

CHAPTER 4: UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES



Photos above by Randy Uhl

4.1 Introduction

Community facilities are buildings, lands, services, and programs that serve the public, such as parks, schools, police and fire protection, health care facilities, solid waste and recycling facilities, and libraries. This element identifies and evaluates existing utilities and community facilities serving the City of Decorah. Understanding the location, use, and capacity of community facilities and utilities is an important consideration when planning for the future. Water and wastewater treatment systems are municipally owned and operated. Alliant Energy provides electrical service and Black Hills Energy provides natural gas service.

Luther College is in the process of installing a 1.6 megawatt wind turbine projected to produce 5.2 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year. This will provide approximately one-third of the college's annual electricity consumption.

4.2 Sanitary Sewer Service

The existing sanitary sewage system is municipally owned and operated. The system, made up of laterals, trunk, and outfall sewers, conveys the wastewater to wastewater treatment plant for treatment and discharge to the Upper Iowa River, east of Decorah.

The sewer system is made up of 8, 10, 12, 15, 18, 24 and 30-inch pipes and three pumping lift stations. The pumping lift stations serve the extreme northwest and north parts of the developed city.

Major improvements to the sewerage system were made from 1984 to 1986, when the new wastewater treatment plant, the 18-inch and 30-inch trunk, and the 30-inch outfall sewers were built. Several pumping lift stations and the previous wastewater treatment facility were eliminated.

The majority of the original sewer system built in 1919 and 1920 consists of vitrified clay pipe. The trunk and outfall sewers from the 1985 project are reinforced concrete pipe. Generally sewers constructed since about 1990 on are PVC.

The unincorporated Freeport community is served by the Freeport Water and Sanitary Sewer District. The original sanitary sewer system of the district was constructed in the period between 1984 and 1986. The sewers of the district vary in size from 8-inch to 10-inch diameter pipe. The wastewater from the district is treated by the Decorah wastewater treatment facility per a City/County 28E agreement.

The city continues to review sewers due to age of the original system and capacities related to growth. A larger trunk sewer has been planned in phases to serve southeast Decorah as growth and redevelopment occurs in this area. The same is true for a future bypass of Locust Road sewers directly to the main trunk sewer via Quarry Street. Industrial, business, and residential growth has also resulted in planned trunk sewer extensions east to the Decorah Business Park / Airport areas.

Waste Water Treatment Facility

The existing wastewater treatment facility, built in the period between 1984 and 1986, is an activated sludge, secondary treatment facility. The plant consists of a pumping station, grit removal facility, two primary clarifiers, three aeration basins, three final clarifiers and a chlorinator. The sludge is processed in two anaerobic digesters where it is stabilized and then applied on nearby farm land. In 2004, the plant underwent several improvements that included, ultraviolet disinfection, new main pumping station equipment including controls, new ventilation equipment, and a new one million gallon biosolids storage tank. The cost of the improvements was approximately \$1,400,000 and financed through a State Revolving Fund Loan.

The facility is design to treat an average wet weather flow (wet month) of 4.92 million gallons per day (mgpd), and a peak hourly wet weather flow of 6.9 mgpd. The design parameters for the treatment facility are listed on the following page:

Average Wet Weather Flow:	4.92 mgpd
Maximum Wet Weather Flow:	5.43 mgpd
Peak Hourly Wet Weather Flow (peak day):	6.90 mgpd
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅):	3,900 pounds per day (ppd) (average)
Suspended Solids:	3,600 ppd (average)

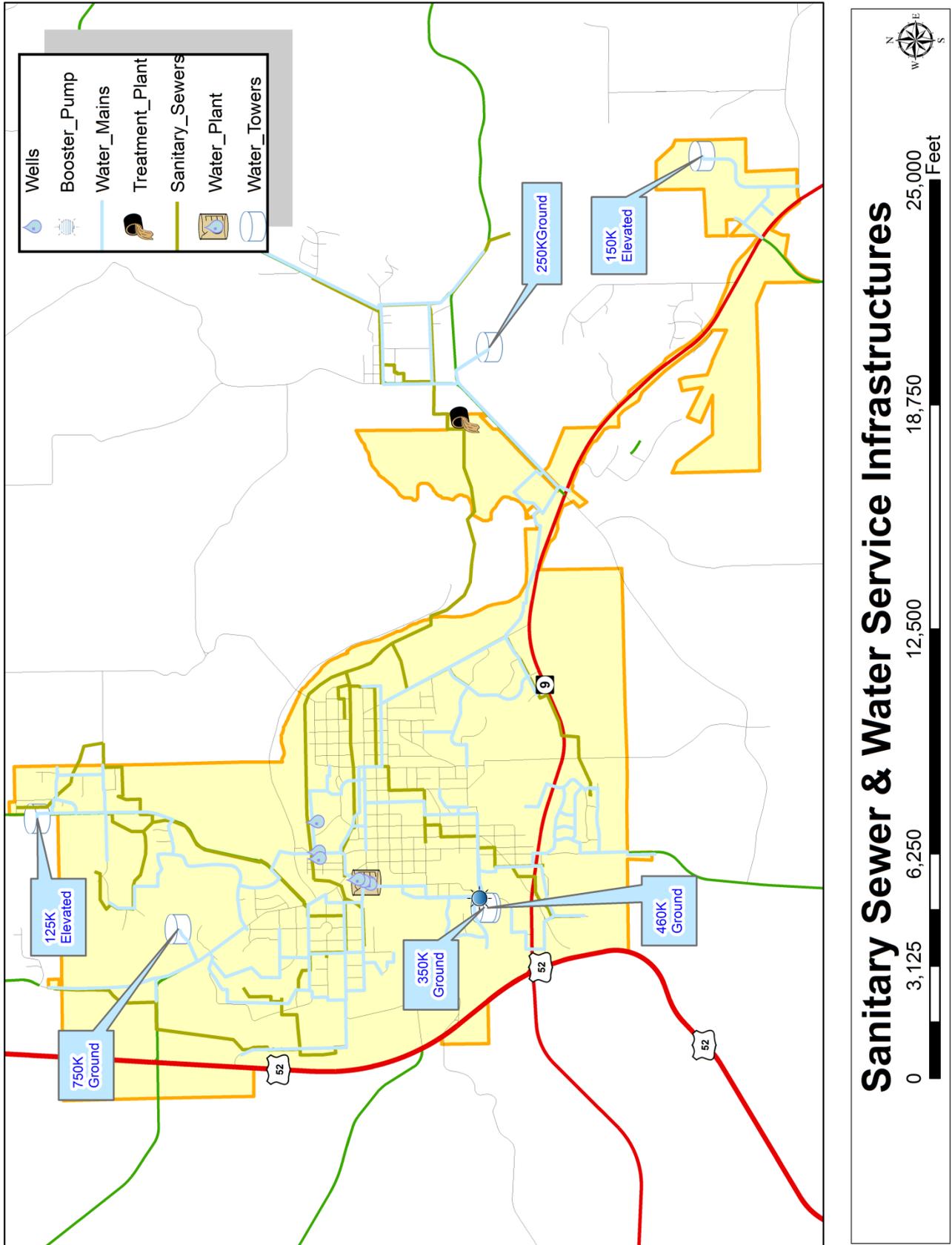
During the 2010 calendar year, the average raw water influent rate to the plant was 1.3 mgpd, and the maximum influent rate was 3.6 mgpd. The effluent discharge to the Upper Iowa River must meet the following concentration limits as established by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR):

