

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 10/19/2005

LRB Number	05-2700/1	Introduction Number	AB-557	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Residence of sex offenders					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill places restrictions upon persons required to register as a sex offender under s. 301.45. Under this bill, any sex offender required to register with Wisconsin's Sex Offender Registry is prohibited from residing within 1,000 feet of any child care facility or any private or public school. This bill also requires the Department to notify the offender that he/she is living within a prohibited area within 45 days of enactment of the bill.

The bill provides a penalty for the sex offender violating the prohibition starting on the 60th day after enactment. The penalty includes fines up to \$10,000 and terms of imprisonment up to nine months or both for the first offense if the triggering offense was a misdemeanor; \$10,000 and a term of imprisonment up to six years if the triggering offense was a felony.

Departmental Impact:

Notification: Currently there are 10,034 registered sex offenders residing in Wisconsin, excluding offenders who are incarcerated. The Department has compared the addresses of those registered sex offenders with school and child caring facilities and 4,543 sex offenders are currently living within 1,000 feet of one of these facilities.

It is assumed that the Department will send notification to 4,543 offenders of the new law, even though only 1,781 of them are under the Department's supervision. Thus, the Department would prepare and send via certified mailings, 4,543 letters to sex offenders at a cost of approximately \$11,600.

The Department would also have to prospectively evaluate the housing alternatives for 100 new sex offender registrants per month, as well as any requests for new housing requests from existing sex offenders.

Housing: Sex offenders will no longer be allowed to live in their current residence if they live within a prohibited area, regardless of whether the residence is owned or rented, or whether they are adults or juveniles. Thus, 4,543 sex offenders will be required to relocate within 60 days of passage of this bill.

The Department has assumed the financial responsibility for housing sex offenders who are not able to find housing in order to ensure public safety. This legislation will affect 1,781 sex offenders still under the Department's supervision. If offenders are unable to find housing because of the residency restrictions in this legislation, it is assumed that the Department will incur the costs of housing these offenders. It would not be in the interests of public safety to have homeless sex offenders. Many sex offenders are on electronic monitoring and a phone hook-up is required. The other 2,762 sex offenders who are forced to relocate will have to find housing on their own.

The attached maps produced in August 2005 demonstrate that Department staff will find it extremely difficult to find housing for the 1,781 sex offenders currently under the Department's supervision in several counties with large urban areas (Kenosha, LaCrosse, Milwaukee, Racine, Eau Claire, Dane, Brown) once the 1,000-foot rule is implemented.

It is also assumed that each of Wisconsin's 72 counties will have at least some offenders required to relocate, whether or not the offender owns or rents, and whether or not the offender is still under supervision. Due to these pressures, it is assumed that the Department will no longer be able to locate housing for sex offenders, except in rural areas of counties.

Juvenile offenders may be especially problematic and costly. It is estimated that 159 juveniles would be

affected by this legislation, eight of whom are under DOC supervision. If a juvenile offender is required to relocate, and if the juvenile's family refuses to move, the juvenile would be placed in alternate care at a cost ranging from \$49/day for a foster home up to \$239/day for a residential facility. Since most of the juveniles are not under the Department's supervision, the costs of placing juveniles may fall upon the counties. In addition, there could be ramifications on school districts if juveniles are forced to relocate.

It is assumed the Department will have to place 1,781 sex offenders, at least a portion of who are juveniles, in rural areas within 60 days of enactment. Additionally, at least a portion of the 100 sex offenders newly required to register, per month, will need assistance in locating housing. It is assumed that sufficient existing housing does not presently exist in rural areas to house this population.

There are fewer employment opportunities in rural areas of Wisconsin. In addition, there is no public transportation so offenders may need Department assistance in acquiring both a job and transportation to and from any work opportunities and general purposes such as grocery shopping and medical appointments.

Probation and Parole Agents' travel time for home visits could also increase if offenders move from urban to rural areas as a result of this bill. If we have to shift employees to other offices because many offenders have moved, the Department will incur relocation expenses for our community corrections staff.

