

Sample Jail Siting Criteria

Durrant Study Siting Criteria

The following criteria were taken from the Durrant Study and used to evaluate 14 jail, law enforcement, courts and general government scenarios included in the study.

- A. Citizens Services
 - a. Does the scenario promote convenient community access to public services?
- B. Requires Property Purchase
 - a. Does the scenario use land owned by the county or will it require the purchase of additional property?
- C. Access to Public Transportation
 - a. Is public transportation available?
- D. Potential for Future Expansion
 - a. Is there adequate land for future expansion?
- E. Promotes Centralization of Government Services
 - a. How well does the scenario centralize the location and availability of government services to the community?
- F. Best Utilization of Existing Building
 - a. Does the scenario use the County's existing building spaces in the most effective manner possible?
- G. Supports City Master Plan
 - a. Does the scenario further the goals of the City of Eau Claire's master plan and support the goal of a revitalized downtown?
- H. Improves Facility Security
 - a. Will the scenario adequately address the building security concerns associated with the program of the project?
- I. Extent of Remodeling Required
 - a. Will the scenario require extensive remodeling of the existing building?
- J. Removes Property from Tax Base
 - a. Would the site selected in the scenario remove property from the city tax base?
- K. Public Parking
 - a. Does the scenario promote the most efficient parking options?
- L. Site Utilities
 - a. Is there existing utility infrastructure?

National Institute of Corrections Siting Criteria

The following criteria were derived from several National Institute of Corrections publications including, "Jail Facility Site Evaluation and Selection" and "Jail Design Guide: A Resource for Small and Medium-Sized Jails".

Linkages:

"In locating the jail, several important relationships, or "linkages," should be satisfied. The jail should be designed with awareness of relationship or proximity needs to:"

Courts

Sheriff and Police Law Enforcement Functions

Services

Lawyers

Health Care

Educational Resources

Transportation

Surroundings

"It is important that the jail be located in appropriate surroundings. If it is in the right type of area, conflicts with different types of functions will be avoided. The best locations are in government, light industrial, or commercial areas. In general, the jail should not be near a school, a housing area, a church, or a recreation area."

Technical Requirements

Soils

Utilities

Topography

Zoning

Traffic Flow

Site Costs

Acquisition Costs

Demolition Costs

Utility Costs

Site Preparation Costs

Site Criteria

1. Location
2. Site
3. Land Ownership
4. Capability to Satisfy Correctional Design
5. Compatibility with Existing Zoning Ordinances
6. Accessibility to County Courts
7. Accessibility to Arteries
8. Direct Accessibility to Existing Water and Sewer Lines
9. Accessibility to Medical Facilities
10. Capability for future expansion and Flexible Building Configurations
11. Minimal Adverse Environmental Impact of Developing Site for New Jail
12. Positive Soil, Drainage and Terrain Conditions
13. Normal Site Development Costs
14. Minimal Special Development Issues
15. Capability to Develop High Energy Efficiency Conditions

The following criteria were partially taken from a report titled "Student Analysis of Eau Claire County Jail Location". The criteria have been expanded to include places that jails should be located near as well as places jails should be located away from.

Ideally, jails should be located near the following places to provide for efficient and convenient access and provision of services.

Places Jails Should be Located Near

- Courts
- Law Enforcement
- Probation and Parole
- Attorneys (District Attorney and Private Attorneys)
- Health Care Services (Clinics and Hospitals)
- Mental Health Services
- Social Services
- Educational Resources
- Job Assistance
- Public Transportation
- Transportation Routes (Collector and Arterial Streets and Bicycle Routes)
- Public Utilities
- Crime Center

Ideally, jails should be located away from the following places to decrease the impact of the jail on the surrounding community.

Places Jails Should Be Located Away From

- Parks, Playgrounds, Recreation Areas and Trails
- Residential Areas
- Elementary and Secondary Schools
- Churches
- Waterways

References:

Jail Facility Site Evaluation and Selection
<http://nicic.gov/Library/012888>

Jail Design Guide: A Resource for Small and Medium-Sized Jails
<http://nicic.gov/Library/015061>

Student Analysis of Eau Claire County Jail Location
http://www.uwec.edu/kaldjian/2Other/Jail_maps/jail_index.htm