



Community of PdC

The City of Prairie du Chien has witnessed the birth and growth of an entire nation throughout its storied past. Rich in heritage and tradition, it is Wisconsin's second oldest settlement. It was first discovered by European explorers and trappers who, aided by Native American guides, travelled the waterways of Wisconsin and the upper Mississippi River by canoe as early as the 17th century. The great explorers, Marquette and Joliet, claimed the land for France in 1673. Prairie du Chien was named by the French for a Fox Indian chief whose name meant 'dog'. When they arrived at the prairie upon which the present city resides, they named it the Prairie of Dog, or Prairie du Chien in French. It is the only community in the world to bear that unique name.

Prairie du Chien quickly became a significant stop as the western anchor of the Fox-Wisconsin waterway that connects Green Bay - Wisconsin's oldest settlement-and the Great Lakes with the Mississippi river. Prairie du Chien became a gathering point for fur trapping and trading in the Upper Mississippi River Valley.

The region was first settled by the French, who came from Canada and developed fur trading forts beginning in 1685. In 1763, the Treaty of Paris that ended the French and Indian War also brought the first British settlers. The area was then ceded to the United States during the War of 1812. American soldiers built Fort Shelby in 1814 and Fort Crawford in 1816 as part of a chain of military forts used to secure the region.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, agriculture, transportation and retail trade had replaced the fur trade as the area's leading commercial industries. Prairie du Chien bustled and grew due to the impetus provided by regional trade and economic activity.

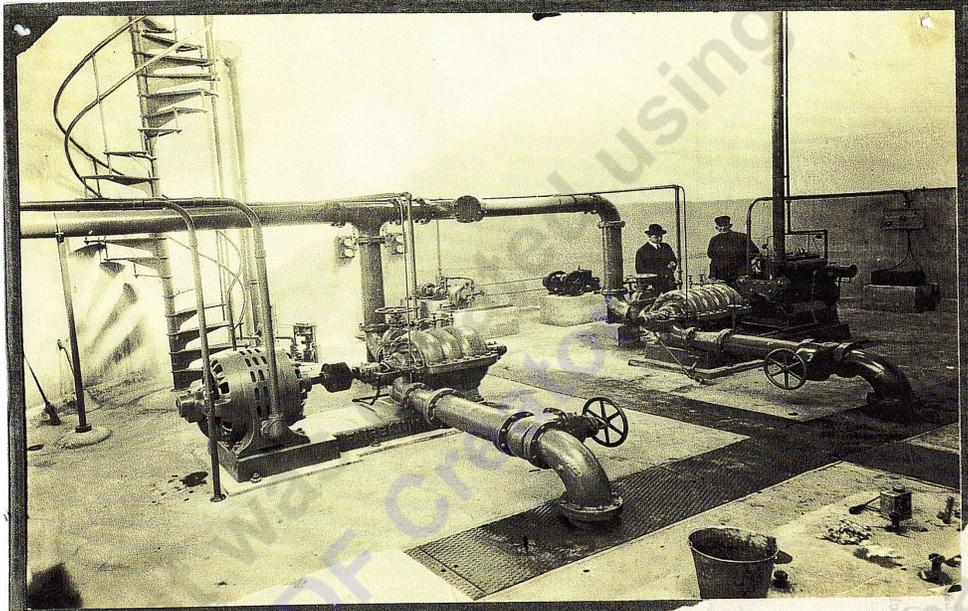
Today, the city, which is built on a valley deposit formed by retreating glaciers centuries ago, is the county seat of Crawford County and the most important economic and commercial center in a 30-mile radius. The economy is driven by industrial and government employment, a strong tourist trade, and a growing retail center.

Through centuries of continual change and development, Prairie du Chien has remained southwest Wisconsin's leading community. The "All-American" ease of life on the river is evident in Prairie du Chien, and the city strives to provide the highest quality of life for its residents while maintaining its traditional pioneering heritage.

PdC Water Department

The Prairie du Chien Artesian Well Company, a private stock owned business enterprise, constructed the first water system in the City. It consisted of an 1876 artesian well and a small distribution system serving the business district. Due to difficulties with minerals in the system, a municipal system was placed in operation in 1902. This consisted of a well and pumps. The well

could not meet demand so a few more wells were installed. The older well field was later abandoned in 1922 when a new supply (artesian and drift) was developed. This consisted of four wells and a 294,000 storage reservoir.



The 1922 supply and reservoir were decommissioned in 1948 when two new wells were developed and a 1,000,000 gallon reservoir was constructed.