This bill does not require the Department to construct and manage housing for offenders. Nevertheless, one option is for the Department to construct multi-unit-housing units in rural areas of each county. Assuming a construction cost of \$35,000 per offender to construct efficiency apartments, the one-year building cost totals \$62,335,000, excluding the costs of purchasing land (1,781 offenders * \$35,000 each). A second option is the Department could purchase and manage existing rural motel/hotel units in counties where they are available.

The Department could also contract with rural temporary living placement [TLP] vendors who would construct and manage housing in rural areas. The Department is currently paying an average of approximately \$27 per night for temporary living beds. Annual costs for 1,781 TLP beds total \$17,538,800. This would provide the added benefit of on-site vendor staff to provide supervision. However, the timeframe to secure these beds would exceed the 60-day timeframe for relocation of offenders.

Offenders paying rent for the units would offset some of the costs of any of these options. If we assume each offender pays \$400 per month, annual revenues would be \$8,548,800, although it is assumed that juvenile offenders will not be employed and thus unable to reimburse the state for any housing costs.

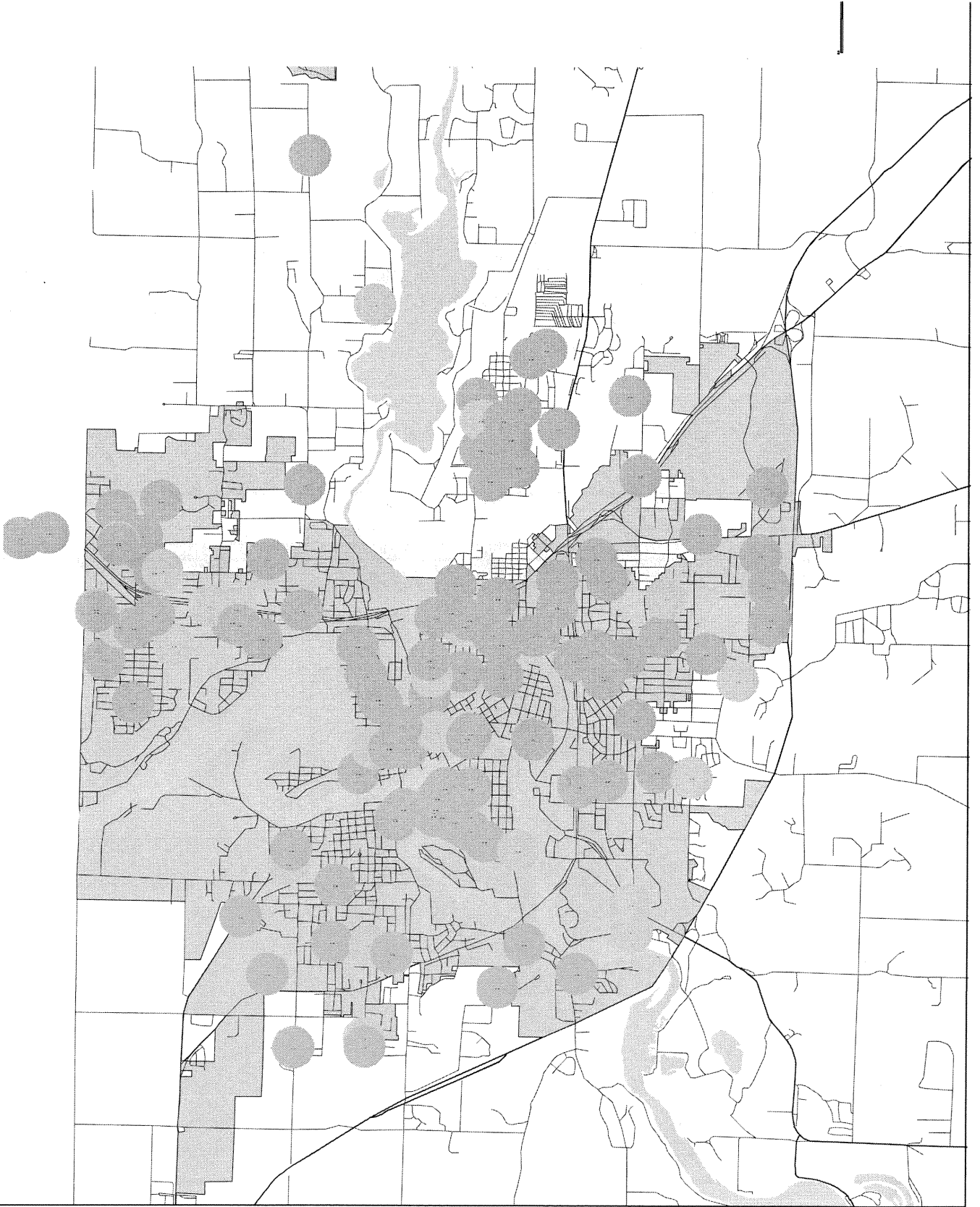
If offenders have their supervision revoked or are convicted of a new crime relating to violation of the 1000 foot law, there will be increased costs to the Department to incarcerate these individuals. We are not able to predict how often this may occur.

