

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

EXISTING FACILITY ASSESSMENT

The Town of Star Prairie is a small rural community. The town does not provide extensive services for residents. What services are provided are discussed in the following sections.

GOVERNMENT FACILITIES & CEMETERIES

- The Town of Star Prairie has a new Town Hall that was completed in February of 2007. The new Town Hall is located on a 3.5 acre site located at the corner of Cook Drive and County Road C. It has meeting rooms, town offices, kitchen facilities and permanent voting facilities. The hall was dedicated during the fall of 2007.
- The old town hall is a former school; it was known as the Johannesburg or Riverview School and was built in 1923. It is located on approximately two acres along the Apple River just southeast of the intersection of County Roads C and CC.
- The old town hall has very limited kitchen facilities, a large parking lot and has a handicapped entrance ramp. The hall was used for most public meetings and voting.
- The old town hall is utilized by local organizations for meetings.
- The town owns about two acres at this site. It is also used to access the Apple River for fishing, canoeing, picnicking, sight-seeing and unsupervised swimming.
- Discussion continues on the future of the old town hall, it could have a variety of uses, such as meeting hall, voting center, community or senior center or a rental facility.
- There are two cemeteries located in the Town of Star Prairie.
- The Oakland Cemetery is located in section 13 off CTH CC. It was platted in 1893 and was deeded by the Town of Star Prairie to the Oakland Cemetery Association in 1899. The Association is responsible for maintenance of the cemetery.
- There is also a cemetery at the St. Croix County Health Center on CTH K. It was established when the Health Center operated as a poor farm and sanatorium. It is owned and maintained by St. Croix County.
- Please see map below for siting of these facilities.

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

- There is one existing public town park and one planned public town park in Star Prairie.
- There will be a park at the new town hall. Planned facilities include a picnic pavilion with tables and a children's playground structure.
- The Town of Star Prairie provides access to the Apple River for fishing, canoeing, sight seeing, picnicking and unsupervised swimming from the old town hall site. Other than two picnic tables, there are no park facilities on this two-acre site.
- The Prairie Rich subdivision has a 2.6 acre site of land dedicated as a private park for the subdivision residents. There are no facilities.

- There are six public boat and/or canoe accesses in the town. The Town of Star Prairie owns three of them.
- In the Wigwam Shores subdivision, the town owns 0.87 acres at the end of 217th Avenue, which is utilized as a boat landing to Squaw Lake. The town also owns a 3.55 acre parking lot for about 20 vehicles and trailers just a short distance from the landing.
- The town owns 0.277 acres, Lot 41B, off CTH H on Cedar Lake which is used as a winter ice fishing drive-on or walk-in access. It is closed off in the summer. There are no parking facilities and parking on CTH H is a safety issue and is prohibited. There are no facilities at this site.
- The third public access is the canoe access to the Apple River at the old town hall.
- The newest public water access in the town is South Cedar Bay Landing, located off CTH H on Cedar Lake. The Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust owns 1.3 acres, Lot 41AB-2, it is west of the town's access. Working with the Town of Star Prairie, the Star Prairie Fish and Game Club, St. Croix County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the land trust constructed a boardwalk across wetlands to reach the lake to allow canoe access in the summer and walk-in ice fishing access in the winter. Additional facilities include benches for wildlife viewing, picnic tables and a parking lot for approximately 12 vehicles.
- The Riverdale Flowage on the Apple River has a boat access off CTH C which provides access to the flowage. The site is owned by the power company.
- There is a canoe access to the Apple River off CTH H on the County's Apple River Property in Huntingdon. It is maintained by St. Croix County. Facilities include a parking lot, picnic tables and rough trails.
- For active recreation, town residents usually utilize park and recreation facilities in the City of New Richmond, or villages of Star Prairie or Somerset.
- St. Croix County's Apple River Property at Huntingdon, 59 acres, is also available for passive recreation. The County's facility provides fishing, a canoe access, picnic tables, parking and rough trails. There is an easement for a 15-foot wide walking trail from the Apple River Property north along Cedar Creek through Vern Nelson's former property. The County Parks Department hopes to work with the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust to expand the easement along Cedar Creek and someday connect the County's Apple River Property to the McMurtrie Preserve.
- The Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust owns and maintains the 65-acre McMurtrie Preserve off CTH M, east of Cedar Lake. The Land Trust is in the process of improving



The Old Town Hall is located on the Apple River near Johannesburg. This site is a canoe access, swimming area and has limited picnic facilities. Photo by Kathy Mlynarczyk.

the access to the McMurtrie Preserve and will provide trails, a pavilion, toilet facilities and a parking lot for 20 cars. The site will be open to the public for educational purposes.

- The Land Trust is also in the process of acquiring approximately 40 acres from the New Richmond Archery Club for future public use.
- There are bicycle routes along County Roads H, C, CC and K in the Town of Star Prairie. They are designated and marked by the St. Croix County Highway Department in conjunction with the Town. Future bike routes are discussed in the transportation section.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns two large Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) located in the Town of Star Prairie. These areas are managed to provide important feeding, breeding, nesting, cover and other habitat values to a wide variety of plant and animal species. They also provide a recreational and open space function to local communities. Prairie Flats North WPA is 220 acres in sections 5, 6 and 8. Prairie Flats South WPA is 320 acres in section 7. WPA lands are purchased with duck stamp dollars and therefore the primary purpose is to provide waterfowl production habitat which consists of large tracks of grassland interspersed with numerous wetlands. Management on WPAs includes ongoing wetland and prairie restoration, water level manipulation, prescribed fire, tree removal, mowing and sometimes grazing. They are open to the public for hunting, fishing, environmental education and interpretation, and wildlife observation and photography. Motorized vehicles, mountain bikes and horses are not allowed in WPAs.
- Please see map below for siting of these facilities.

