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 he 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

Special Committee

Jail and Justice System Siting Criteria

Criteria: Located Away From	**Meets Criteria** 4	_____ 3	**Partially Meets Criteria** 2	_____ 1	**Does Not Meet Criteria** 0	**Comments**
Schools (Elementary and Secondary)						660 ft. (1/8th mile)
Churches						330 ft. (1/16th mile)
Recreation Areas						330 ft.
Trails						330 ft.
Residences						330 ft.
Waterways						330 ft.
Historic Neighborhoods						330 ft.
Criteria: Located Near						
Courts						Direct Secure Access
Law Enforcement						On Site
Health Care Services (Hospital, Clinic, Mental Health)						10 min.
Social Services						On Site
Probation & Parole						On Site
Other Resources (Education, Job, Attorneys)						Nearby
Public Transportation						Immediately Adjacent w/sufficient frequency and 7 day/wk operation
Transportation Routes, Bicycle Trail and Community Access						Immediately Adjacent to street(s) and trails capable of handling expected traffic and easily accessible to those with jail business
Public Utilities						Immediately Adjacent
Other Considerations:						
Cost – Capital & Operation Short & Long Term						County Board has set maximum cost of 59.1 million for jail, law enforcement, courts & general government
Comprehensive Plan						Consistent with Comprehensive Plan
Zoning						Capable of being zoned "P", Public Properties District
Acceptance by Community						Is the proposed location acceptable to the community
Land Availability/ Parcel Size						Reasonable ability to acquire parcels(s) of sufficient size & location
Capability for Future Expansion						Consideration of expansion beyond immediate planning horizon
Parking						Parking on site
City Police Department and Sheriff Department Location Preference						Co-location of Police and Sheriff Departments w/jail. Police strongly prefers downtown location.
Operational Efficiency						How well does the design contribute to efficiency in operation of the jail and justice system
Environment and Soils						Are there environmental or soil deficiencies