Local Government Impact:

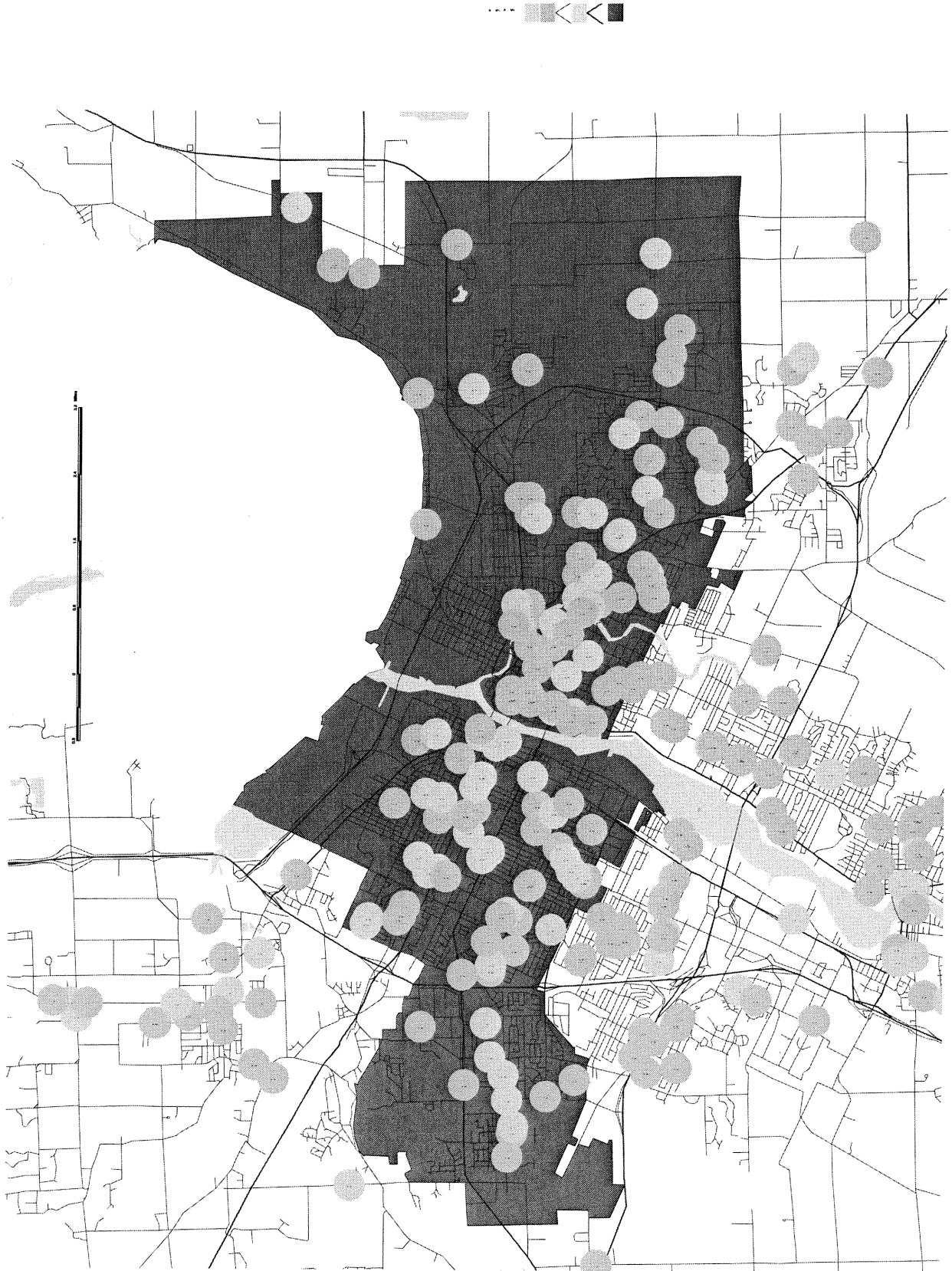
Multi-unit housing units that are constructed by the State in rural areas may remove land from tax roles thus reducing a community's tax revenues.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

