

SECTION 5

PUBLIC FACILITIES



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INTRODUCTION

Public facilities are vital components to the County and add to the quality of the county's living environment. Many of these public facilities have been developed out of necessity, while others have developed in response to the demands of the populous. Each public facility requires substantial financial commitment, and therefore, necessitates the careful review and planning for future needs.

The major emphasis of this section is to determine the present capacity of the Frontier County public facility inventory, and to determine the adequacy of these facilities to meet the future, estimated demands throughout the planning period.

Public Administration

Public Administration facilities are designed to serve citizens of the county and provide a location to conduct the business of the government.

Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) was founded in 1913 as an agricultural school for secondary students. In 1965, the school was transformed into a post-secondary school and in 1988 became the agricultural technical college.

NCTA has a 78 acre campus and a 392 acre farm that serves as field laboratory. The college also leases an 877 acre farm northwest of Curtis.¹

Projected student enrollment for the fall semester 1998 is 300. The college prepares students to receive an Associate of Applied Science degree in one of six majors:

- Agribusiness Management Systems
- Agriculture Mechanics Technology
- Agriculture Production Systems
- Natural Resource Systems
- Horticulture Systems
- Veterinary Technology

The college has approximately 50 full time staff, with 25 faculty members. NCTA has two dormitory facilities which house a total of 157 students.

NCTA completed a Master Plan for organization and development in August 1996. The plan identifies key buildings and outlines strategy on a six, twelve and twenty-four year period for development of the campus. ² Agriculture Hall, built in 1912, is the oldest building on campus and houses the business and management studies, library, student health, computer laboratory, information, student development and placement office, and campus administrative office.

The Conservation and Environmental classroom building houses three classrooms, lab, faculty offices, blueprint room and plotter room. The 4,300 square foot building was constructed in 1914.

One of the newer buildings on campus, the Agriculture Production Systems/Veterinary Technology (APS/VET) building, was constructed in 1976. The 22,330 square foot building houses classrooms, labs, faculty offices, conference rooms, and the animal holding facility.

The Agriculture Mechanics Technology classroom and shop building, a 7,992 square foot building, was constructed in 1935. The building houses a small engine laboratory, two classrooms and storage areas

County Courthouse

The **Frontier County Courthouse** is located on Wellington Street in Stockville, Nebraska. Offices located in the courthouse include:

- County Assessor
- County Clerk
- County Court
- County Treasurer
- Superintendent of Schools
- Weed Control Superintendent

Law Enforcement

The **Frontier County Sheriff Department** is located at 308 Center Avenue in Curtis, Nebraska. The county jail has a capacity of eight persons and a cell for intoxicated individuals. The sheriff department staff includes a total of 11, both full time and part time. Of the 11, there are four deputies and one sheriff. In addition to rural law enforcement duties, the sheriff provides services as needed to Maywood and Eustis.

Currently, the sheriff department has four vehicles which include, two 1995 Thunderbird patrol cars, 1995 Jeep Cherokee and a 1997 Jeep Cherokee. All of the vehicles are regularly maintained and in good condition.

Frontier County Sheriff Department provides law enforcement services to Maywood and Eustis on a contractual basis.

Fire Protection

Frontier County fire protection services are provided separately by each town in the county. The rural fire departments are staffed by volunteers. Dispatch services are provided by the Frontier County Sheriff Department.

County Fairgrounds

The **Frontier County Fairgrounds** are located in Stockville, Nebraska. The county fair is held each year in July. The fairgrounds include such facilities as an outdoor rodeo arena, grandstand, bleachers, numerous outbuildings for displaying goods and holding activities, animal barns, 4-H buildings, dance hall, stage and bathroom facilities. Open space is also available for carnival activities. In addition, Eustis holds an annual fair and corn show in their community.

Public Libraries

Both Eustis and Curtis have a **public library**. Library facilities for Curtis are located at 316 Center Avenue. The Library, constructed in 1980, is 2,016 square feet and meets all ADA requirements. The Library has one employee and is open Monday through Saturday for a total of 24 hours per week.