<i>SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING FACILITIES</i>
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Recycling Tonnages – 2005 to 2008
St. Croix County Responsible Unit Communities

COMMUNITIES	2005	2006	2007	2008	SERVICES
<i>Towns</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TONS</i>	
Baldwin	46.09	49.58	48.62	48.77	Town Drop Off Center
Eau Galle	72.41	77.69	86.78	86.20	Curbside Collection
Emerald	14.56	12.94	13.61	10.93	Town Drop Off Center
Erin Prairie	0.00	21.66	19.43	19.34	Town of Richmond Drop Off Center / Curbside Collection*
Glenwood	30.08	28.22	33.53	30.94	Town Drop Off Center
Hammond	71.22	89.49	171.09	147.18	Drop Off / Curbside Collection
Hudson	983.07	941.73	955.92	931.62	Curbside Collection
Kinnickinnic	88.05	105.91	102.97	99.93	Drop Off / Curbside Collection
Pleasant Valley	41.46	49.29	23.90	49.53	Town Drop Off Center
Richmond	29.54	167.46	178.91	173.67	Drop Off / Curbside Collection
Rush River	22.53	22.26	22.71	25.93	Drop Off / Curbside Collection
St. Joseph	375.75	383.88	380.11	369.63	Town of Richmond Drop Off Center/Curbside Collection*
Somerset	90.30	249.27	249.70	251.08	Drop Off / Curbside Collection
Springfield	12.98	10.84	12.03	11.13	Town Drop Off Center
Stanton	17.80	42.82	45.33	69.34	Drop Off / Curbside Collection
Star Prairie	0.00	174.79	167.05	168.09	City of New Richmond Drop Off Center / Curbside Collection*
Troy	115.11	318.74	364.06	395.50	Drop Off / Curbside Collection
Subtotal	2010.95	2746.57	2875.75	2888.81	
<i>Villages/Cities</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TONS</i>	
V. Baldwin	328.98	305.02	295.84	279.62	Curbside Collection
V. Deer Park/T. Cylon	17.82	17.76	17.56	13.60	Village/Town Drop Off Center
V. Hammond	162.87	160.16	168.39	186.76	Curbside Collection
V. North Hudson	491.53	497.31	480.20	480.60	Curbside Collection
V. Somerset	77.40	47.52	48.90	51.57	Curbside Collection
V. Star Prairie	86.87	86.88	86.88	86.88	Curbside Collection
V. Woodville	127.89	104.71	87.45	103.79	Curbside Collection
C. Hudson	1758.33	1907.98	1530.06	3210.40	Curbside Collection
C. New Richmond	455.50	456.56	523.00	715.00	Drop Off / Curbside Collection
Subtotal	3507.19	3583.9	3238.28	5128.22	
St. Croix County	5518.14	6330.47	6114.02	8017.04	N/A

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Note: The Towns of Cady, Cylon, Forest and Warren, Villages of Roberts, Spring Valley and Wilson and Cities of Glenwood and River Falls are not part of the County Responsible Unit. * Denotes numbers that represent curbside collection totals only.

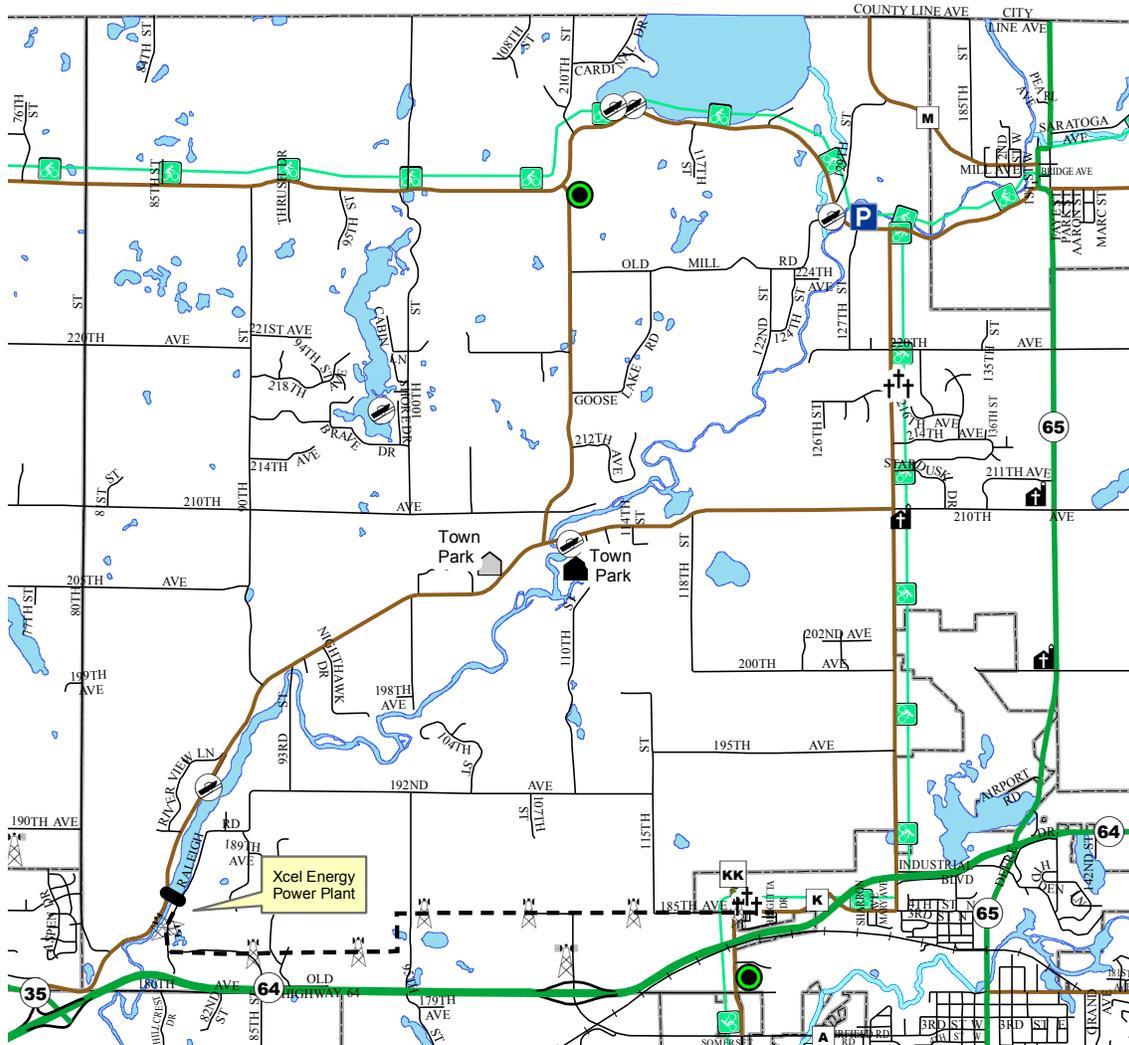
- There are no active municipal solid waste disposal sites operating in the Town of Star Prairie or St. Croix County.
- There is a battery drop-off site located in the Baldwin-Woodville area.
- Hazardous wastes are strictly regulated and are usually kept out of ordinary waste disposal facilities.

