b. Consider a **new community center/Town Hall/Town Park** following a detailed study of options.
- c. Continue to **provide basic services** for Town residents, including recycling.
- d. Work with WisDOT on providing public **sewer service** to the rest areas and Interchange Area/Utility District, and consider water service within the Utility District in the longer term.
- e. Continue to work with the Village and other neighboring governments to share costs for **joint fire and emergency medical services** and with Columbia County to maintain law enforcement services.
- f. Complete a **comprehensive outdoor recreation plan** to enable the Town to obtain state and federal grants for park and open space acquisition and development.
- g. Continue to work with the Village of Poynette on joint park and recreational system management, including the possibility of a **joint sports authority**.
- h. Direct **rural development away from areas with limited suitability** for on-site waste treatment systems, as depicted on Map 8, as a way to protect groundwater supply for private wells.
- i. Work with the County Planning & Zoning Department to ensure the **proper approval process and placement of new on-site wastewater systems**, and appropriate maintenance and replacement of older systems as a means to protect groundwater quality.
- j. Allow the use of holding tanks and new biological and chemical wastewater treatment technologies **only where other systems are not feasible**, placement is consistent with the land use objectives of this Plan, and the property owner pays a special assessment on the property for monitoring and maintenance.
- k. **Carefully evaluate proposed large on-site waste treatment systems**, or groups of more than 10 individual on-site systems on smaller lots (1.5 to 2 acres) in the same general area, to ensure that groundwater quality standards are not impaired.
- l. Make amendments to, and continue to enforce, the Town's **Erosion Control and Stormwater Runoff ordinance** for multiple and individual lot developments. The amendments should ensure that developments not requiring the division of land are covered by the standards.
- m. Do not plan for direct Town government involvement in **health care and child care** over the 20-year planning period, as these services will be provided by private and non-profit entities and in nearby communities.
- n. Do not plan for direct Town involvement in providing additional or expanded libraries, cemeteries, or solid waste disposal facilities. The Town expects that **cemeteries and libraries** in the area will be sufficient to serve Town residents over the planning period, or other entities will provide these facilities.

- o. Remain informed on any plans related to **power/transmission lines** in the Town. Because new transmission lines are costly to build and difficult to site, energy providers are increasingly looking to increase capacity along existing routes. Placing transmission lines in existing easements and rights-of-way reduces impacts by locating linear land uses together and minimizes the amount of new land potentially affected by new easements.

C. Utilities and Community Facilities Timetable

Table 10 is an estimated timetable for possible utility and facility changes in the Town over the 20-year planning period. Budgetary constraints and other unforeseen circumstances may affect this timeframe.

Table 10: Utilities and Community Facilities Timetable

Utility or Facility	Timeframe for Town Improvements	Comments
Water Supply	N/A	All water supplied by private wells. Town may consider providing water service to utility district in future. No other plans.
Sanitary Waste Disposal	2010-2015	Study extension of sewer lines to Sanitary District One as demand dictates.
On-Site Wastewater Treatment Technology	N/A	New alternative on-site wastewater treatment systems may be an alternative to existing holding tanks near the waterfront.
Solid Waste Disposal	N/A	All landfills in the Town are closed. None planned.
Stormwater Management	Ongoing	Enforce the Erosion Control and Stormwater Runoff ordinance (Section 11.01, Chapter 11 Building and Construction Codes). Do not provide urban stormwater system.
Town Hall	2010-2015 study	Complete a study on whether to construct a new Town Hall/Community Center/Park.
Recycling and Trash Services	Beyond 2025	The Town's recycling and trash service should meet forecasted needs over the planning period.
Law Enforcement Services	N/A	County Sheriff and Town Constable are expected to continue in their present form, with additional need as population grows.
Fire Protection & Emergency Medical Services	N/A	Joint fire and EMS services are sufficient to meet current needs and forecasted needs.
Medical & Health Care Facilities	N/A	Medical facilities in nearby communities appear to meet needs.
Library	N/A	Poynette and other libraries meet the current and forecasted needs of Town residents. Continue joint service arrangements.
Schools and Child Care	Ongoing	Work with the School District to keep Dekorra Elementary open if possible. Encourage small child care facilities.

Utility or Facility	Timeframe for Town Improvements	Comments
Park & Recreation Facilities	2008-2010	Consider a main Town Park in conjunction with the study for a new Town Hall, potentially using park fees collected from new development to help fund the park. Complete a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. Work with Poynette on possible joint park system management. Work with state and local agencies on a continuous trail in the Rowan Creek Corridor.
Telecommunication Facilities	N/A	No assessments have been made to determine whether current service levels are adequate.
Power Plants & Transmission Lines	N/A	No known upgrades to the area's power plant and transmission lines are planned.
Cemeteries	N/A	There are 5 cemeteries located within the Town and they are serving current needs. Private sector will serve needs.