Carbonaceous BOD₅:	25 Mg/1 30 day (average)
Total Suspended Solids (TSS):	30 Mg/1 30 day (average)

Mg/l – milligrams

The treatment facility has now been in operation since 1986. Upgrades in both treatment technology and requirements have resulted in improvements made to date as noted. Upcoming needed improvements include the replacement of many of the mechanical components of the plant as they reach the end of their useful life. Advances in computerization or control systems may also prove advantageous in upgrade systems.

Figure 6: Sanitary Sewer & Water Service Infrastructure



4.3 Water Supply

The water system consisting of water supply, treatment, storage, and distribution system is municipally owned and operated.

The existing Decorah water supply is from six shallow wells. The wells range in depth from 56 feet to 78 feet. The wells were built in the period from 1949 to 1979. The total pumping capacity of the wells is 3.4 million gallons per day (mgpd). The city pumps water at an average of 1 mgpd. See the Table below for Water Source (Well) Information. Water treatment is limited to chlorination and fluoridation.

Table 19: Water Source (Well) Information

Well Number	Year Established	Location	Depth	Capacity (gpm)	Capacity (gpd)
1	1949	West end of Water Street	56	350	504,000
2	1958	North of water plant along levee	59	400	576,000
3	1962	North of water plant along levee	63	250	360,000
5*	1967	East side of Mill Street	78	425	612,000
6	1972	West side of Mill Street	78	440	633,000
7	1979	Along levee near athletic track	70	460	662,000

Source: Decorah Utilities Water Operations Report *(There is no Well No. 4)

The Decorah Water Storage system includes four storage reservoirs; three are ground storage and one is elevated storage. Two ground storage tanks, 353,600 gallons and 368,890 gallons, are located off Park Street in the southwest part of the city. These reservoirs were built in 1882 and 1935 respectively. The third ground storage tank is a 750,000 gallon tank located east of Luther College off of College Drive. A 100,000 gallon elevated storage tank is located in the extreme north part of the city west of Locust Road. The College Drive and Locust Road storage tanks were constructed in 1979. A fifth storage tank (150,000 gallons) in the Decorah Business Park is scheduled to go online in 2012 or 2013. Other booster pumped pressure systems serve the Minowa Heights area and the Ronan tanks area. See the Water Storage Information Table below:

Table 20: Water Storage Information

Storage Number	Year Constructed	Type/Location	Capacity
1	1882	Ground Storage – Ronan #1	353,600
2	1935	Ground Storage – Ronan #2	368,890
3	1978	Ground Storage - Freeport System	250,000
4	1979	Ground Storage – College Drive	750,000
5	1979	Elevated Tank – West of Locust Road	100,000
6	2010	Elevated Tank – Decorah Business Park	150,000

Source: Decorah Utilities Water Operations Report

The Decorah water distribution system includes over 60 miles of cast-iron and ductile-iron mains that range in size from 2-inch to 16-inch pipe. The distribution systems consists primarily of 4-inch, 6-inch, and 8-inch mains, which are fed from the wells and storage tanks with 8-inch to 16-inch mains. The original system of mostly 4-inch, 6-inch and 8-inch cast-iron mains was built in 1882. The overall system includes over 700 valves and 350 fire hydrants. Figure 6 shows the primary distribution system of 8-inch and larger mains.

Water demand has steadily declined over the past planning period due to loss of several water dependent industries, equipment conservation improvements in other high volume industries, as well as Luther College, as shown on the following Table:

Table 21: Average Daily Water Demand

Year	Average Daily Pumpage in Gallons
1995	1,285,465
2000	1,242,511
2005	1,009,256
2010	950,371

Total water pumped for 2010 was 346,885,367 gallons. The average daily demand for water was 950,371 gallons with the highest daily usage being 1,546,034 gallons.