- To reduce the burden on solid waste disposal facilities, the State of Wisconsin has mandated recycling of a variety of household-generated materials. St. Croix County is the Responsible Unit for recycling in 26 county municipalities, including the Town of Star Prairie.
- St. Croix County assists local municipalities in operating their recycling programs; provides education and information to the public and special interest groups such as apartments and schools; manages, disperses and reports on grant funds; and holds special collections throughout the year for hazardous wastes, tires, appliances, electronics, toner cartridges and cell phones.
- Residents contract privately for curbside solid waste collection and disposal in the Town of Star Prairie. They can also contract for curbside collection of recyclables.
- The Town of Star Prairie contracts with the City of New Richmond to use its recycling center. Town residents who show identification can drop off their recyclables every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.
- The waste materials most frequently recycled are aluminum, mixed paper, tin, steel, glass, plastic, cardboard and newspaper.
- The town holds a spring road debris collection at the town hall. Residents who remove large white goods, tires, appliances or other waste items from the road ditches can bring them to the town hall for disposal.
- There are three former dumps in the town. Two are owned by the City of New Richmond and were used for its waste disposal. The largest, a 40-acre site, is located in Section 27 at the intersection of 115th Street and 195th Avenue. The second was a 10-15 acre site, found in Section 34 off 185th Ave.
- The Town of Star Prairie had a one to two acre dump site in Section 9, south of CTH H.
- The Department of Natural Resources recommends a 200 foot “no construction” buffer be established around the landfills to allow for the expansion of methane gas underground and prevent contact with that gas.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS & POWER LINES

- There is one telecommunication tower in the town, located in Section 33 off 110th Street.
- There are two emergency warning sirens that serve the Town of Star Prairie. One is in Section 10 east of CTH CC in front of the Cedar Lake Speedway, it was installed in 2006. The town owns and maintains it. The second in Section 35 east of CTH KK, is owned and maintained by the City of New Richmond. Both sirens are tested the first Wednesday of every month at 11 a.m.
- There is a hydroelectric power generating plant owned by Xcel Energy in Section 33 off Raleigh Road. It creates and regulates the Riverdale Flowage.
- There is an overhead transmission line running from the Xcel Energy Power Plant to the City of New Richmond. It goes across country or follows 185th Ave. in Sections 31, 32, 33 and 34.
- There are no electrical substations located in the Town of Star Prairie; there is one in the City of New Richmond.
- Please see map below for the location of these facilities.
- The Northern Natural Gas company owns a natural gas transmission line that runs from north to south through the Town of Star Prairie and ends at the City of New Richmond. This pipeline is marked with permanent yellow markers that say "Warning Gas Pipeline." The gas pipeline crosses private land by easement. According to materials provided by the Northern Natural Gas Company, the easements generally allow the landowner the right to use and enjoy the property, as long as that use does not interfere or conflict with Northern's rights. The width of the easements varies from 70 to 120 feet wide depending on the number and diameter of the pipes in the pipeline. The gas line easements have specific provisions or limitations regarding construction over, under, and near transmission lines. It is in the property owner's best interest to contact Digger's Hotline or Northern Natural Gas prior to any land alterations. Due to safety concerns the pipeline is not mapped.