The Prairie du Chien water system now consists of four wells and three reservoirs. All four City wells are drilled into the glacial outwash aquifer at less than 140 feet deep. This is a sand and gravel formation, alluvial in nature, formed after the last ice age. The wells pump water from sand and gravel formations to sealed reservoirs that store approximately 2.5 million gallons of water. The City is served by over 55 miles of water main, 310 fire hydrants, 565 main valves and 2,300 metered customers are served by the water system. The only chemical addition being practiced by the City at this time is chlorination and the City began continuous chlorination in 2004 for disinfection purposes. The average water usage is 1.4 million gallons of water a day. The City of Prairie du Chien's water system also serves the Towns of Bridgeport and Prairie du Chien. The department has 3 full time operators and also assists the wastewater, street and park departments with various tasks. All water department employees take great pride in working for and with the City of Prairie du Chien.

The Prairie du Chien water was voted as the "Best Tasting Water" in the state of Wisconsin in 2002 and 2007 by the Wisconsin Rural Water Association. In 2009 the water department was nominated for the Water System of the Year award by the Wisconsin Rural Water Association and Water Supervisor, Larry Gates, was nominated the District 5 Operator of the Year in 2004, 2006 and 2009.

PdC Wastewater Department

The Prairie du Chien Wastewater facility sits on the east channel of the Mississippi River. The plant treats approximately one million gallons of sewage per day that is received from the City and two outlying townships and several industries. The grade 4 facilities are operated by 3 full

time and one part time employee; the operators are responsible for the 28 miles of sanitary sewer and 7 lift stations that are owned by the city. In addition to their wastewater responsibilities, the employees also assist the water and street departments with various tasks.

The operating revenues are wisely re-invested; the treatment plant received a major upgrade in 1994-95. Installation of phosphorus removal equipment occurred in 1997. Ongoing collection system rehabilitation or replacement is planned and budgeted for on an annual basis. The most recent upgrade is replacing the chlorine disinfection process with a new Trojan 3000B Ultra-Violet disinfection system that will be operational in the spring of 2011. We also replaced our aging sludge truck with a 2011 Freightliner for transporting and disposal of the nearly 1.5 million gallons of sludge that are generated annually. These two acquisitions are \$287,000.00 in new investment this past year.

The operators at the facility are very pro-active and forward thinking. A grease interceptor inspection program was started in 2002. In 2005 the facility implemented a mercury plan to pinpoint sources of the heavy metal that had potential of entering the waste stream and in 2009 became a WDNR Green Tier facility, working diligently on the Mercury Minimization Plan (MMP). Terry Meyer, Wastewater Superintendent was recognized by the WDNR in 2010 for his mercury reduction and environment awareness efforts in the DNR newsletter.

Prairie du Chien's wastewater plant is also the electronic waste facility for the city departments, collecting and recycling electronic components and fluorescent bulbs, and playing an important role in Clean Sweep household hazardous waste collection events. The staff also provided outreach and education to the community and local schools on the importance of household recycling efforts with the emphasis on educating our young people on the reasons for proper recycling.

In 2006 the Facility was awarded the Wisconsin Rural Water Association "Wastewater System of the year award" an accomplishment that we are very proud of. In 2009 we were nominated for the WDNR Large Registered Lab of the Year award. The facility also scored perfect 4.0 GPA's on the annual CMAR reports for years 2006, 2007 and 2008.

The Prairie du Chien Wastewater Facility motto is: "Protecting the community, the environment and our abundant natural resources through the highest quality service possible" and the staff is dedicated to following this.

PdC Public Works

The Public Works Department has 7 full time employees and are responsible for the construction, maintenance, and repair of sidewalks, streets, storm sewers and grounds which include 50 miles of streets and over 600 acres of recreational area. The Department is also responsible for all snow removal.

The City of Prairie du Chien Park and Recreation Department's has over 600 acres of parks and open spaces, a recreation center, indoor and outdoor pool, and an abundance of riverfront activities and events, they all bring people together and add to a sense of civic pride and belonging. As a fully developed community, maintaining and updating park and recreational facilities will preserve the value and popularity of the city's park system.

The City's waterfront, farm park, arts, culture, and historical features adds to the meaning of community life and certainly sets this community apart and should continue to be highlighted. Residents want places to gather, socialize, and meet. Residents also encourage activities that

build a sense of community such as city-wide festivals and events that recognize the city's history, diversity, and desire to have fun.

PdC Government

Prairie du Chien is governed by a body of dedicated civil servants entrusted to maintain the highest standards, uphold the law and enrich the lives of its citizens. A mayor/city council form of government legislates city policy. It is composed of the Mayor, twelve elected alderpersons and a City Administrator. City offices operate in conjunction with the governing body to keep day-to-day operations running smoothly.

The twelve sworn full-time and ten part-time officers of the Prairie du Chien Police Department are highly trained and organized to serve and protect the community. Prairie du Chien, the county seat of Crawford County, shares law enforcement facilities with the Crawford County Sheriff's Department. Fire-fighting and emergency services are handled by the Fire Chief and 33 skilled volunteers that make up the city's Fire Department. Pride in its civic duty is one of Prairie du Chien's hallmarks and is everywhere evident from City Council, the Police Department to the Fire Department.

