

CITY OF BATAVIA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT

The Public Facilities and Services Element addresses those utilities, buildings, equipment and personnel needed to support the uses identified in the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The element establishes standards for the level of various services provided by the City and other public agencies within the planning area. Maps show the location of existing and planned facilities. The Goals and Policies section provides general and specific guidance for decisions relating to the provision of facilities as the community continues to mature and develop.

Background

Public services in the Batavia planning area are provided by numerous public agencies, jurisdictions and utility companies, operating from a variety of facilities. The City itself provides multiple services, augmented by single-purpose jurisdictions throughout the area. The City operates its own electric utility, providing service only within the City limits. There are eight school districts, five library districts, four townships, three fire districts, a water reclamation district, various special service districts and a number of private utility companies that provide services within the planning area. The unincorporated area surrounding the City of Batavia municipal limits is generally under Kane County jurisdiction with a small portion to the northeast being in Du Page County. There are many unincorporated areas that are totally or partially surrounded by the City. Services in the unincorporated areas are almost exclusively provided by Kane County, special districts and the townships.

Map PF A shows the location of existing and planned public facilities in the planning area.

- **Public Safety:**
 - Police emergency and routine services are provided by the City of Batavia Police Department and the Kane County Sheriff's Department. City police respond to calls for service within the city limits, while the Sheriff handles calls in the unincorporated areas. Both agencies cooperate with each other and other law enforcement agencies in emergency situations and for specialized activities and training. Mooseheart and Fermilab have their own security services.
 - The Batavia Fire Department provides fire prevention and suppression, and emergency medical response and transport in the area covered by the Batavia Fire District. The Fire District covers most of the planning area, with the exception of the area north of Main Street from Mill Creek west, which is served by the Elburn Fire Protection District. The Batavia Fire Department operates from two state-of-the-art stations on the east and west sides of the

City. Fermilab has its own fire protection capability. All local departments are part of the fire mutual aid system.

- Emergency dispatch services for fire, police and emergency medical service are shared through an intergovernmental agreement among the Cities of Batavia, Geneva, St. Charles, and Elburn. The Tri-Com dispatch center is located in west St. Charles.
- General Government Services:
 - General government services are provided by the City of Batavia within the incorporated limits of the municipality. City offices and the Police Department are housed in the Government Center, a restored former windmill factory in the downtown. The Public Works Department offices and corporation yard are located on the City's northeast side, on Raddant Road.
 - Kane County provides a variety of services throughout the planning area, including criminal justice, social services, environmental management, forest preserves, transportation, health, elections, property assessment and similar services. The County Sheriff has law enforcement jurisdiction in the planning area outside of the city limits. The County has no facilities other than highways and a forest preserve in the planning area.
 - The planning area encompasses all of Batavia Township and portions of Geneva, Winfield, and Blackberry Townships. Townships provide property assessment and road maintenance services, along with some social services. Batavia Township administrative offices are on Flinn Street in downtown Batavia, and the Township Road Commissioner maintenance facilities are located in the industrial park east of Kirk Road.

Map PF A shows the location of City of Batavia general government facilities.

- Schools: Batavia School District 101 serves the majority of the planning area. The northernmost part of the planning area is served by Geneva School District 304, while Kaneland School District 302 and West Aurora School District serve the far southwestern part of the planning area. Map PF B shows the district boundaries and the location of existing schools.
- Library: The Batavia Library District covers the majority of the planning area, with the exception of northwestern portions of the city limits and Mill Creek, which is served by the Geneva Library District. Small portions in the southwest part of the planning area, outside of the city limits, are served by the Messenger, Sugar Grove, and Town and Country Library Districts. A very small area is outside of any library district. The Batavia Library District operates a large modern facility in downtown Batavia. Map PF B shows library district boundaries and the location of the Batavia Public Library.