Utilities and Community Facilities: Star Prairie



County Park	Cemetery	Transmission Line
Old Town Hall	Church	Bike Route
New Town Hall	Communication Towers	Canoe / Boat Landing
	Emergency Siren	



SOURCE: St. Croix County

ON-SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems – 1990 to 2008 *St. Croix County*

MUNICIPALITY	EXISTING SYSTEMS	NEW SANITARY SYSTEMS INSTALLED				% CHANGE		TOTAL SYSTEMS Thru 12/31/2008
		Pre-1960	1960-1979	1980-1989	1990-1999	2000-2008	90-00	
<i>Towns</i>								
Baldwin	187	62	21	34	60	62%	76%	364
Cady	172	49	11	38	68	245%	79%	338
Cylon	129	61	9	32	25	256%	-22%	256
Eau Galle	181	55	27	61	110	126%	80%	434
Emerald	145	42	13	48	62	269%	29%	310
Erin Prairie	128	43	32	37	23	16%	-38%	263
Forest	156	41	13	9	38	-31%	322%	257
Glenwood	149	67	21	20	56	-5%	180%	313
Hammond	184	52	26	66	405	154%	514%	733
Hudson	370	223	600	816	851	36%	4%	2860
Kinnickinnic	212	68	64	141	129	120%	-9%	614
Pleasant Valley	86	16	12	29	39	142%	34%	182
Richmond	230	97	73	121	615	66%	408%	1136
Rush River	104	18	15	34	27	127%	-21%	198
Somerset	371	159	165	304	486	84%	60%	1485
Springfield	172	64	13	48	75	269%	56%	372
St. Joseph	431	244	248	322	248	30%	-23%	1493
Stanton	278	59	22	39	21	77%	-46%	419
Star Prairie	421	165	163	325	333	99%	2%	1407
Troy	446	203	261	373	465	43%	25%	1748
Warren	149	72	92	120	138	30%	15%	571
Subtotal	4701	1860	1901	3017	4274	59%	42%	15,753
<i>Villages/Cities</i>								
Subtotal	112	87	72	41	66	-43%	61%	378
County Total	4813	1947	1973	3058	4340	55%	42%	16,131

Sources: St. Croix County Planning & Zoning. *New systems installed is not based on housing units -- includes all uses. Project community is designated in bold type.

- Waste water in the rural areas of St. Croix is usually treated by private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) more commonly referred to as septic systems. The state of Wisconsin, through the counties, permits onsite treatment systems. There are many different types of treatment permitted, but the most common are traditional septic tanks with drainfields or modified drainfields called mound systems.
- In 2000 there were 11,791 private onsite treatment systems in St. Croix County, an increase of 35 percent in total number of systems over 1990.
- Through 2008, there were 16,131 private treatment systems in the County. This is an increase of 42 percent in total number of systems over 2000.
- All POWTS are required to be inspected every three years, and most will need to be pumped at that time. Improper use of a septic system could lead to premature failure of the system, expensive repairs and groundwater contamination. St. Croix County reminds residents of the septic system inspection requirement on a three-year rotational basis and requires proof that the system has been inspected.

- The increased number and density of POWTS can lead to nitrates in the groundwater, if these systems are improperly installed or are not maintained.
- All the wastewater treatment needs in Town of Star Prairie are met by private onsite wastewater treatment systems.
- The total number of sanitary systems in Star Prairie was over 1400 in 2008, this is an increase of about 31 percent in the total number of systems from 2000. The rate new systems were installed remained steady in the 1980's, with about 160 systems. Then it doubled in the 1990's and since 2000 increased to about 330 systems. The 2000-2008 rates and numbers were significant but somewhat slower than neighboring towns to the west and south.

WATER SUPPLY

- Most drinking water needs in the Town of Star Prairie are met by private wells that utilize groundwater from the Prairie du Chien aquifer.
- Landowners should test their drinking water annually or at least every three years. Water testing kits are available at the County Planning and Zoning Department, Hudson; Land & Water Conservation Department, Baldwin; Public Health Department, New Richmond; or through private labs. A fee may apply.
- A former municipal landfill, northwest of the City of New Richmond, has impacted approximately 14 private wells in the Town of Star Prairie with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at levels above state drinking water standards. Some trace amounts of VOCs below drinking water standards have been found in additional wells further north. The VOCs have caused significant groundwater contamination. Effects of short-term exposure to VOCs can include symptoms of intoxication (dizziness, headache, confusion, nausea), anemia and fatigue. Effects of long-term exposure to VOCs can include cancer, liver damage, spasms, and impaired speech, hearing and vision. For additional information please see the WDNR website: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/pubbro.htm>.
- Since 2002, the plume of groundwater contamination has been identified and a Special Deep Casing Requirement Area identified. All new wells in this area are required to drill a deep well and have additional testing done. As a temporary mitigation measure, approximately 15 existing private wells in this area have installed whole-house, point-of-entry, activated carbon filter treatment systems. In some cases, existing landowners elected to use bottled water, while the extension of municipal water from the City of New Richmond was being planned for this area.
- The New Richmond Landfill Remediation Group has constructed water lines to provide municipal water to this area. Approximately 45 homes in the groundwater contamination area were hooked up to the water line in early 2008.
- The Town of Star Prairie has established a water utility district, Star Prairie Water District #1, to manage the water service and any expansion to additional sites. Please see the Future Land Use Map page 239, for the water utility district boundaries and the water service lines.
- A report entitled "An Introduction to Groundwater in St. Croix County" completed in May 2006 by the UW-Extension and UW-Stevens Point provides a more complete analysis of St. Croix County's groundwater. The report looks into a broader range of

water quality measurements such as coliform bacteria, arsenic, nitrates, triazine, arsenic, chloride, hardness and pH. The report may be access on St. Croix County’s website, under the Land and Water Conservation Department’s Drinking Water program, www.sccwi.us/lwcd choose Drinking Water Testing.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