The Curtis Library has a total volume of 14,755, with an annual circulation of 9,080. Resources include books, magazines, videos and audio books. The Library also has two computers, internet service and participates in an inter-library loan program with other communities. The Library also offers "summer reading" programs for children pre-school to sixth grade.

County Museums

Frontier County museums consist of **Hansen Memorial Museum** in Curtis, Nebraska. Located at Prentiss and 5th Street, the Hansen Memorial Museum is open to groups and individuals by appointment only. The museum, a two story Victorian farm house, was built in 1912. The house was the residence of the Hansen family. It was moved to its present location in 1948 from the Hansen family homestead, nine miles north of Curtis. The house was donated to the City of Curtis in 1973 to be used as a museum. The museum contains numerous exhibits on the history of Curtis and the surrounding region. Items for the museum are donated by area families. A one room school house sits east of the museum. The school still has the original desks, pot bellied stove and books.

Health Care Facilities

Frontier County has one medical clinic located in Curtis, Nebraska. The nearest hospital facilities are located in North Platte and McCook. The **Curtis Medical Center** is located at 302 East 6th Street. The Center has a total staff of nine, with four being full-time. Full-time staff include one physician assistant and one licensed practical nurse. Three physicians and a dentist are at the medical center once a week. The facility has three examining rooms, an emergency room and two dental rooms.

Future plans include building an addition to the existing building. The addition would have an examining room, emergency room and offices. Future consideration should be given to seeking services of an eye doctor and hearing doctor.

The **Eustis Wellness Center** is located in Downtown Eustis at 106 East Railroad Street. Tenants include the Eustis Medical Clinic, which is affiliated with the Plum Creek Medical Group based in Lexington, Nebraska, a dentist and a chiropractor. The medical clinic is open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and specializes in family practice medicine. Two doctors and their assistants staff the clinic. The dentist office is open on Monday and Wednesdays, while the Chiropractor is open one night per week.

Recreation

Frontier County offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors. The facilities include:

- **Medicine Creek State Recreation Area** encompasses 8,500 acres of public land and water in southeast Frontier County, 2 miles west and 7 miles north of Cambridge. Facilities at Medicine Creek for camping and picnicking range from modern to the basics. There are electrical hook-ups for trailers, dump stations, showers, flush toilets, barbeque grills and picnic shelters. Medicine Creek Lodge offers a variety of services including a restaurant, groceries, boat rentals and modern cabins.
- **Red Willow State Recreation Area** is located in southwest Frontier County, 11 miles north of McCook. The lake covers 1,628 acres, with facilities available for camping and water oriented recreation. There are modern restrooms, showers, sanitary trailer dump stations and electric hook-ups. Primitive tent camping is also available. Swimming, boating, fishing and hunting is available.

Educational Facilities The Frontier County school system consists of **three rural school districts**. Maywood, Curtis, Eustis and Farnam each have school facilities that provide kindergarten through grade twelve education to residents in Frontier County.

Civil Defense **Civil defense** services in Frontier County are provided on a volunteer basis in each village and town in Frontier County. There is one Emergency Manager, paid by the County, that coordinates civil defense efforts and resides in Eustis.

Examples of natural and man-made disasters include floods, tornadoes, winter storms, chemical spills, explosions, plane crashes, etc. Other services include weather alert of severe weather, tornado awareness week education, winter time road services, etc.

Public Utilities The **public utilities** of a county are those utilities which are most directly concerned with the health and welfare of the population. A county's water supply, sewage disposal facilities, solid waste disposal facilities and electrical services are the services most frequently considered. A comprehensive plan allows for the coordination of these services with projected growth patterns. Planning for these utilities should be interrelated with future land use, zoning circulation and housing needs.

Each community in the county is responsible for providing a sound infrastructure for its citizens. Frontier County residents utilize ground water for drinking water purposes. **The quality and quantity of water in Frontier County is generally without contamination.**

**Electricity and
Natural Gas**

Each village and town in Frontier County is responsible for contracting the provision of electric and natural gas services.

1. Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Physical Campus Master Plan, 1996.
2. Ibid.