- Utilities:
 - **Water:** Domestic water service is provided to properties within the city limits of Batavia, and to a few customers in unincorporated Kane County areas adjacent to the city limits. The City operates a number of wells to provide domestic water, which is stored in three above ground reservoirs on the east and west sides of the City. Mill Creek provides domestic water service to its residents through the Mill Creek Water Reclamation District. Mooseheart and Fermilab each have their own potable water service. Properties outside these areas rely on private groundwater wells.
 - **Sanitary Sewer:** The City operates a central sanitary sewer treatment plant on the west bank of the Fox River, on the south side of the downtown. The plant is fed by a system of gravity sewer mains and 19 lift stations throughout the community. The treatment plant is nearing capacity, and an expansion study is being conducted. Mill Creek Water Reclamation District operates its own sewage treatment plant serving only the unincorporated Mill Creek development. The City provides sanitary sewer service to Fermilab for a large portion of their property. Mooseheart has a small sewage treatment plant on the Fox River south of the Les Arends Forest Preserve. Properties outside these areas use septic systems for sewage treatment.
 - **Electricity:** The City has its own electric utility that provides and distributes power to all properties in the city limits. Electric power blocks are purchased on the open market from various suppliers. Batavia joined with the cities of Geneva and Rochelle to form the Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency (NIIMPA). NIIMPA has invested in the Prairie State Energy Campus, a coal-fired generating station in southern Illinois, that provides a long-term source of reliable power to the community. The City has constructed new transmission facilities on the Fermilab property to connect to the bulk power grid. ComEd serves the rest of the planning area with electric power.
 - **Natural Gas:** The entire planning area is served by Nicor, which has major transmission lines running north/south on the west side of the City.
 - **Electronic Communications:**
 - **Cable Television:** Comcast is franchised to provide electronic communication service throughout the planning area, and is the sole provider of cable television service. AT&T is franchised through the State of Illinois to provide television services in the planning area.
 - **Telephone:** The planning area is served by a variety of providers; AT&T owns the transmission wires.
 - **Internet:** The planning area is served by a variety of providers.
 - **Fiber Optic Cable:** The Batavia Electric division has installed nearly 30 miles of fiber optic cable in the planning area. City fire stations, the Municipal Center, the public works facility, all major City utility buildings are connected to this fiber for communications, and for data and supervisory control systems. The Batavia School and Park districts, District facilities, and some private commercial and industrial customers also use the fiber network.

- **Stormwater Management:** The City adopted the Kane County Stormwater Management ordinance, and administers it within the city limits. The stormwater management system consists of above and below ground storm drains, retention basins, natural creeks and various systems to slow the speed and improve the quality of runoff.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** Residential properties in the City are served by Veolia Waste Services. Refuse and recyclables are collected weekly. Veolia operates a waste transfer station in the industrial park east of Kirk Road. Unincorporated areas and commercial and industrial properties in the city may contract with other haulers.
- **Security & Emergency Operations:** All of the public utilities and emergency services in the area have system and community security high on their priority list. The various jurisdictions and agencies routinely coordinate plans and activities to ensure efficient and effective resource use. The Kane County Emergency Management Plan and the Batavia Emergency Management Plan are the guiding documents for emergency events.

Issues

1. **Drinking Water.** The potable, or drinking, water system must adhere to increasingly strict state and federal water quality standards, while serving a growing population and industrial base. The challenge is to provide treatment, storage and distribution at an economical price. Community fire insurance ratings are partially based on the adequacy of the water system, including pressure, flow, hydrant spacing and similar factors. The City has three large capacity water towers on the east (one) and west sides (two) of the community, and a water treatment facility on the northwest side of the City.
2. **Sanitary Sewer.** The sanitary sewer system, consisting of collection, transmission and treatment facilities, has nearly reached its practical capacity. Without significant investment in new equipment, the City will be limited in the amount of new development and annexation of existing properties it can accommodate. Allocation of remaining sewer capacity is a policy issue. The City has begun an expansion study for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
3. **Storm Drainage and Flooding.** Older parts of the City lack drainage facilities adequate to prevent occasional flooding. The city maintains an ongoing program to separate the remaining areas with combined stormwater and sanitary sewer systems. Funding for this program to correct these problem areas is a significant challenge, especially with declining City revenues and grant opportunities.
4. **Electric Power.** The City of Batavia is the sole provider of electricity to its businesses and residents. Electricity is largely purchased from market sources, but the city also owns a minority share of the Prairie State Power Plant in southern Illinois. The city is continually working to modernize the distribution system and to create additional system redundancy, in order to improve reliability.