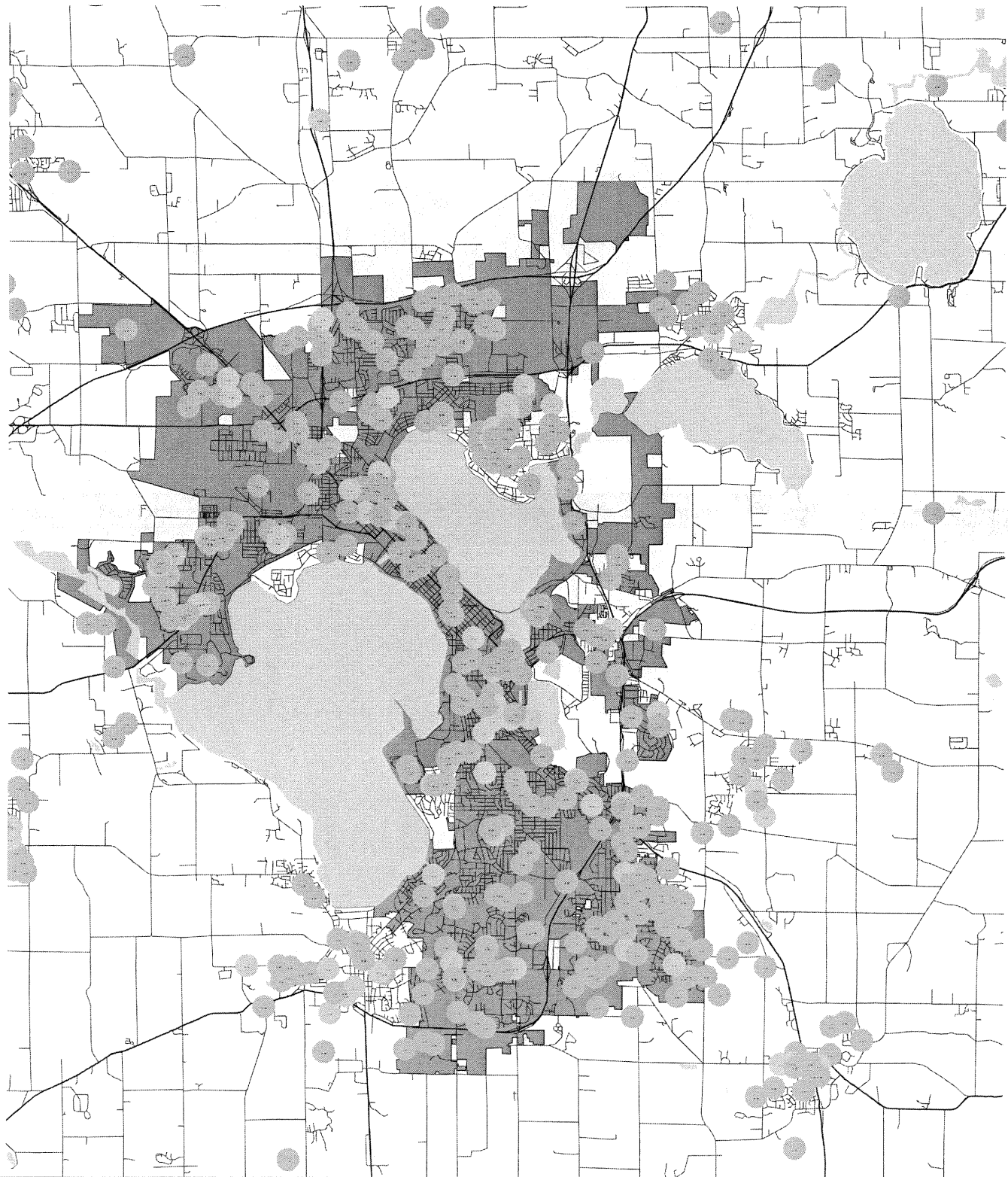
Eau Claire County (City of Eau Claire)



