Community Facilities and Infrastructure

In this chapter the existing facilities of the City of Oglesby are described. These facilities include, but are not limited to, schools, city buildings, health care facilities, clubs and associations, community buildings, and infrastructure.

Education

The public schools serving the City of Oglesby area include one elementary school, one junior high, one high school, and one community college. There is also one parochial elementary school and one high school. The elementary (includes preschool) and junior high enrolled 625 students for the 2009-2010 school year. There are 28 full-time teachers employed at the two schools. The parochial school has 185 students enrolled in the 2009-2010 school year. There are 11 full-time teachers employed at the school.

Oglesby has two school districts, which includes an elementary school district and a high school district. The elementary district is the Oglesby Elementary School District 125 and the high school district is LaSalle Peru Township High School District 120.

The perception of the school system in any community is very important. A good school system, with good schools, is important to many people when considering where to move. It is vital to keep up the appearance of the schools as well as the education itself.
Lincoln Elementary School

Oglesby Elementary School District 125’s larger building is Lincoln Elementary. The new addition was completed in 2000. Lincoln Elementary houses students from grades Pre-K – 5. Lincoln Elementary School is a 54,800 square foot structure located on 4.14 acres of land. The school has twenty-five (25) classrooms, one (1) gym, one (1) gym/cafeteria, and one (1) playground.

Washington Junior High School

Oglesby Elementary School District 125’s smaller building, Washington Junior High, was constructed in 1957. Washington Junior High houses students from grades 6-8. Washington Junior High School is a 34,750 square foot structure located on 2.22 acres of land. The school has thirteen (13) classrooms, one (1) gym, and one (1) cafeteria.
Holy Family School

Holy Family School is Oglesby’s only parochial school. This school provides classes from pre-school through 8th grade. The school is operated by the Holy Family Parish in the Diocese of Peoria. The school was constructed in 1960. The school is 27,000 square foot structure located on 3.17 acres of land. The school contains ten (10) classrooms, one (1) cafeteria, and one (1) gym.

Holy Family School
336 Alice Avenue, Oglesby, IL 61348-1219
St. Bede Academy

St. Bede Academy originally opened as St. Bede College, in 1891. The course of studies and the student body have changed several times over the years. The four-year college program was discontinued in favor of a junior college after World War II, and this in turn closed in 1967. In 1981, what had been primarily a boarding school for boys became a day school. The academy began to admit girls in 1972. Currently the academy has an enrollment of approximately 320 students from the Illinois Valley area and has restablished boarding houses for girls and boys. There are 32 Benedictine monks who own and operate the academy. The monks are currently assisted by an increasing number of laymen and women as teachers and staff.
La Salle-Peru Township High School

La Salle-Peru (L-P) Township High School was opened in 1898. L-P houses students from grades 9-12. The school serves children from La Salle, Peru, Oglesby, Lostant, Utica, Tonica, Cedar Point, Leonore, and surrounding rural areas. The enrollment for the 2009-2010 school-year is 1232. L-P has 98 full-time teachers. The student to teacher ratio is 12.5:1. The campus consists of one (1) main structure and three (3) auxiliary structures. The main structure houses most of the classrooms, two (2) cafeterias, one (1) gym, and the Matthiessen Auditorium. Two of the auxiliary structures contain vocational classrooms and the third structure contains the pool, a gym, and vocational classrooms. The buildings total 350,000 square feet and are located over 45 acres of land. The school also has a football stadium, practice field, tennis courts, and a track.
Illinois Valley Community College

Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) is located within the city limits of Oglesby. IVCC was founded in 1924 as LaSalle-Peru-Oglesby Junior College. It was renamed Illinois Valley Community College in 1966 after referendum. IVCC offers Associates degrees in four (4) areas (Arts, Sciences, Engineering Science, and General Studies), 24 career programs, and 43 certificate programs. The 2009 enrollment was 4018 students with 2316 of those being full-time students. IVCC has 92 full-time and 137 adjunct faculty members.

The Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) district serves 146,000 residents and 21 high schools. The district covers 2,000 square miles. The campus itself is 425 acres. Students and faculty come from all over the area. Since IVCC is within the City of Oglesby’s boundaries, this means that students and faculty come from all over the area into the City of Oglesby. The Spring 2008 10th Day Data credited enrollment at 4,072. The Full Time Equivalent was 2,335. That means 2,335 fulltime students, with an average age of approximately 26, enter the City of Oglesby to attend class.

In 2009, IVCC received a $23 million grant from the State of Illinois toward a new $30.4 million Community Technology Center. The project will entail building a new 76,000 SF facility plus some equipment and furnishings. Programs will be moved to new locations and some of the temporary east campus buildings will be demolished. The counseling area in the main building will be converted to a student life space.
Public Services

City Hall

City Hall is located in downtown Oglesby. The City of Oglesby purchased and renovated their current location in February 2002. City Hall houses the city council chambers, the offices of the mayor, City clerk, and other City staff.

Oglesby City Hall
110 E. Walnut Street, Oglesby, IL 61348
Oglesby District Public Library

The Oglesby District Public Library is located at 111 S. Woodland Avenue. The Library was opened on March 10, 1998. The facility is 7,200 square feet and contains 25,000 books, magazines, dvds, vhs tapes, and audio materials. The district is the same as School District 125 (not including Cedar Point).