5. Fire and Emergency Medical Service. The City's two fire stations are adequate for foreseeable future needs in fire protection and emergency medical services. Two ambulances are based in Batavia as part of the five ambulances serving the Tri-City Ambulance area. As the population and employment base continues to grow, the department will need to add personnel and equipment to maintain its target response times, and will need to continue to upgrade equipment and skills to meet growth in calls for service. Fire prevention and suppression activities will also continue to be an important part of the fire safety program. Medical calls constitute the majority of the Fire Department's calls for service. Future staff training and manning will reflect this evolution.
6. Police Protection. The City has maintained a high quality of police services in the community. The biggest issue in maintaining this level of service is the availability of outside funding sources such as grant opportunities. Future issues include traffic management, pedestrian and bicycle safety, cybercrime and domestic security.
7. Emergency Dispatch. The City has joined with Geneva, St. Charles and the Elburn Fire Protection District to form Tri-Com, which provides 911 dispatching for emergency police and fire calls for service. There is a continuing need for coordination and to upgrade the technology to maintain a state of the art facility.
8. General Government Facilities. The City of Batavia operates out of two principal facilities—the Municipal Center along the Fox River in downtown, and the Public Works facility on Raddant Road on the east side. The facilities are adequate for today's needs, but investment is needed for energy conservation and facility maintenance.
9. Education. The majority of the City is served by Batavia School District 101. A small portion of the north side of the city is served by the Geneva School District 304. Mooseheart properties along Randall Road, north of Orchard and Mooseheart Roads, are served by West Aurora School District 129. Recent improvements to Batavia High School have added capacity to meet anticipated student population needs for some time. Immanuel Lutheran and Holy Cross schools have also expanded.
10. Library. The Batavia Public Library District has boundaries that are significantly larger than different from the City limits. The library is located in the downtown and serves patrons in areas surrounding the City, including some in other municipalities. The Geneva Public Library serves a few residential neighborhoods in north and northwest Batavia.
11. Security. Security remains a top priority for all government and private utility providers. Many older facilities were not designed to meet today's heightened security concerns. All emergency plans and security plans need to be kept current, and responsible personnel need to be trained on a regular basis in their implementation. All City management personnel are trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Goals and Policies

Goal 1. Provide quality municipal services in a cost-effective manner

Policies

- a. Maintain a multi-year capital improvement plan for all City infrastructure and major capital purchases
- b. Coordinate utility and street improvements to avoid damage to new pavement
- c. Continually explore methods for cost savings in City facilities
- d. Evaluate partnerships with public and private organizations as a mechanism for lowering the cost of public facilities
- e. Coordinate capital projects with other governmental agencies, utility companies and private developers
- f. Provide a higher level of street and sidewalk maintenance in the downtown
- g. Investigate cost sharing in the provision of some City services
- h. Evaluate the feasibility of implementing a stormwater utility to provide facilities to alleviate flooding and drainage problems

Goal 2. Consider services provided by other agencies in City decision-making

Policies

- a. Evaluate student population impacts in new residential developments
- b. Use Fox Metro Water Reclamation District for sanitary sewer service where feasible
- c. Use state and regional purchasing agreements for equipment and facilities where cost and time savings can be achieved
- d. Coordinate street maintenance and plowing with Townships, Kane County and IDOT
- e. Study the use of intergovernmental agreements for sharing of facilities and services with other agencies