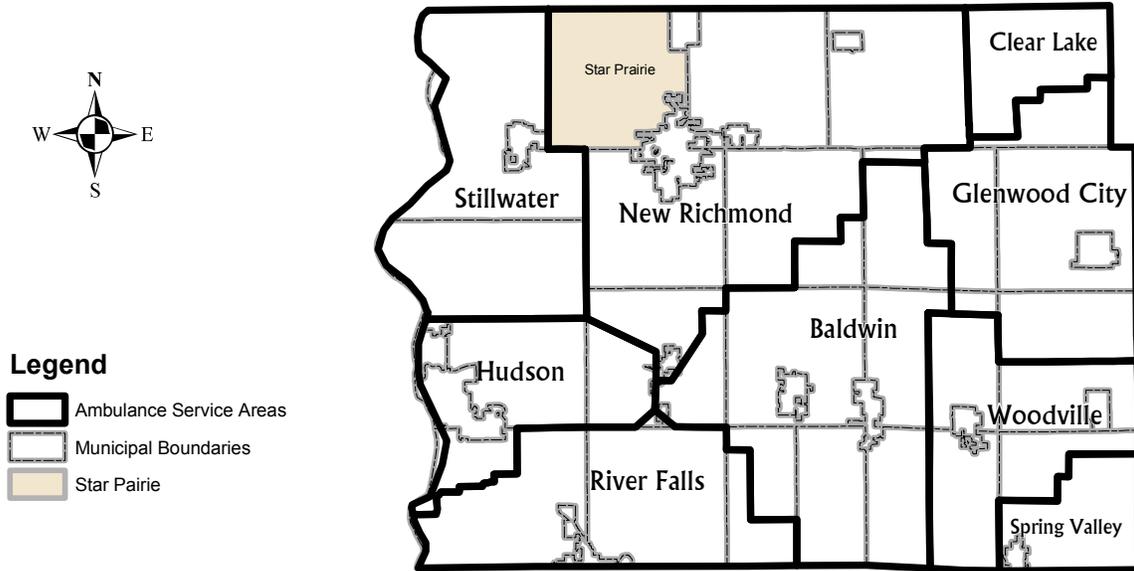
**Emergency Service Headquarters
Town of Star Prairie & Neighboring Communities**

MUNICIPALITY	AMBULANCE	FIRE DEPARTMENT	LAW ENFORCEMENT
Star Prairie	New Richmond	New Richmond	County Sheriff
Richmond	New Richmond	New Richmond	County Sheriff
Somerset	Stillwater	Somerset	County Sheriff
Stanton	New Richmond	New Richmond & Deer Park	County Sheriff
C. New Richmond	New Richmond	New Richmond	New Richmond PD
V. Somerset	Stillwater	Somerset	Somerset PD
V. Star Prairie	New Richmond	New Richmond	Star Prairie PD

NOTE: PD - Police Department
Source: St. Croix County Emergency Response Center

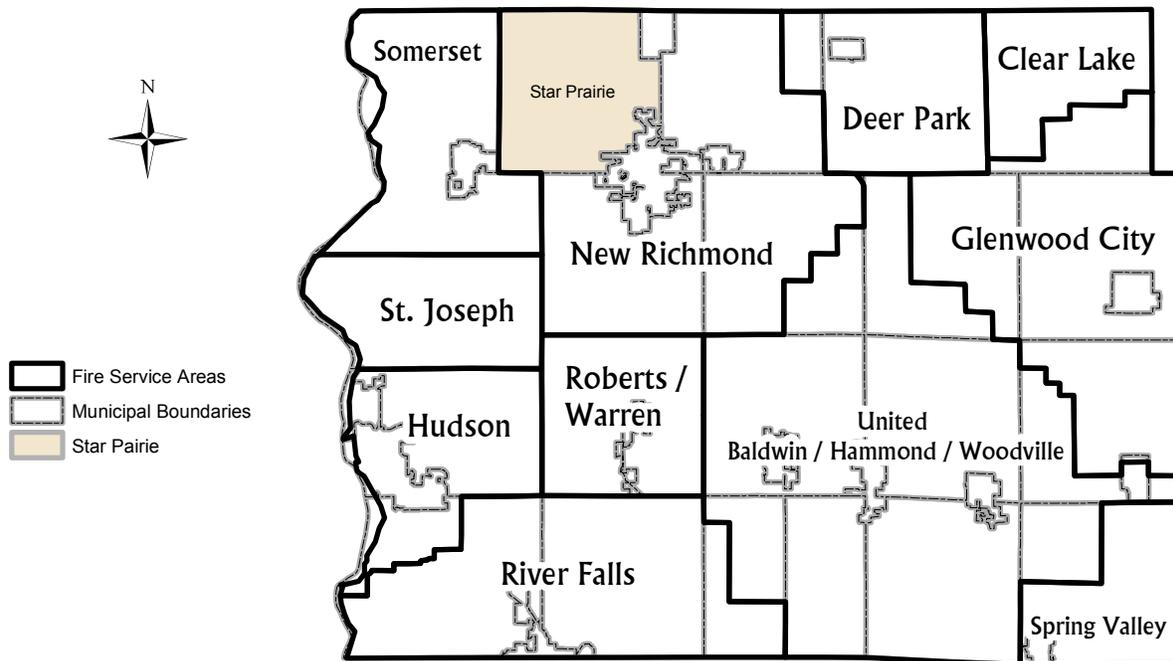
- The Town of Star Prairie is in one ambulance-service area and one fire-service area.
- The town receives direct ambulance service and a combination of a first responder unit, a group of local citizens that volunteer to be contacted in case of an emergency, and back up ambulance service from neighboring communities.
- The Town of Star Prairie is part owner of the New Richmond Fire and Rescue Service.
- The Town of Star Prairie contributes about \$10,000 per year to the ambulance service budget and about \$45,000 per year to the fire service budget.
- City of New Richmond ambulance service receives back up from the New Richmond First Responders Unit.
- The New Richmond Fire and Rescue provides and receives mutual aid from neighboring fire departments.
- The town and village of Somerset have entered into a mutual aid agreement for additional fire protection. This agreement will provide faster fire response to a portion of the town that is in close proximity to the Somerset Fire Department.
- The St. Croix County Sheriffs Department has authority in all areas where there is no other active police force.
- The Town of Star Prairie contracts with the St. Croix County Sheriff’s Department for a satellite law enforcement office at the town hall to encourage better service and response times for town residents.
- The Town does not have a town constable.