City of Green Bay

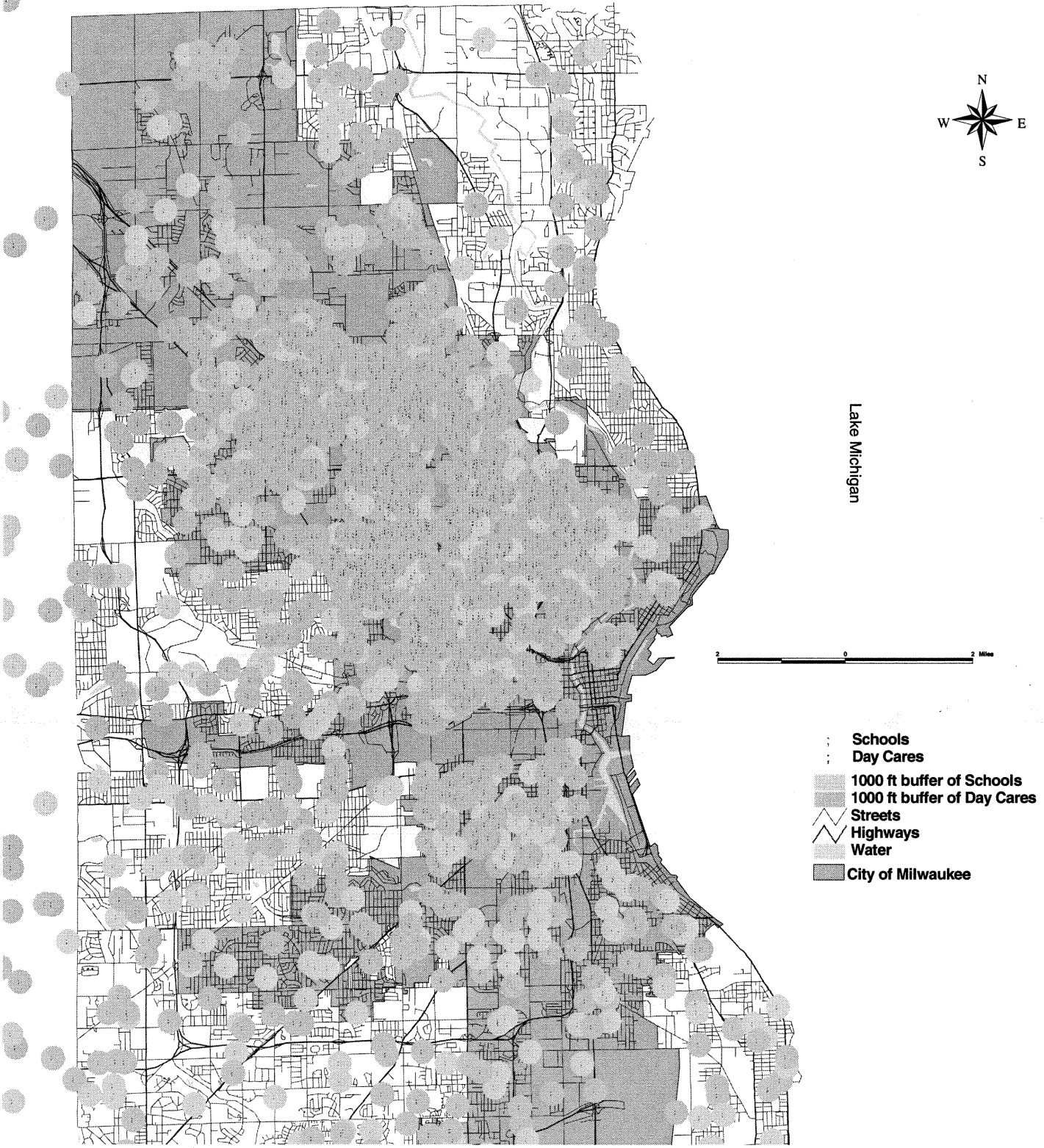


Dane County (Madison)