Goal 3. Have new development pay its own way

Policies

- a. Require full cost recovery for the extension of City utilities to new development
- b. Periodically update impact fees to insure that future capital improvements are fully funded
- c. Recover the cost of development processing and approval through fees for services
- d. Consider establishing buy-in fees for annexation of territory to the City

Goal 4. Provide reliable and high quality emergency response services

Policies

- a. Respond to emergency police calls in 5 minutes or less

- b. Respond to 90% of emergency fire suppression calls with an engine company within 4 minutes of a 911 call and supplement response with full resources within 8 minutes
- c. Respond to 90% of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls with arrival of a first responder within 4 minutes of a 911 call, and arrival of an Advanced Life Support unit (ALS) within 8 minutes
- d. Construct a second bridge crossing of the Fox River in the downtown to provide a second or alternate emergency access
- e. Insure adequate fire hydrant placement throughout the community in accordance with national standards
- f. Prepare emergency operations plans for each jurisdiction and utility, routinely train personnel in their roles and coordinate emergency plans with other jurisdictions and utilities
- g. Maintain current system security plans for all utilities and facilities

Goal 5. Coordinate City service provision with private utilities and other governmental jurisdictions

Policies

- a. Continue to participate in the Tri-Com emergency dispatch system
- b. Coordinate electric power distribution with ComEd
- c. Connect potable water systems to those of adjacent municipalities to insure uninterrupted service
- d. Continue membership in the Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency (NIMPA)
- e. Continue cooperation with AT&T for completion of their digital communication infrastructure
- f. Expand the City's fiber optic network to improve communications service to businesses and public agencies

Goal 6. Establish reasonable boundaries for the extension of City services, including aligning City boundaries with other service providers

Policies

- a. Set an ultimate sanitary sewer service area based on treatment plant capacity
- b. Provide City utility service outside the City limits only when issues of public health exist and only if a pre-annexation agreement is signed
- c. In areas where pockets of unincorporated property exists, require property annexations to reduce or eliminate such pockets to achieve orderly City boundaries
- d. Provide direct City public safety services to non-residents only for emergencies, and insure that all costs are recovered

Goal 7. Use utility capacity strategically for City development and redevelopment

Policies

- a. Allocate adequate sanitary sewer capacity for downtown redevelopment projects

- b. Retain sewer capacity for infill projects when extending service for annexations
- c. Where feasible use Fox Metro to provide sanitary sewer service
- d. Allow emergency sewer connection to homes in unincorporated areas with failing septic systems only with concurrent annexation, or require the property owner sign an agreement to annex to the City when it is possible to do so

Goal 8. Use private contractors to provide services to City residents when it is cost-effective to do so, and when service levels can be maintained

Policies

- a. Provide weekly residential solid waste and recyclable material collection services using competitively bid private vendors; consider expanding recycling to business and multifamily uses
- b. Continue to evaluate the privatization of services, including contracting for specialized or short-term needs
- c. Use private consultants for engineering design work and planning studies that are one-time projects and those that require specialized expertise

Goal 9. Insure a reliable supply of electricity for Batavia residents and businesses at costs below those of private utility providers