Ambulance Service Areas St. Croix County



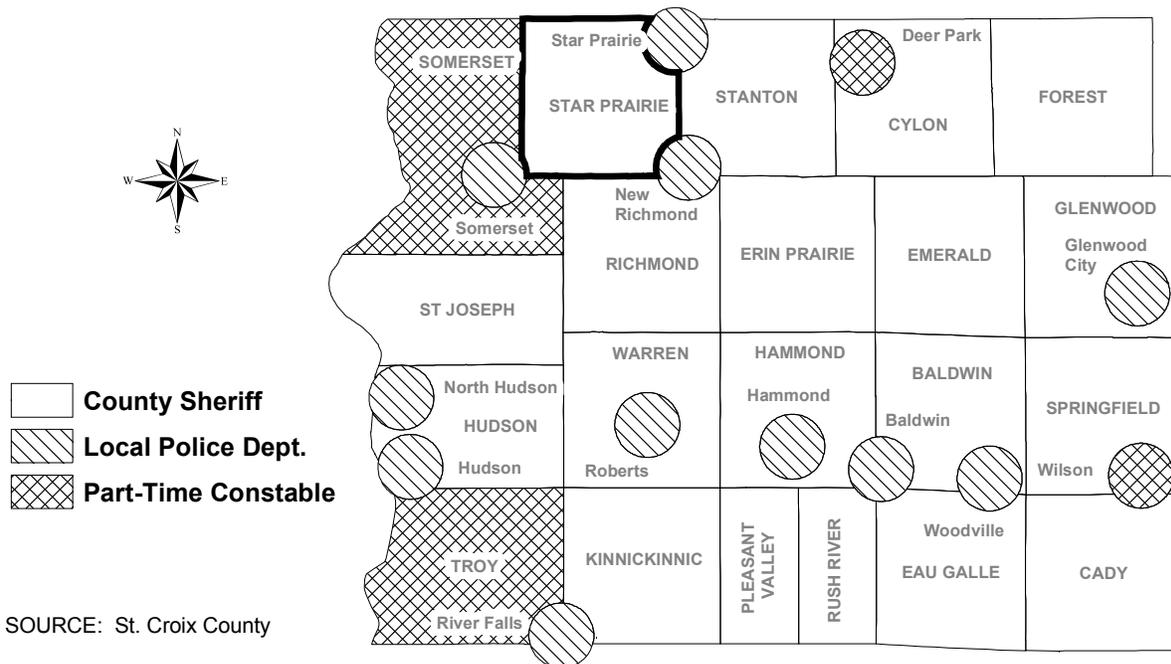
Source: St.Croix County Planning and Zoning / Land Information