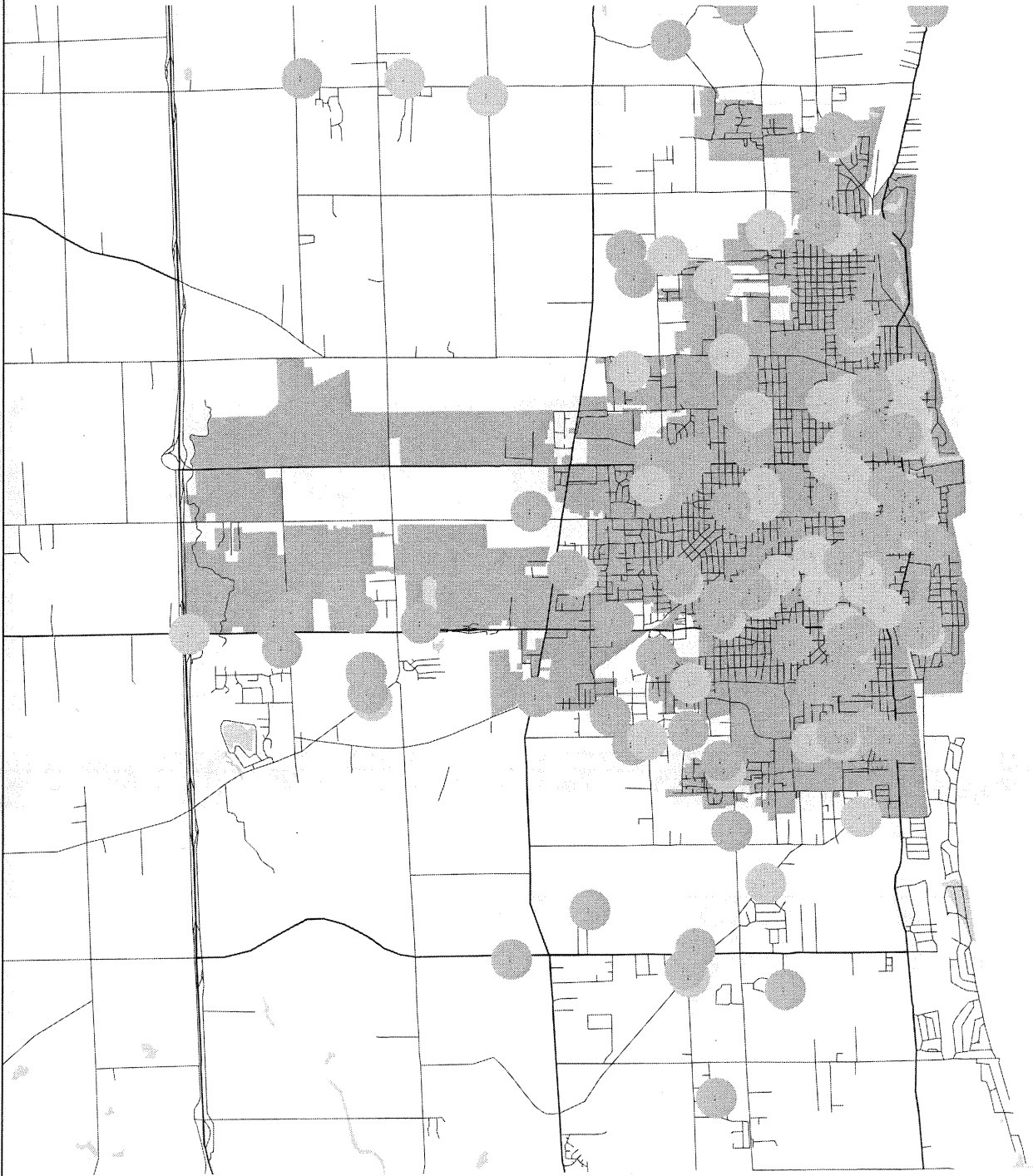


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Milwaukee County (City of Milwaukee)