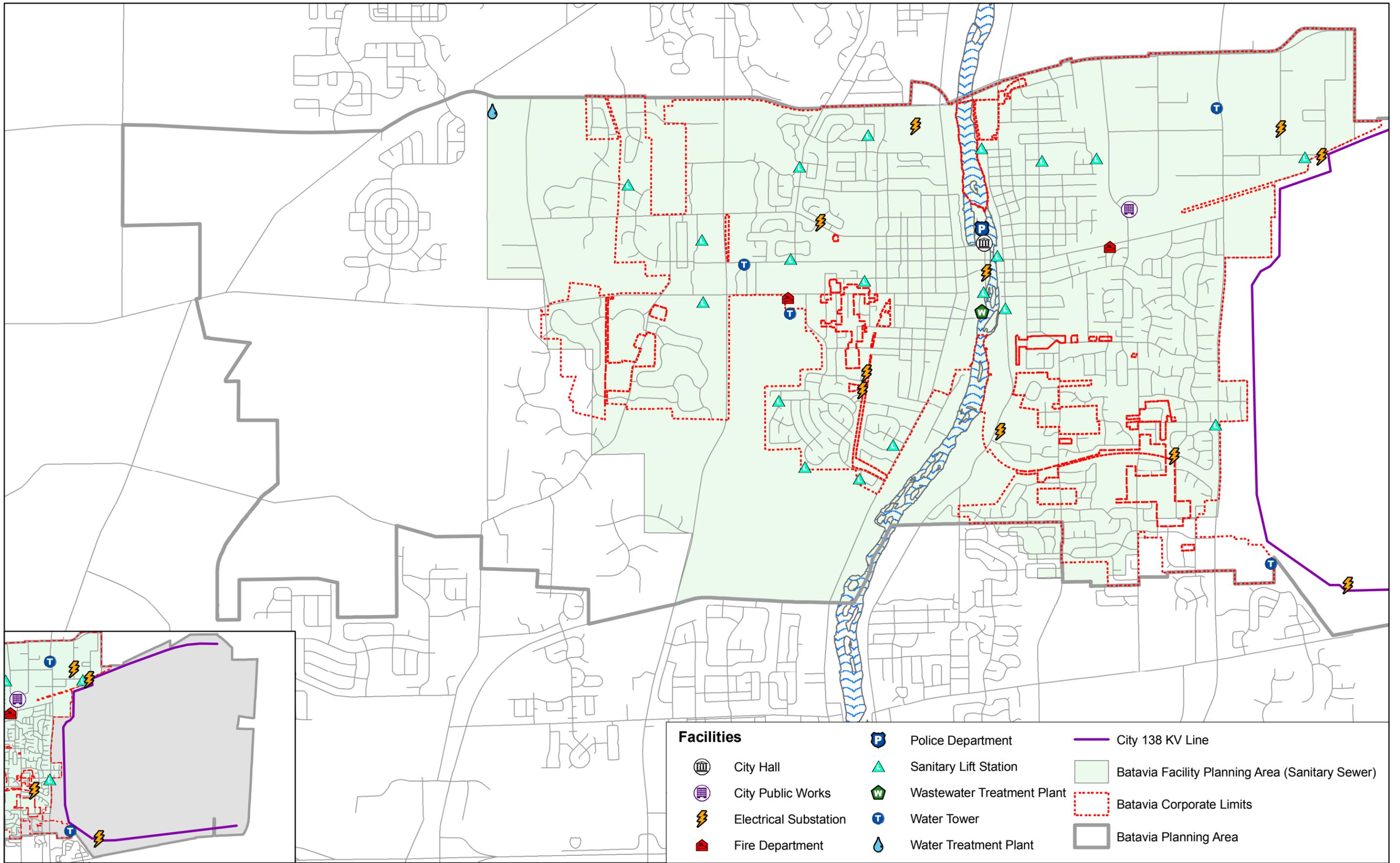
Policies

- a. Invest in system upgrades to insure an highly reliable power supply and a redundant distribution system
- b. Continue to evaluate energy portfolio to maintain the best mix of sources and appropriate levels of contracted energy to maintain affordable rates

Goal 10. Continually search for ways to improve the quality and reliability of services to the community

Policies

- a. Participate in regional and state professional organizations
- b. Adopt “best practices” in service delivery, adapted to local conditions
- c. Provide incentives for more effective and efficient service delivery
- d. Conduct regular security evaluations of public facilities and implement priority recommendations