The amount of unaccounted water (the difference between the amount of water pumped to the system and the amount of water actually used or sold) is approximately 15 percent. The city continues to investigate ways to reduce this amount. Unaccounted water is considered excessive at 20 percent.

The city also owns and operates the Decorah Business Park Water system. This is presently a separate pressure system operating on a 100 gallons per minute (gpm) well system. This well will be eliminated when the water main extension and booster system supply the new 150,000 gallon elevated storage tank in 2012 or 2013.

The Freeport area is served by the Freeport Water and Sanitary Sewer District system. This system, composed of 6-inch, 8-inch, and 10-inch diameter mains, serves the developed parts of the Freeport area. The water supply includes a deep well located near Wellington Place. The pumping capacity of the well is 200 (gpm).

The city continues to make water main improvements to provide better service and fire protection as well as to replace older mains in conjunction with related street projects. Generally adequate water pressure and volumes serve the community well. Planned improvements continue to emphasize replacement of older mains, valves, hydrants and other fixtures.

Prior to the planning period emphasis has been on distribution and fire protection improvements in downtown and school areas. Future improvements anticipated will need to include the Short Street commercial and industrial corridors, growth areas, upsizing of undersized mains, and investigating additional independent well capacity for the west side of town for emergency purposes in the event of flooding.

4.4 Stormwater Management

Storm Sewer System

The storm sewer system in Decorah consists of both open channel and drainage ways, and storm sewers. The storm sewers include box culverts for streets crossing Dry Run and a limited system of over 17 miles of storm sewers and intakes. The storm sewers were primarily developed in conjunction with the paving of curb and gutter streets. The storm sewer system has expanded as the city has developed. Most of the surface runoff follows paved streets sloping towards the Dry Run and the Upper Iowa River. Storm sewers, consisting of short reaches, and culverts, drain isolated low-lying areas primarily to Dry Run and the Upper Iowa River.

The adequacy of the existing interior storm sewer system to convey surface runoff is not known. As a minimum, the existing system should be improved to convey runoff from storm events of a two-year recurrence. New storm sewers have been developed as part of new subdivisions to convey runoff from a 10-year storm event, although the existing city subdivision ordinance does not address a storm sewer requirement. A two-year storm has a 50% chance of occurrence, and a 10-year storm has 10% chance of occurrence in any given year. Open channel drainage systems including culverts should have the capacity to convey surface runoff from a 50 to 100-year recurrence.

Many existing storm sewer issues which result in more frequent street flooding and other similar problems have been addressed with projects during the previous planning period.

Among the larger of these include the reconstruction of the downtown Water Street storm sewers, the Day Spring Lane storm sewer and roof drainage collection system, Division Street Improvements, Painter Street Improvements, and Charlie Miller Drive storm sewer bypass.

Additional future improvements are planned for problem areas including Short Street north of Iowa Highway 9 and Heivly Street.

The city does not have a comprehensive detention/retention storm water management policy. Efforts have been made to begin encouraging runoff alternatives such as permeable pavers where feasible. Recently such projects have been constructed at Luther College and Water Street Plaza.

4.6 Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities

Solid Waste

Sharps Trucking, also known as Malcom Enterprises, and Shimek Roll-Off & Sanitation Services are privately owned companies available to provide waste removal services in the City of Decorah. Refuse is collected once per week for residential customers and up to five times per week for commercial customers in Decorah. Residential customers pay for service on a monthly basis and commercial customers may either use the weekly collection system or rent a dumpster. Solid waste collection is not provided by the city.

Yard Waste Collection

The yard waste site is located on Trout Run Road one-quarter mile south of Highway 9. The city operates a yard waste site from April through November. Materials that are accepted include: leaves, grass clippings, trees, and branches at no charge.

Recycling

A privately operated company is available to provide curbside recycling services with pick up on the first and third weeks of the month. Private curbside recycling collection is not currently regulated by the city. There is also several collection points for drop-off recycling throughout Decorah as well as the Recycling Center located in Freeport. The city provides land for the placement of the recycling bins that are maintained and operated by Winneshiek County.