Kenosha County East of I-94



Lake Michigan



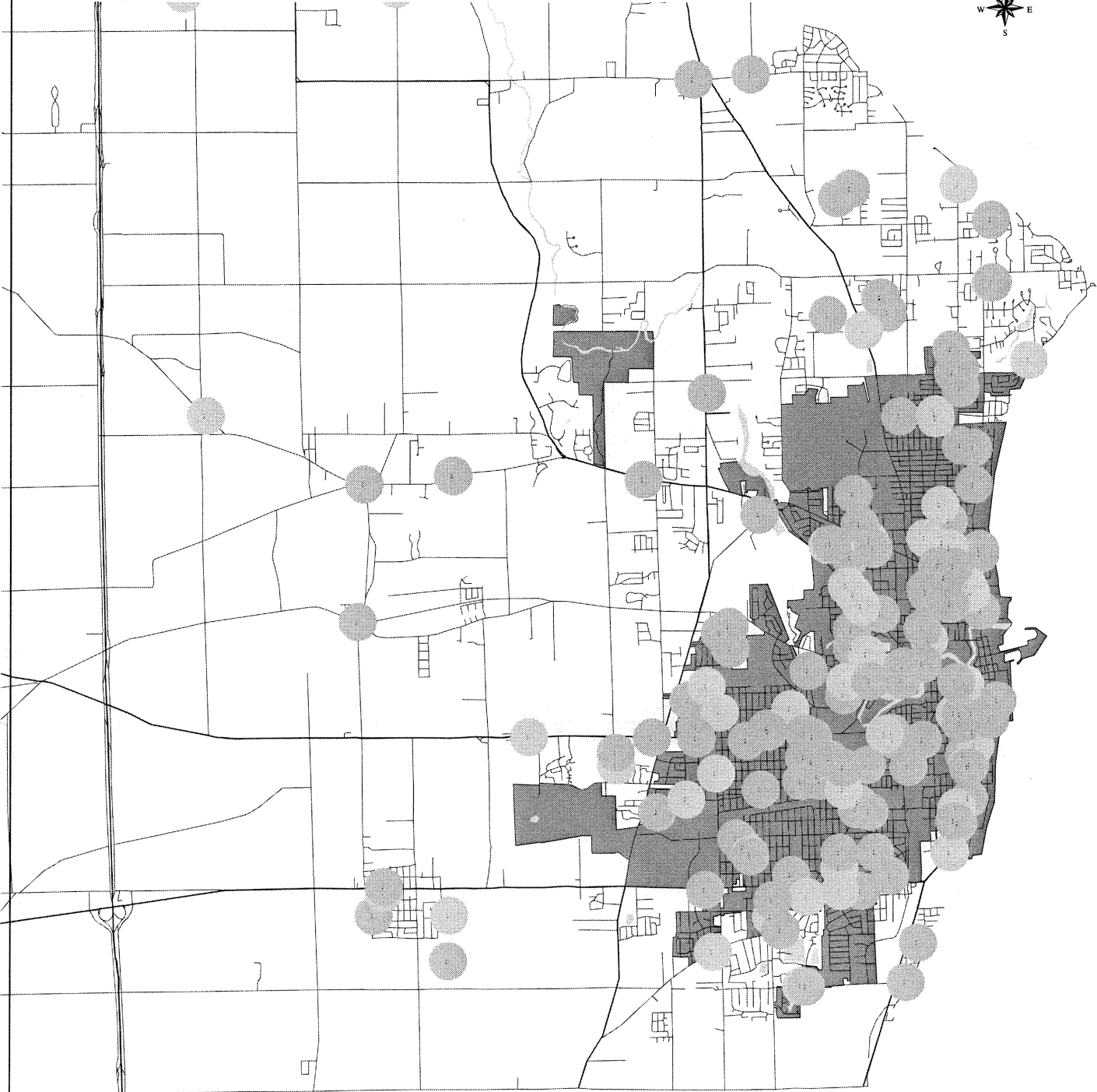
LaCrosse County (City of LaCrosse)



2 0 2 Miles

· Schools
· Day Cares

Racine County East of I-94



0.7 0 0.7 1.4 2.1 Miles