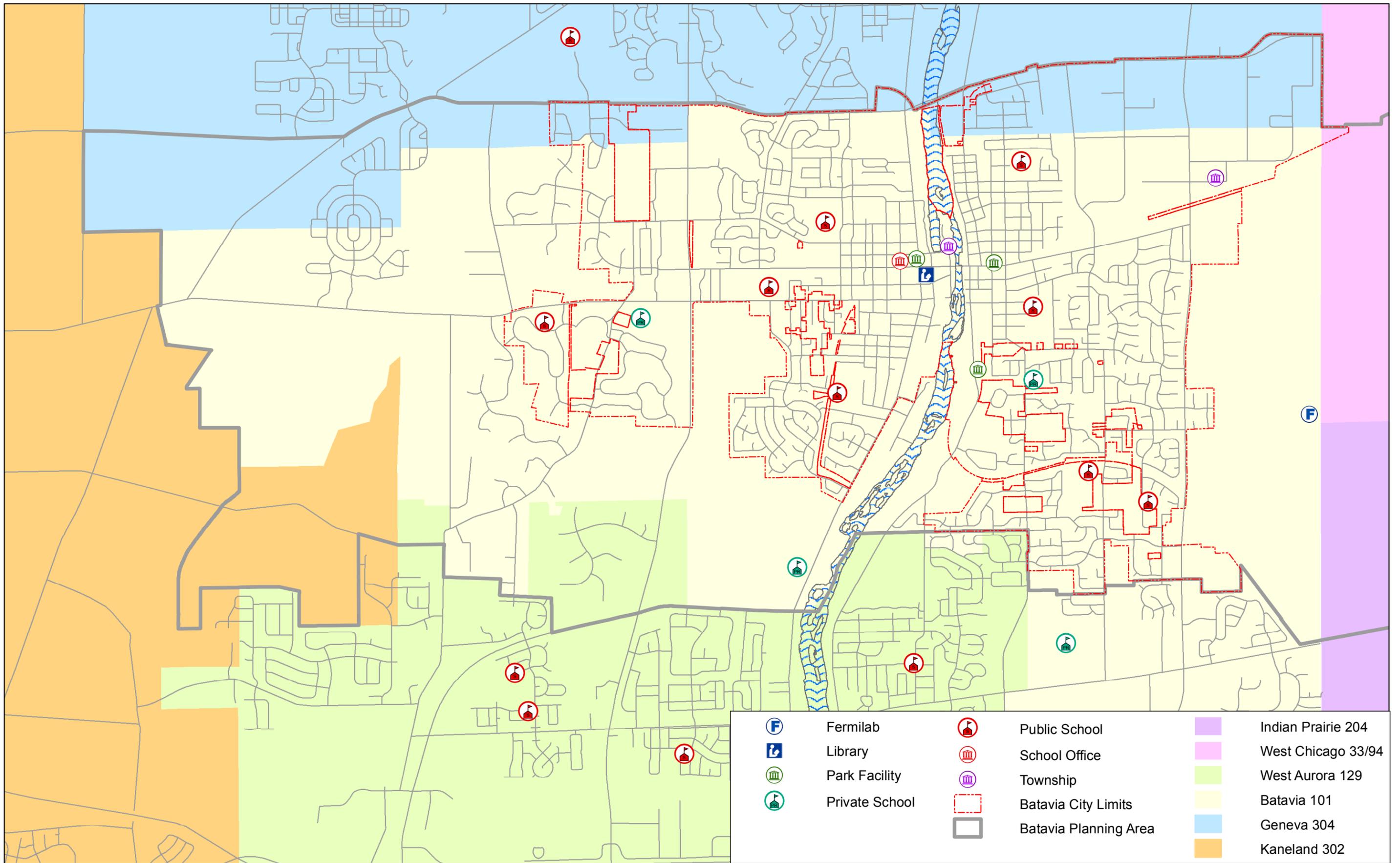


Map PF A - City Facilities Map



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Community Development Department - 1/15/2009



Map PF B - Other Public Facilities