4.7 Communication Infrastructure

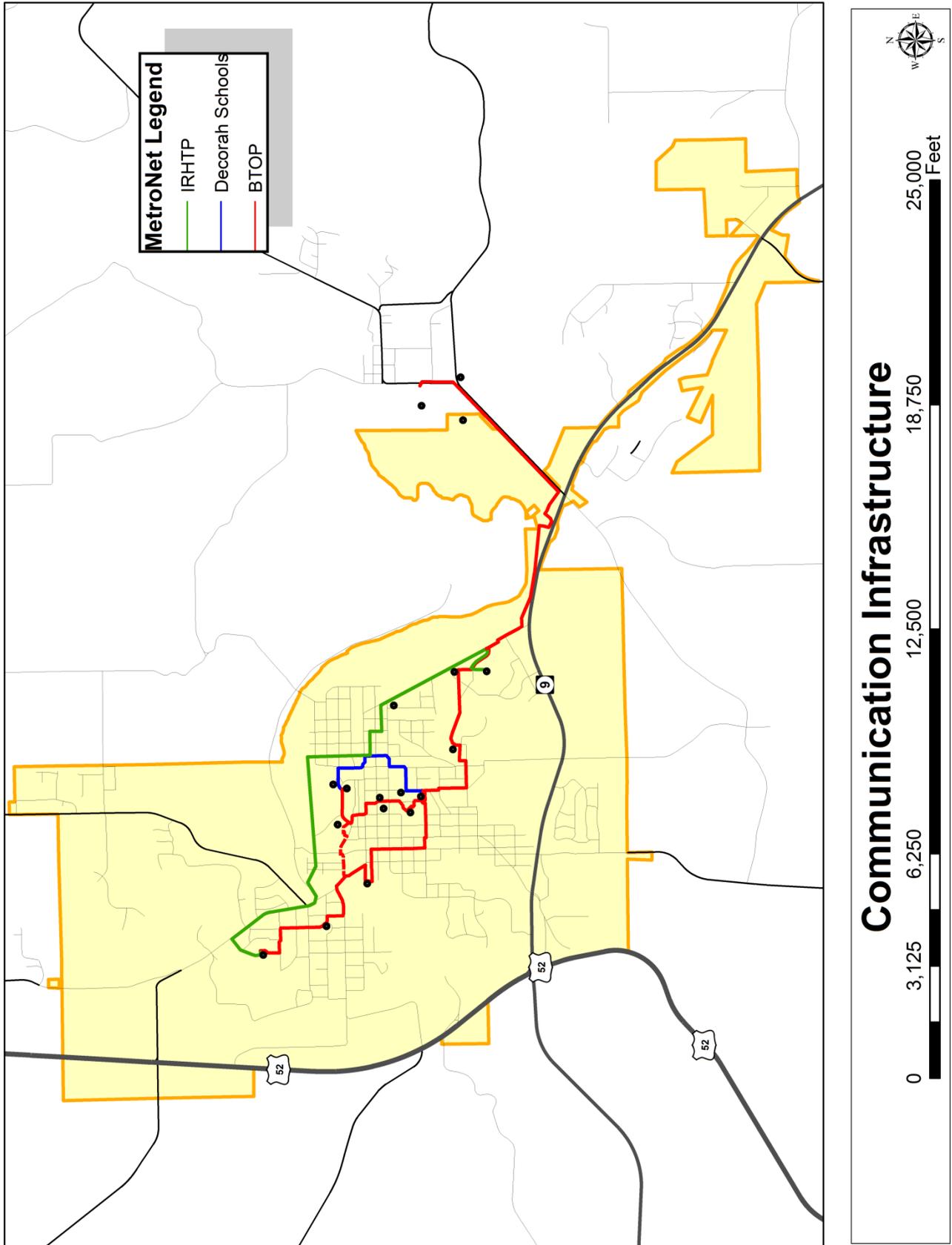
In the City of Decorah multiple companies are available to provide land line and cellular communication. Access to wireless communication facilities is becoming more and more important. In response to this, the Decorah Library currently offers wireless internet. High-speed internet service is adequate and is available through DSL, cable, and satellite throughout the city. The city has three radio stations, no television station and one cellular tower. The Federal Communications Act of 1996 increased the need for many local governments to examine their zoning ordinances to make sure they do not discriminate against cellular communication in land use and zoning decisions. Decorah has enacted a Telecommunications Tower Ordinance within the Zoning Code under Chapter 17.136. This Ordinance, which complies with the FCC Act of 1996, requires that telecommunication towers follow specific guidelines before permits are approved for the erection of such towers.

Fiber Optics

The City of Decorah has recently entered into a 28E agreement with Winneshiek County, Decorah School District, Luther College, Winneshiek Medical Center and Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission to create a consortium known as “Metro Net.” The purpose of this organization is to develop a fiber optic network in the city. Following several years of planning, this intergovernmental initiative was spurred on as a result of a successful Broadband Technologies and Opportunities Program Grant funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

This grant, which is in conjunction with the Iowa Communications Network (ICN), will link seventeen public facilities (see figure 7). Additionally, the consortium will pursue opportunities to lease fiber optic cable to other interested parties following the completion of the fiber optic cable connections to the public facilities. The lease arrangements, known as Indefeasible Rights to Use or IRU’s, will create partnerships to offset maintenance costs and ultimately enhance opportunities to expand this system.

Figure 7: Communication Infrastructure



4.8 Community Facilities

Community Facilities is a term used as a broad reference to describe those assets which provide a wide range of services to a city. Some examples are City Hall, the Fire Department, schools, and parks. Figure 8 illustrates the location of various community facilities.

Churches

There are several churches located in Decorah, serving a broad variety of faiths.

Cemeteries

The City of Decorah is home to several cemeteries. Lutheran Cemetery is located on Moen Street, and both St. Benedict's Cemetery and Phelps Cemetery are located on Pleasant Avenue. There are also two cemeteries in the Freeport area.

Libraries

The Decorah Public Library is located at 202 Winnebago St. The library was built in 1910 as a post office. In 1997 an addition was added to the east side of the building. The library has 21 staff members and three meeting rooms that accommodated 3,174 individuals in 2009. The library holds programs for children, teens, and adults; in 2009, 7,304 people attended these programs. The library includes 79,500 items consisting of books, periodicals, and other nonprofit items. During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the library had a total circulation of 158,813 items and 16,487 registered borrowers. The library offers wireless internet and 20 public access computers.

Law Enforcement

The Decorah Police Department has twelve full-time sworn officers, a full-time E911 Support Services Supervisor, five full-time dispatchers, one part-time dispatcher and 1 full-time clerical/dispatcher. In 2010 the Decorah Police Department received 3638 calls for service. The Decorah Communications Center processed 46,214 calls. The Police Department is located in the Decorah Law Enforcement Center at 400 Claiborne Drive as is shown in Figure 8.

