



Columbia County Profile

Columbia County was organized in 1846, by some of the first settlers who had purchased land nearly ten years before, in an area where Poynette now stands. Villages had been sprouting up at Columbus, Dekorra and Wyocena, each of which wished to become the county seat, but it was Fort Winnebago (Portage) that was eventually chosen.

The County's early growth came at a time of poverty and political disturbance in Europe. Although the majority of its settlers were from New York, Ohio and New England, others came from overseas. Among them were citizens of Welsh, Scottish, Irish, Norwegian and German heritage.

The first railroad was built across Columbia County in 1857. Other lines followed, making Portage an important railroad center. Soon State roads, and eventually Interstate highways crisscrossed the county. In Columbia County, there are 281 State highway miles, 356 County Trunk highway miles and 969 miles of town roads. With its abundant waterways, Columbia County steadily developed into the region's agricultural, industrial and travel hub we know today.

Present day Columbia County covers 774 square miles with 19% covered in forest land. The County also boasts 2 area hospitals, 2 local airports, 6 county parks, 10 community libraries and 22,229 acres of state-owned wildlife areas. The County contains 90 wind turbines capable of powering approximately 45,000 average residential homes.

Columbia County is governed by the Board of Supervisors representing 28 area districts. The County Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Judges, District Attorney, Clerk of Courts, and Sheriff are elected officials.

Columbia County services are administered from 8 different County building locations. Some of the largest County Departments include the Highway Department; the Columbia County Jail, Huber Center, and Sheriff's Department; Health and Human Services; and the Columbia County Health Care Center. Other high-profile citizen service areas include Judicial Services, Child Support, Treasurer, Planning & Zoning, County Clerk, Veteran's Services and Land Information among others.

The Columbia County Wisconsin website can be viewed online at www.co.columbia.wi.us.

2022 Columbia County Population

Towns (21)

Arlington	818
Caledonia	1,504
Columbus	631
Courtland	492
Dekorra	2,519
Fort Winnebago	817
Fountain Prairie	943
Hampden	587
Leeds	752
Lewiston	1,260
Lodi	3,296
Lowville	1,024
Marcellon	1,145
Newport	604
Otsego	670
Pacific	2,811
Randolph	767
Scott	874
Springvale	539
West Point	2,068
Wyocena	1,798

Villages (10)

Arlington	846
Cambria	781
Doylestown	278
Fall River	1,815
Friesland	322
Pardeeville	2,068
Poynette	2,594
Randolph	456
Rio	1,144
Wyocena	752

Cities (4)

Columbus	5,530
Lodi	3,226
Portage	10,325
Wisconsin Dells	2,571

Grand Total: 58,627

2023 Equalized Assessment

Towns	\$4,952,260,700	59%
Villages	\$1,131,976,500	14%
Cities	\$2,280,709,600	27%
	\$8,364,946,800	100%

Where do we live?

Ten Largest Municipalities

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Portage | 6. Poynette |
| 2. Columbus | 7. Wisconsin Dells |
| 3. Lodi (Town) | 8. Dekorra |
| 4. Lodi (City) | 9. Pardeeville |
| 5. Pacific | 10. West Point |

Where do we work?

Top Ten Industry Groups

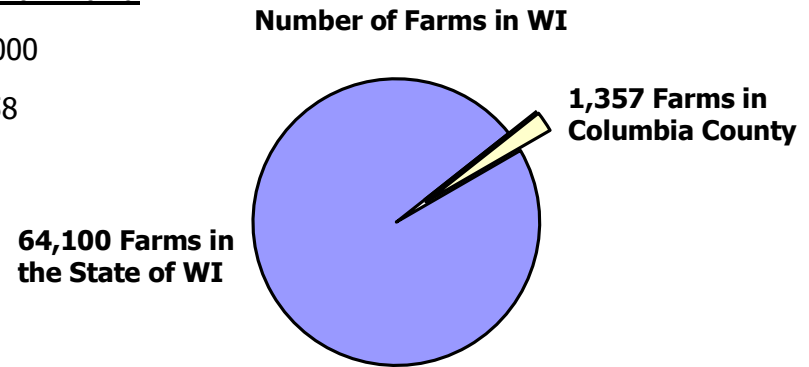
<u>Industry Group</u>	<u>Employment</u>
1. Manufacturing	4,525
2. Educational & Health Services	4,399
3. Construction	1,950
4. Retail	1,950
5. Professional & Business Services	1,689
6. Financial Activities	1,503
7. Public Administration	1,468
8. Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,433
9. Other Services	1,057
10. Leisure & Hospitality	933

Prominent Public & Private Sector Employers in Columbia County

<u>Company</u>	<u>Product or Service</u>	<u>Size</u>
Aspirus Divine Savior Healthcare	Hospital, Clinic, Nursing Home	500-999
Columbia County	Government	250-499
Columbia Correctional Facility	State maximum security prison	250-499
Penda Corporation	Plastic automotive accessories and drainage systems	250-499
Trienda Holdings	Manufacturing	250-499
Portage Community School District	Education	250-499
Prairie Ridge Health	General medical and surgical hospital	250-499
Saint-Gobain Corp.	Silicon components for medical industry	250-499
Wisconsin Dells School District	Education	250-499
Wal-Mart (Portage/WI Dells)	Department store	250-499

Agriculture

	<u>Average Size of Farms</u>	<u>Total Acres in Farmland</u>
Wisconsin	222 acres	14,200,000
Columbia County	224 acres	304,058



Historical

- There are 20 Historical Markers located throughout the Columbia County territory.
- The Ice Age National and State Scenic Trail is one of eight Congressionally designated National Scenic Trails located throughout the United States. The Department of Tourism recognizes the Ice Age Trail as Wisconsin's #1 outdoor recreational resource.
- Indian Agency House located just outside the City of Portage.
- Home of Pulitzer Prize winning author Zona Gale, author and educator Frederick Jackson Turner, and renowned environmentalist John Muir.
- The Merrimac Ferry is the lone survivor of upwards of 500 ferries chartered by territorial and state legislatures before the turn of the century.
- The Portage Canal is the only canal in Wisconsin and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.