Police Protection

The City of Oglesby Police Department is on duty 24-hours a day and is staffed by a Police Chief, an Assistant Chief, two (2) Sergeants, three (3) Investigators, and two (2) Juvenile Officers. The department utilizes four (4) squad cars (three (3) marked and one (1) unmarked) to patrol the city. Officers work 10-hour shifts.
128 W. Walnut Street, Oglesby, IL 61348-2101

The department is housed in the old City Hall, which included the library on the upper level. When the City Administration moved one (1) block east, and a new library was constructed, the police department was able to utilize the entire structure. The police department houses office space, two (2) interview rooms, two (2) detention cells, and a 911-call center. The second floor of the building also houses the Tri-County Drug Enforcement Narcotics Team (Tri-DENT). Dispatchers take all incoming calls for fire, Emergency Medical Services, and police and disperse the calls to the proper authorities.

In the first quarter of 2009, the department handled 1150 calls, 82 case calls-crimes/arrests, 29 accidents, 223 traffic stops, 99 traffic citations, 23 nontraffic citations, and 87 ordinance violations.

**Fire and Ambulance Protection**

The Oglesby Fire and Ambulance Protection District covers 10 square miles. The fire department is staffed by 21 volunteers. They utilize the following equipment to protect the residents of Oglesby and the district: two (2) engines, one (1) rescue van, one (1) incident command truck with skid, one (1) tanker and one (1) all terrain vehicle (ATV).

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are provided by 24 part-time paid Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), and one (1) full-time director. The EMS utilizes two ambulances to protect the residents and the district.

**Health Care**

The nearest hospital to Oglesby is Illinois Valley Community Hospital located 4.6 miles away in Peru. Other nearby hospital facilities include St. Margaret’s Hospital in Spring Valley (approximately 8.2 miles away), Ottawa Regional Hospital (approximately 16.9 miles away), and St. Mary’s Hospital in Streator (approximately 25.9 miles away). All four hospitals are full service and have affiliations with larger urban hospitals when specialized care is needed.

Illinois Valley Community Hospital operates a clinic in Oglesby staffed by two (2) physicians, and St. Margaret’s Hospital operates a clinic staffed by one (1) physician. There are three (3) dentist’s offices (Alliance Dental Group, Oglesby Family Dentistry, and Michael C. Szott, DDS) located within Oglesby city limits. There are two (2) chiropractors (Kristensen Chiropractic Clinic, Piano Chiropractic)
Service Organizations

There are several clubs and organizations for the residents of Oglesby to participate include: Knights of Columbus, Elks, and the American Legion.

American Legion Post 237
410 Clark Street, Oglesby, IL 61348-1106

Elks Lodge
800 E. Walnut Street, Oglesby, IL 61348-1300

Knights of Columbus
307 E. Florence Street, Oglesby, IL 61348-1236
Community Building

The Dickinson House is located at 440 Dale Ave. It houses two (2) meeting rooms, a six-lane bowling alley, and an unused indoor swimming pool. The building was originally built 1940. Currently the facility is owned by the City and operated by the Dickinson House Foundation. The building is available for public rental and concerts are held outside during the summer.
Infrastructure

Broadband/Connectivity

Broadband via fiber optic cable is an identified need for Oglesby. The City is part of the Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, and LaSalle County cooperative effort to seek broadband funding.

Cable/Internet/Phone

Comcast is Oglesby’s cable television provider. Comcast also provides cable Internet to residents and businesses. AT&T provides landline phone and DSL internet in Oglesby.

Electrical System

The City of Oglesby operates its own electrical department for power distribution. The 2004 valuation of the electric distribution system was $8,890,000. The City has a bulk power purchase agreement with AmerenIP. The City electrical department employs five (5) full-time people. There are four circuits that provide power to the residents and businesses. A new substation is currently being constructed west of I-39 to provide power for the west/south circuit. This substation opens up possibilities for new development near and around the I-39 and Walnut Street interchange.

Dynergy operates a peaker natural gas power plant in Oglesby. The plant is only used when required during peak power use periods. The turbines in the plant produce up to 18 megawatts.

Natural Gas

Natural gas is provided to Oglesby residents and businesses by AmerenIP.
Sewer System

There are currently 31 miles of sewer in Oglesby. All developed portions of Oglesby are served with combined sanitary and storm sewers except the new subdivisions in town that are served by independent sanitary-storm sewers. The century old combined storm and sanitary collection system causes problems when excess flows occur. These problems occur in the service area and at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Separation of the storm and sanitary systems is an ongoing project. The City has initiated a phased separation project. The majority of locations still need to be separated. The capacity of the WWTP is sufficient for the current number of users plus some limited growth.

Oglesby’s WWTP provides treatment through an anaerobic digester process. Treatment effluent is discharged into the Vermillion River. The current plant capacity (500,000 gallons per day) is adequate for the City’s usage. Engineering plans for plant upgrades have been completed. Oglesby has applied for state and federal funds to aid financing these improvements.

Water System

Oglesby is served by two (2) deep wells with a combined capacity of 850 gallons per minute. Water treatment includes iron removal and softening. Storage is provided in two (2) elevated water towers. One (1) tower is a 150,000-gallon built in 1928 and located between 1st and 2nd Streets and Dale and Woodland Avenues. The second, larger tower is located south of Walnut Street on the west side of town. This tower has a capacity of 500,000-gallon. The combined system storage is 650,000-gallon. The pumping capacity of the system is 1,224,000 million gallons per day. Water is distributed through 22.5 miles of PVC and iron water mains with size ranging from 4 to 12 inch in diameter. While most of the mains are looped, some dead end situations exist.

All users in the City are monitored by meters. The city currently charges $12.87 per 5000 gallons and has a tap on fee of $450.00 for new construction. This tap on fee is the same for commercial and residential. The existing 150,000 gallon tower is older and needs to be replaced with a new tower. The cost is estimated at $750,000.00.