The police department is a member of the 18 agency Northeast Iowa Narcotics Task Force, the State of Iowa Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Iowa Narcotics Officer Association and the Iowa DARE Officers Association.

Future considerations for the department are enhancements to the communications center such as computer aided dispatching and mobile data terminals in patrol cars.

Fire Department

Fire protection is provided by the Decorah Fire Department, which consists of 35 volunteers, including the chief, two assistant chiefs, four captains and one training officer. Most members are Firefighter and Hazardous Materials Operation certified. The Department has one station, located at 400 Claiborne Drive which is shown in Figure 8.

The Decorah Fire Department is comprised of a maximum 35 volunteer members. The membership includes almost all Firefighter I certified Firefighters, as well as being Hazardous Materials operations certified. The City of Decorah and the Decorah Rural Fire Protective association have a Fire Agreement that provides service to both the city and rural residents. The Decorah Fire Department has twelve pieces of fire apparatus, including (3) Class 1 pumpers, (1) 75 ft. Quint, (2) Rural Tankers, (2) Grass fire pickups, (1) Jaws mini-pumper, (1) Jaws / multipurpose rig, (1) Rescue / operations rig, a rescue boat, Rapid Deployment Craft and a utility ATV. The fire department has three full time engineers who rotate every 24 hours. The full time engineers maintain all the fire apparatus daily. They also notify the volunteers of fires within the Decorah Fire Department district, (some 212 square miles for fire and 370 square miles for rescue) and provide station tours for Fire Prevention. The engineers also answer the alarms many businesses have for fire. The city of Decorah has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 5 in the city and the rural area of a 5-9.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Hospitals

The Winneshiek Medical Center was established in 1914 as the Decorah Hospital. There have been numerous additions and modernizations to keep the hospital current with new equipment and technology. In 1957, the hospital changed its name to honor its first donor, William Smith. In 1969, the Smith Memorial Hospital dissolved its ownership and donated the facility to Winneshiek County. The Winneshiek County Memorial Hospital built on a new site further south at 901 Montgomery Street (see Figure 8), which opened in 1971. In 2001, the hospital expanded its vision to include a wider geographic area and offering of services and became known as the Winneshiek Medical Center. In 2008, a major remodel was completed, which included the expansion of radiology and laboratory facilities. The nonprofit hospital has 83 beds and provides inpatient and outpatient services. The hospital serves Decorah, Winneshiek County, and the surrounding counties. Ambulance service is provided from this facility. The hospital currently employs over 400 people, making it the third largest employer in Winneshiek County.

Winneshiek Medical Center (WMC) is a comprehensive health care organization serving residents of northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota. WMC is a county - owned critical access hospital, governed by an elected, seven-member Board of Trustees.

Winneshiek Medical Center Specialties

Behavioral health	General surgery
Family Medicine	Podiatry
Orthopedics	Hospitalist
Internal Medicine	Radiology
Otorhinolaryngology	Audiology
Pediatric dermatology	Urology
Midwifery	

Clinics

Decorah is home to several clinics and other medical providers. These include but are not limited to general care physicians, dental clinics, orthodontics, eye clinics, podiatry, behavioral health, and physical therapy.

Gundersen Lutheran - Decorah Clinic

1830 State Hwy. 9
Decorah, IA 52101

Specialty services:

Allergy	Diabetes Education	Neurology – Movement
Audiology	Endocrinology	Disorders
Behavioral Health	General Surgery	Nutrition Therapy
Cardiology	Nephrology	OB/GYN
Dermatology		Oncology

Ophthalmology
Otolaryngology (Ears,
Nose, Throat)

Pediatric Surgery
Consults
Podiatry

Radiology
Rheumatology
Urology

Gundersen Lutheran Eye Clinic - Decorah

1830 State Hwy. 9
Decorah, IA 52101

Gundersen Lutheran Orthodontics - Decorah

202 West Main Street
Decorah, IA 52101

Gundersen Lutheran Podiatry - Decorah

1830 State Hwy. 9
Decorah, IA 52101

Gundersen Lutheran Behavioral Health – Decorah

1830 State Hwy 9
Decorah, IA 52101

Services include:

- Evaluation and medication management of psychiatric conditions in adults, children and teens.
- Individual psychotherapy
- Marital therapy

Child and Senior Care Services

Decorah offers several options for senior care ranging from minimum assistance to full-time medical care. Barthell Order of Eastern Star Nursing Home is located west of the hospital along Ridgewood Drive. Barthell OES also operates the Arlin Falck Assisted Living facility and two independent senior living facilities in the same location. Aase Haugen Homes, Inc. is a long term and skilled nursing facility on the west side of Decorah. There is a special Memory Care facility and assisted living is available. Wellington Place, formerly known as Oneota Riverview Care Facility, is located in the Freeport area. Both assisted living and nursing home care are available. Oneota Village is an assisted living facility on Ohio Street. Vennehjem is a senior living facility for those 55 years and above, with services available, located on Nordic Drive.

Licensed child care is provided by five early care and education organizations. Sunflower Child Care Center is the largest child care center in the city. Northeast Iowa Montessori School, Nisse Preschool and Kids Place, NEICAC: Decorah Child Development Center and Kinderhaus also provide care for area children. Several in-home childcare providers are also available.