St. Croix County Fire Protection Areas



SOURCE: ST. Croix County Planning and Zoning / Land Information

St. Croix County Law Enforcement

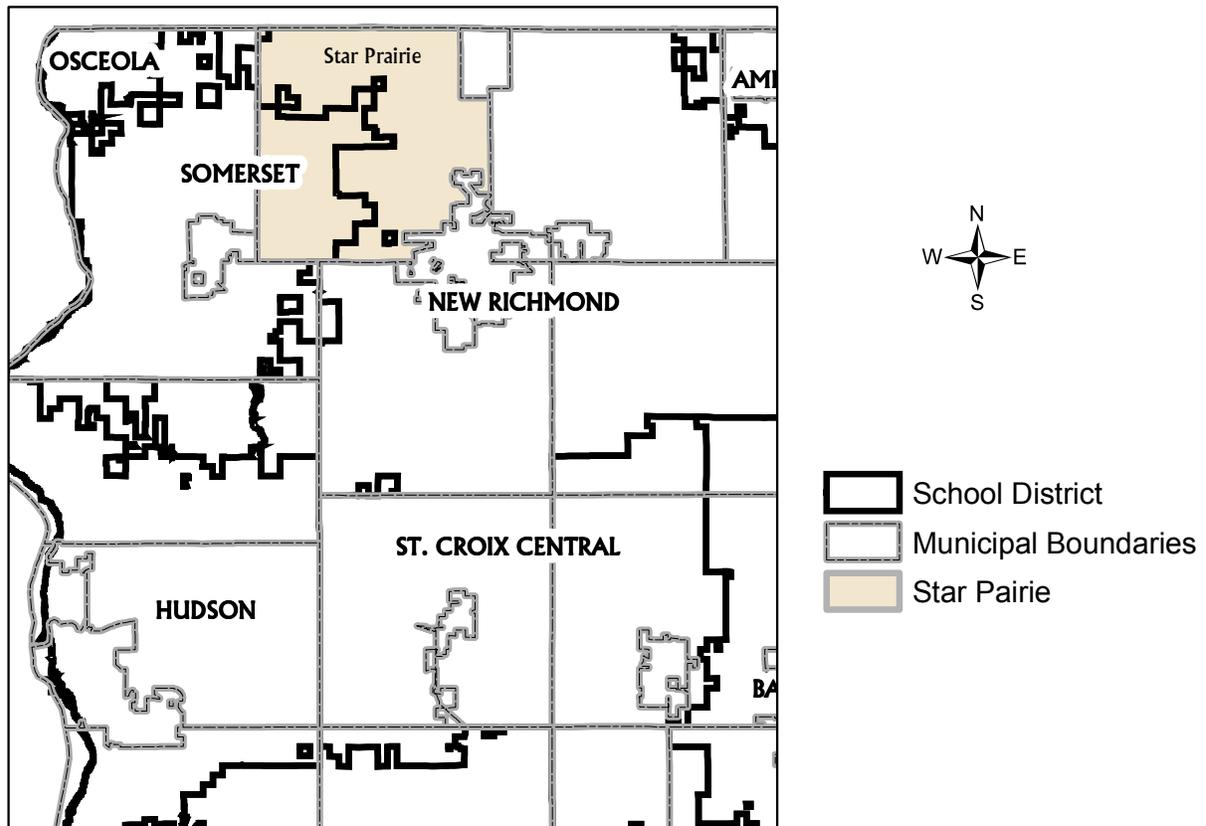


LIBRARIES

- Star Prairie residents utilize the New Richmond, Osceola and Somerset public libraries.
- There are 1,127 Town of Star Prairie library card holders at the Friday Memorial Library in New Richmond; this is about 13% of all New Richmond’s cardholders. In 1999 Star Prairie residents accounted for 9,756 circulation items. In 2004 they accounted for 16,465 circulation items and in 2005 that number rose to 21,757 circulation items. In 2004 that amounted to 10% of the library’s total circulation items and in 2005, 11% of the library’s total circulation items. Circulation numbers have been increasing because of increased population in the City and surrounding communities and because of easier access, including internet access, to other materials at other libraries.
- The number of Star Prairie residents who are cardholders at the Somerset Public Library was not available. In 2004 Star Prairie residents accounted for 4,760 circulation items from the Somerset Public Library. In 2005 Star Prairie’s circulation items rose to 4,867. In both 2004 and 2005 that was slightly over 10% of the library’s total circulation items.
- There are approximately 22 Town of Star Prairie library card holders at the Osceola Public Library. In 2004 Star Prairie residents borrowed 4 circulation items from the Osceola Library. In 2005 Star Prairie’s circulation items rose to 30 items and in 2006 the circulation items rose to 105 items. In 2005 this amounted to 0.3% of the library’s total circulation items and in 2006 1%.

SCHOOLS

SCHOOL DISTRICTS



SOURCE: ST. Croix County Planning and Zoning / Land Information

- There are three public school districts in the Town of Star Prairie, the New Richmond School District, the Somerset School District and the Osceola School District.
- The New Richmond School District Business Manager said enrollment has been increasing for the past five years in all grades. Generally they see larger graduating classes than Kindergarten classes, with the most growth at the middle school and high school levels.
- New Richmond’s projections for the next five years are growth of about 2 percent per year. The school district is at capacity at the elementary and secondary levels and is looking for land to purchase for both a new elementary school and a new high school. They are presently using portable classrooms at the elementary level.
- The Assistant to the Superintendent at the Somerset School District said their enrollment has been increasing rapidly for the past five years and that trend is expected to continue for the next five. Somerset’s enrollment increases have been at all grade levels with the largest numbers at the elementary level. The school’s projections indicate anywhere from 200 to 1000 additional students in the next five to 10 years.

- Somerset is in the process of acquiring additional land for a school expansion sometime in the next five years. However since both the elementary and high schools are at capacity it is uncertain at this time what type of expansion would be approved.
- The Osceola School District Superintendent is expecting steady growth for the next five years. The elementary school added approximately 60 students during the 05-06 school year. The majority of the growth occurs in the elementary grades.
- The superintendent said their growth projections show approximately 40 additional students each year for the next five years. The Osceola School District reorganized a little over three years ago into four facilities, an elementary school consisting of grades K-2, intermediate school consisting of grades 3-5, a middle school consisting of grades 6-8 and a high school consisting of grades 9-12. This has worked very well and there will be adequate capacity to accommodate additional growth. No expansion is planned at this time.

**School Enrollment -- School Years 1989-90, 1994-95, 2000-01 & 2005-06
Town of Star Prairie School Districts & Neighboring School Districts**

SCHOOLS	ENROLLMENT						% CHANGE		
	1989-90	1994-95	2000-01	2002-03	2004-05	2005-06	90 - 95	95 - 01	01-06
Amery	1,715	1,836	1944	1,852	1824	1788	7.2	5.9	-8.0
New Richmond	2,173	2,361	2435	2,443	2568	2628	8.7	3.1	7.9
Hudson	3,051	3,472	4133	4,426	4803	4953	13.8	19.0	19.8
Osceola	1,255	1,499	1725	1,757	1759	1881	19.4	15.1	9.0
Somerset	811	965	1142	1,196	1455	1488	19.0	18.3	30.3
Saint Croix Central	937	1,035	968	1,050	1112	1219	10.5	-6.5	25.9

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

The Town of Star Prairie does not provide health care services. Health care services are provided by St. Croix County or private entities. Public health care services are provided by St. Croix County Health and Human Services Department and include: alcohol and drug abuse treatment, early childhood intervention, economic support, family and children services, mental health services, nursing home and public health services. Private health care facilities including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and assisted living facilities are located in the cities or villages of Amery, Baldwin, Hudson, New Richmond, Osceola, Somerset and Stillwater, MN. The Town does not want to become involved in the provision of health care services.