In 2006-7 the City of Prairie du Chien in conjunction with Prairie Downtown Revitalization Incorporated conceived the streetscape rehabilitation project. This partnership developed plans and specifications to improve the aesthetic qualities and infrastructure of our main business district. The committees drew on the rich history and natural beauty of the area and the historic past of our community which is the second oldest city in Wisconsin.

The goal was to make the downtown a focal point of the city, encourage residents and tourists both to make our community a destination and re-energize commerce in the downtown.

The streetscape includes, stamped and colored crosswalks and sidewalk borders, antique street lighting, benches, flower planters, drinking fountains and refuse receptacles. Brass plaques with quotes from regional and nationally known individuals are located at specific crosswalks so people can read about history in our community and the surrounding area.

Also included in the project were major upgrades to the municipal water and sanitary sewer systems and street reconstruction.

The city received Wisconsin Department of Transportation enhancement grants, Community Development Block Grants and low interest Wisconsin Department of Natural resources loans to fund street reconstruction, amenities and infrastructure improvements, respectively. Funding was also secured from the sale of the benches, planters, lights etc. with plaques honoring a family, business or organization affixed to the item purchased. The fact that no tax payer dollars were used on this extensive project is one that the city council, staff and PDRI representatives are very proud of.

Construction began in the spring of 2008 and the project was completed that fall.

PdC Conclusion

Prairie du Chien invites you to come visit sites like the Villa Louis home of the Dousman Family, our Fort Crawford Museum and other places too numerous to mention. If you like history, you will love it here! We also have many different recreational opportunities in and around our city from

boating and biking to hiking to horseback riding. We have it all! Our parks are very inviting through all of the seasons from the greening of spring to the beautiful colors of fall. If you like swimming, we have indoor and outdoor facilities available.

From May throughout the growing season we have Farmers Markets in downtown on Saturday mornings where fresh produce meats and bakery items may be purchased. Prairie offers lots of various events throughout the summer from the Rendezvous on St. Feriole Island to Prairie Dog Blues Fest to our newest event Country on the River. You will find lots of fun entertainment in our city.

For winter enthusiasts we have cross country ski trails and hills for sledding or just walking in the quiet of the country out at La Riviere Park. We also have ice fishing and snowmobile trails. New Years Eve brings our Dropping of the Carp Fest on the Gateway to St. Feriole Island, a truly unique event that you need to experience!



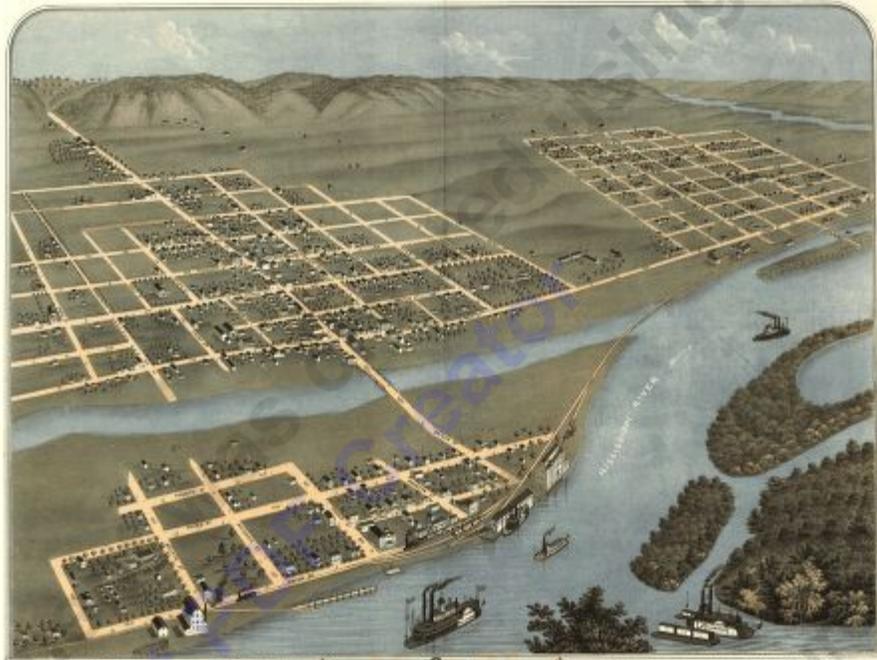
FORT CRAWFORD MUSEUM

Fort Crawford stood guard over Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, from 1816 until 1856. Now, the Fort Crawford Museum displays the history of the fort, its city, and the many lives that crossed here. Visit us May through October for a self-guided tour or attend one of our upcoming events.



VILLA LOUIS

Experience Victorian life during the 19th century as you visit the estate of one of Wisconsin's most prosperous families.



Atkinson, GUYARDEN, Nelson & Co. - Chicago, Ill. - 1854

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

CHICAGO, ILL. - 1854

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PRAIRIE DU CHIEN

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