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

City Parks

The Parks and Recreation Department operates and manages the Decorah Park System; it currently employs 7 full time staff members. The Park System, which encompasses more than 503.1 acres (as shown in table 21) , consists of 15 sites including parks, recreation areas, public green spaces, over 15 miles of off-road recreation trails, and a leisure concept swimming pool.

Table 22: Parks and Recreation Acreages

Name	Acres
Will Baker Park	11
Decorah Municipal Pool & Park	5.7
Carl Selland Wayside Park	2.5
Phelps Park	56
Dunning's Springs Park	13
Ice Cave Hill Park	102
Barbara Barnhart Van Peenen Park	120
Palisades Park	105
Wold Park	3
Mary Christopher Park	0.5
City Ball Fields and Tennis Courts	6
Miller Park	5.9
Nordheim Park	1.5
Twin Springs Park	48
Decorah Campground	23

Source: Decorah Parks and Recreation

- Will Baker Park is located in the Southwest part of the city, adjoining the Decorah Campground to the south. This park, encompassing 11 acres of bluffs area, includes a scenic overlook and historical marker, hiking trails and a canoe landing. Other facilities provided are playground equipment and a picnic area with shelters and restrooms.
- Twin Springs Park, a nature area with a creek meandering through it to the Upper Iowa River, includes a picnic area and hiking and cross-country ski trails. The creek is also used for fishing.
- Decorah Campground, located in the southwest part of the city, includes a picnic area with restrooms, a playground, a canoe landing area, and a camping area.
- Decorah Municipal Pool and Park is located in northwest part of the city adjoining Luther College. In addition to the pool, the park includes a playground, picnic area, volleyball court, and a historical marker.
- Carl Selland Wayside Park is located in the west part of Decorah adjoining the floodplain of the Upper Iowa River. The 2.5-acre park includes a picnic area with restrooms, a small ball diamond, an ice skating rink, and a historical marker.

- Phelps Park, including 56 acres, is located along the bluffs of the Upper Iowa River in the west part of Decorah. The park includes a variety of recreational facilities. A playground, picnic area with shelter and restrooms, a park cabin, and a band shell are provided in the park. Other facilities include hiking trails, playground diamond, volleyball court, a scenic overlook, brick kiln, decorative fountain and a historical marker.
- Dunning's Spring Park and Ice Cave Hill Park, consisting of 115 acres, are nature preserves with limited recreational development. The parks include hiking trails, cross-country ski trails, picnic areas, and the Ice Cave. The parks include bluffs located along the north side of the Upper Iowa River.
- Barbara Barnhart Van Peenan Park, including 120 acres, is a nature preserve limited to hiking trails and a cross-country ski trail. The park is located northeast of Decorah in the unincorporated county.
- Palisades Park, also located along the bluffs of the Upper Iowa River, covers 105 acres. The park includes a picnic area with restrooms, hiking trails, a cross-country ski trail, and a scenic overlook.
- Wold Park, a 3-acre park, is located along Sumner Street in the northeast part of the city. The park includes a picnic area, a volleyball court, and a historical marker.
- Mary Christopher Park, a 0.5-acre park, is located northeast of the intersection of Water Street and First Street. The park includes a picnic area with restrooms, horseshoe pits, a shuffleboard court, and a historical marker.
- Miller Park, a 5.9-acre neighborhood park serves primarily the residential area located south of Highway 9. The park includes playground equipment, a picnic area, and a playground diamond.
- Nordheim Park, a 1.5-acre park, located in the extreme northeast part of the city, serves the residential area developed along the Locust Road corridor. The park includes playground equipment, a picnic area, and a playground.
- City Ball Diamonds and Tennis Courts are located along Claiborne Drive in the vicinity of the high school and the elementary school. This recreation area includes two ball diamonds with bleachers and four tennis courts.

In addition to the above parks, Decorah operates the Nor Ski Runs. Luther College owns the land of the Nor Ski Runs and the city has a long-term lease to use the facility.

Recreation

In addition to the recreational opportunities provided by the city, there are other opportunities available to the residents of Decorah. First, the Upper Iowa River itself is a recreational asset to the residents of Decorah. Currently, the river provides fishing, canoeing and kayaking opportunities. Other recreational facilities provided in Decorah and the planning area include two privately-owned golf courses and one public course. Silvercrest Golf and Country Club, a 9-hole course, is located north of Decorah and the Oneota Golf and Country Club, an 18-hole course, is located just north of Freeport. A 9-hole public golf course, Country View, is located northeast of Decorah.

County Parks

Winneshiek County manages over 300 acres of park land consisting of 17 parks. County parks located in Decorah and the planning area include Chattahoochie Park, Trout Run, and Freeport Park.

- Chattahoochie Park is located along the bluffs overlooking the Upper Iowa River just west of Highway 52. The park includes a canoe access and a picnic area with restrooms.
- Trout Run Access Area is located in the southeast part of Decorah along the Trout Run, which meanders through the park and discharges into the Upper Iowa River north of Highway 9. The park provides access to the Trout Run for trout fishing. A scenic bridge is located north of Highway 9.
- Freeport Park is located in Freeport and serves the unincorporated community and the surrounding area.

State Parks

Siewers Spring State Park, located south of Decorah, is the only state park located within the planning area. The principal facility in the park is the Siewers Spring Trout Hatchery which produces more than 100,000 trout used to stock northern and western parts of Iowa streams. The site where the hatchery now stands had been in the past a 50-acre farm, a furniture factory, a woolen textile mill, and a grain mill.

East of the two-mile planning area, there are several state-owned access points to the Upper Iowa River.