CHILD CARE FACILITIES

There are no publicly-owned child care facilities in the Town of Star Prairie or St. Croix County. Child care services to residents of the Town of Star Prairie are provided by private or non-profit entities in the neighboring cities of Hudson and New Richmond; the villages of Osceola, Somerset, Star Prairie and Roberts; and in the Town of Star Prairie. The Town does not want to become involved in the provision of child care services.

UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

Goal: Coordinate utility and community facility systems planning with land use, natural resource and transportation systems planning. Community facilities, services and utilities should focus on preserving the quality of life and satisfying core needs for public safety, health, education, social services, recycling, town facilities and recreation at reasonable cost. These facilities and services should support the town goals for land use, growth management and natural resources.

Objectives:

1. Provide the appropriate level of community services, facilities and practices within the town, while striving for a low tax levy and maintaining the rural character of the town.
2. Promote the use of existing public facilities, and managed expansion to those facilities, to serve future development whenever possible.
3. Support quality and accessible parks and recreational facilities and services and maintain dedicated open space for all residents.
4. Protect the town's public health, natural environment and groundwater and surface water resources through proper siting and regulation of wells, water utility services, wastewater disposal systems, recycling and other waste disposal in accordance with town, county and state laws and regulations.
5. Establish and maintain open communications with public utilities.

Policies:

1. Provide appropriate services for town residents, including public road maintenance and snow plowing on town roads, emergency services (fire, police, ambulance) and recycling.
2. Consider the objectives and policies of this plan, as well as the general welfare of all residents, to determine whether new town services or expansions may be appropriate in the future.
3. Work with St. Croix County Emergency Management to identify emergency siren coverage areas. If needed, provide an additional emergency warning siren to serve the western portion of the Town of Star Prairie.
4. As needed, identify storm shelters for residents, mobile home parks or campgrounds, execute formal agreements for shelter use and use local media and park or campground owners to help educate residents on availability.
5. Work with the villages of Star Prairie and Somerset, City of New Richmond, St. Croix County, state agencies and local organizations to develop, provide and support recreational facilities and opportunities within the town.
6. Adopt an ordinance to create a Town Park Committee to recommend park acquisitions, development activities and recreational facilities.
7. Explore various uses of the old town hall and develop an operational plan for it.

8. Complete planned recreational facilities at the new town hall.
9. Provide support to local volunteer and community organizations through access to the old and new Town Hall facilities.
10. Support St. Croix County's efforts to create an assessor's plat of the Huntingdon area to clarify legal descriptions of parcels. This will facilitate improvements for recreational use of the County's Apple River property.



The town park at the Old Town Hall on the Apple River, near Johannesburg, is one of the many recreational resources in the Town of Star Prairie. Photo by Kathy Mlynarczyk.

11. Support efforts by St. Croix County and the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust to connect the Apple River Property and McMurtrie Preserve through a walking easement along Cedar Creek.
12. Established a 200-foot no construction buffer around any landfills in the town to allow for the expansion of methane gas underground and prevent contact with that gas.
13. Work with St. Croix County and state agencies to assure public health and groundwater quality when permitting and monitoring new and replacement private on-site wastewater systems and water wells.
14. Encourage property owners to test their drinking water annually or at least once every three years. Water testing kits are available at the County Planning and Zoning Department, Hudson; Land & Water Conservation Department, Baldwin; Public Health Department, New Richmond; or through private labs. A fee may apply.
15. Implement and evaluate town impact fees on new development projects to offset additional expenses to the town for adding, upgrading or expanding town parks, roads, services and facilities.
16. Residents will continue to be responsible for contracting for curbside solid waste and recycling collection and disposal.
17. Work with and through St. Croix County, (which serves as the town's Responsible Unit to implement the state recycling laws), to expand education, information, special collections and related services for recycling.
18. Contract with the City of New Richmond to provide a recycling drop-off center for town residents.
19. Offer spring road cleanup of white goods, appliances and tires.
20. Contract with the New Richmond Ambulance and Fire Service for ambulance and fire service for town residents.

21. Continue the mutual aid agreement with the Village of Somerset for fire protection service to town residents.
22. Work with the Village of Somerset and City of New Richmond in the provision of joint services when it will result in better services and/or cost savings.
23. Contract with the St. Croix County Sheriff's Department for a satellite office for law enforcement to encourage better service and response times for town residents.
24. Provide public road maintenance, repair and replacement and snow plowing on town roads through contractual services.
25. Consider development, operation and maintenance costs associated with construction or provision of municipal improvements and services usually associated with urban development and manage the financial impact of public expenditures or municipal debt on town residents from such improvements.
26. Work with the villages of Star Prairie and Somerset and the City of New Richmond to encourage high density residential, commercial and industrial development requiring a higher level of services to locate in these municipalities. Encourage business types which will benefit all the communities.
27. Encourage conservation design development to provide community facilities and services (e.g., school bus routes, snow removal, police patrol) in a cost-effective manner.



Snowmobile trails provide winter recreational opportunities for Star Prairie residents. Photo by Kathy Mlynarczyk.