EDUCATION

Decorah is served by the Decorah Community School District. The district covers an area covering approximately 184 square miles of the northeast and central part of Winneshiek County. The district operates a high school, a junior high school, and two elementary schools. During the 2010 school year, there were 1,664 students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade in the Decorah Community School District. Most of the students enrolled in the district's schools are from Decorah.

In addition to the above, there are 120 students enrolled in a parochial school (St. Benedict's School), 39 students enrolled at West Side Early Childhood Center and 47 students that are homeschooled.

The senior high school (Thomas Roberts High School) is located in the northeast part of the city north of Claiborne Drive. This building houses grades 9-12. The school was originally built as an elementary school in 1954 and converted to a high school. The high school has several additions that were built in 1962, 1968, 1974, and 1987. The current enrollment as of the 2010-2011 school year was approximately 647 students. The city has recently passed

an adoption to remodel the school and this should be coordinated in more detail as this plan is updated in the future.

The junior high school is located at 405 Winnebago Street. The building was built in 2006 using a structural steel frame, steel joist roof structure, a metal roof deck and an EIFS exterior finish. Some of the interior details of the relatively new building are Athletic Courts, Break Room, Cafeteria, Classrooms, Communications, Computer, Dining, Dressing/Changing, Food Preparation, Food Storage, Gymnasium, Kitchen, Library, Locker Room, Maintenance, Mechanical Room, Media Center, Meeting Room, Offices, Restrooms, and Science Room. The junior high school includes grades 7 through 9, with a total enrollment in 2010-2011 school year of approximately 456 students.

The elementary school (John Cline Elementary School) was built in 1962 with an addition in 1968. The elementary school is located south of Claiborne Street across from the high school. During the 2009 -2010 school year there were 340 students enrolled in kindergarten through third grade. Current improvements underway include remodeling and addition of 13 classrooms.

The second elementary school (Carrie Lee Middle School) is located at 210 Vernon Street. This school was built in 1939, with an addition in 1954. The school includes 10 classrooms and a gymnasium for kindergarten through third grade. Current enrollment at the school is approximately 221 students. The school is in the process of being remodeled and one classroom will be added.

West Side Early Childhood Center is located on Center Street and teaches early childhood special education and pre-kindergarten classes.

St. Benedict's School is a Roman Catholic school which includes classrooms for first through eighth grade. Enrollment at St. Benedicts School for the 2009-2010 school year was 120 students.

There are several options for preschool in Decorah, including NEI Montessori School, Nisse Preschool, and Sunflower Preschool.

Decorah Community School District

The Decorah Community School District currently operates five facilities. Table 23 shows the current enrollment by facility in the District.

Table 23: Decorah Community School District Current Enrollment by Building

	Grades	Enrollment
Homeschooling	K-12	47
St. Benedict School	PK-8	120
West Side Early Childhood	ECSE-PK	39
John Cline Elementary	K-2	340
Carrie Lee Elementary	3-4	221
Elementary & Homeschool		767
Decorah Middle School	5-8	456
Decorah High School	9-12	647
Total		1,870

Source: Decorah Community School District
 *includes all Special ED and open enrolled students

In terms of enrollment projections for the school district, the Iowa Department of Education (DOE) projects that the district will continue to see a decline in the number of students over the next couple of years. Smaller family size may be a factor in the declining enrollment projections put forth by the DOE shown in Table 24.

Table 24: Decorah/North Winneshiek Community School District Enrollment Projections

Year	K	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7	G8	G9	G10	G11	G12	Total
2011-2012	169	124	141	127	140	126	137	121	152	143	157	162	145	1844
2012-2013	153	142	127	144	128	139	130	137	124	168	144	154	167	1857
2013-2014	185	128	146	130	145	127	143	130	141	137	169	141	160	1882
2014-2015	154	156	131	149	131	144	131	144	134	155	138	166	147	1880
2015-2016	162	130	160	135	150	130	149	131	148	148	156	135	171	1905

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Higher Education

Luther College, a four-year, coeducational, liberal arts college, is located in the northwest part of Decorah. The college was established in a vacant parsonage near La Crosse,

Wisconsin in 1861 and transferred to Decorah in 1862. The first main building was constructed on the campus in 1865.

The college campus consists of approximately 945 acres, of which 195 acres comprise the main campus. The main campus includes several classroom buildings, a library, administrative offices, student housing, and athletic facilities. A new 71,777 square foot building named Sampson Hoffland Science Building was recently built, Valder Hall has been recently renovated, and future plans include the construction of a new indoor swimming pool.

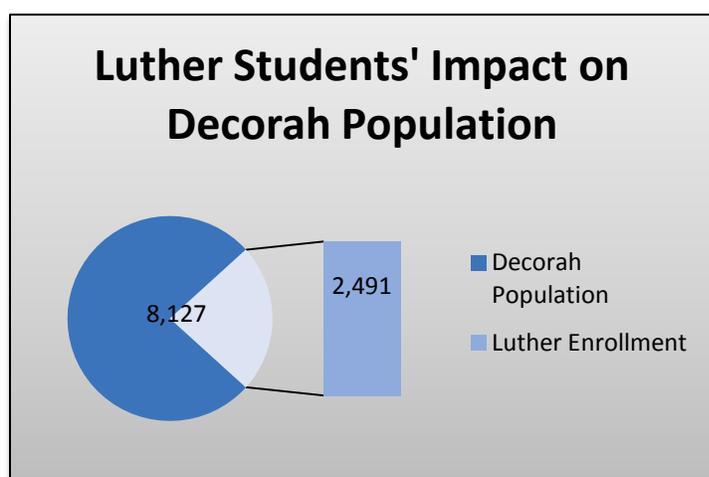
Luther College is primarily a residential college, it houses students in a variety of settings, including apartments, townhouses, residence halls and residential houses in neighborhoods surrounding the college. During the 2009-2010 school year Luther housed 2,150 students in campus housing, with approximately 110 to 150 students residing off-campus annually.

During 2010 Luther College reported 2,491 students enrolled for the Fall Semester. The student enrollment at Luther College has been stable over the last several years. Since 2006, the enrollment has varied from a low of 2,423 in 2008, to a high of 2,519 in 2006. See Table 25 for a detailed breakdown of these figures.

Table 25: Luther College Student Enrollment Trends for a Five-Year Period

Year	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year	Special	Total
2006	638	586	586	602	92	2,504
2007	670	595	543	588	80	2,476
2008	631	592	583	541	76	2,423
2009	667	579	593	595	85	2,519
2010	607	611	543	635	85	2,491

Source: Luther College



Luther College has a large impact on the City of Decorah. The Chart to the left shows that of the 8,127 total residents of Decorah, 2,491 of these are Luther students, making Luther College students 23% of the total population of Decorah.

Nearby Secondary Education

Decorah's location is within reasonable commuting distance, approximately 12 miles, to Northeast Iowa Community College located in Calmar, Iowa. Upper Iowa University, a four year private college, is approximately 36 miles from Decorah.

Winneshiek County Fairgrounds

The Winneshiek County Fairgrounds, encompassing approximately 9.5 acres, is located in the northeast of part of east Decorah, just east of Montgomery Street. The fairgrounds include 23 buildings and a one-quarter-mile dirt track. The buildings consist of a grandstand, a community building, exhibit halls, and cattle, sheep and swine barns.

The County fair was originally established in 1878 and is held annually during the summer. The annual attendance for the four-day event is over 17,000.

During the rest of the year, the buildings are used for storage. The community building is used year-round for sales, meetings, auctions, reunions, and other community activities. The dirt track, known as the Upper Iowa Speedway, is used for races during the summer months.

Winneshiek County Courthouse

Winneshiek County was organized after the state legislature passed an enabling legislation in 1847. The county was named in honor of a Winnebago chief. The original courthouse was built in 1858, and a jail in 1878. The existing courthouse was built in 1903-1904. The courthouse, built of buff Bedford stone, includes three stories. The courthouse houses administrative offices for the various county departments including the assessor, auditor, treasurer, recorder, county engineer, and county supervisor as well as other county facilities.

City Hall

The city hall is located north of the central business district, along Claiborne Street. The city hall, built in 1961, houses the offices of the city manager, mayor, Parks and Recreation Department, the council chambers, the police department, and the fire department. A new addition of approximately 8,000 square feet was built in 1991 to house the police department. City hall was remodeled in 1993, and with those improvements has met the city's needs since that time.

4.9 Utilities & Community Facilities Summary

The City of Decorah enjoys outstanding public facilities that add to the quality of life of its residents. Together with the Decorah Community and Luther College, the community offers a variety of recreational, artistic and cultural opportunities to the public. In addition, the city's police, fire rescue and medical services are first rate. It should be noted that the community should strive to maintain and improve these services through the dedication of

resources. Decorah's utility infrastructure meets the city's needs at this time, and plans are continually made for expansion, repair and upgrades as needed.

4.10 Utilities & Community Facilities Policies

Utilities

- Coordination of the immediate and long range plans of the wastewater treatment and sanitary sewer system with the land-use plan and policies will be encouraged and implemented.
- A detailed water system plan addressing current and projected needs for production, storage, treatment, transmission and distribution should be developed. The plan should address both domestic and fire flows, and should be developed in conjunction with the land use plan.
- The water supply wells should be protected from extraneous surface contamination.
- City standard specifications for street and utility improvements should be developed to provide uniform design of utilities and streets.
- Storm drainage system design criteria should be developed in accordance with the land use policies and plan to serve as a guide for developers and the city to improve storm drainage systems. The storm sewers in areas subject to future development by sub dividers should be designed to accommodate runoff from storm events of a 10-year recurrence.
- Recycling of solid waste and safe methods for disposal of toxic waste should be promoted.

Parks

- A detailed written plan should be established that will reflect development, maintenance, and orderly growth of area trails, parks, recreation activities and community facilities.
- A system of neighborhood parks that serve existing and future residential areas should be developed in accordance with the parks and recreation plan.
- The system of bikeways and trails that links parks, recreation areas and schools with residential areas should be further developed in the Decorah area.

- The local trail system should be expanded and integrated with county and regional trail systems to enhance connectivity and multi-modal use.
- Cooperative efforts with all public entities, governmental agencies and surrounding municipalities; including schools, college, and counties including Winneshiek, regarding planning and development of recreational facilities and programs and joint use of facilities should be encouraged and continued.
- Public park dedication standards for developers should be established.

Schools

- Future needs of area school districts and colleges will be coordinated and incorporated into this plan.

Community Facilities

- Future needs of the Decorah Fire Department will be coordinated in accordance with the standards of the Insurance Service Office (ISO) and this plan.
- Relocation and potential consolidation of city facilities should be considered during the planning period.
- The city library should be recognized as a vital part of this community and overall maintenance and operations should be supported.
- Development of a community center should be encouraged.
- The Vesterheim Museum should be recognized as a vital part of this community and the city should participate in a cooperative and coordinated planning process in support of the Museum's integration and development in its existing downtown area.