

# Vendor Focus

## Featuring: General Engineering Company

When General Engineering Company (GEC) was founded in 1912, computers and drones were decades in the future. Civil engineering was accomplished with a slide rule and hand-drawn plans. Civil engineers of the day could be expected to design a water supply system, layout a community subdivision, or engineer a levee. After 110 years, the GEC staff is still called upon for these fundamental tasks and many more specialized services now required by their clients. As former president Jerry Foellmi said, “We’re kind of like family doctors, we do a lot of different things.”

Municipalities were among GEC founder H.V. Tennant’s first clients when he established the company. More than a century later, municipal clients still represent a substantial portion of the company’s work. GEC has come to possess more expertise and institutional knowledge of many communities than their part-time, often-changing boards, councils and staff can provide. “We have an ownership in these communities and these clients,” says Brad Boettcher, current GEC President.

Between the vast archives and years of experience, GEC’s staff know not only where the pipes are buried but what they’re for and what they serve. This allows GEC to help clients plan for future projects and upgrades. General Engineering Company is proud to have served several municipalities for over 60 years.

## General Engineering Company



*Engineers • Consultants • Inspectors*

Over the decades, needs of municipalities have changed dramatically and GEC has evolved with those needs. In 1998, municipalities needed building inspection services due to State mandates, so GEC created a building inspection department.

Currently, GEC inspectors work with over 300 local communities, most of which are Towns, to issue building permits, inspect construction, and review code compliance.

GEC’s variety of services allow their clients to access expertise in many areas under one roof. GEC also has licensed structural engineers, land surveyors, and environmental consultants, as well as grants and funding specialists and zoning administrators.



L to R Lukasz Lyzwa Project Engineer, President Brad Boettcher PE, Director of Inspection Services Mark Jankowski and Vice President Kory Anderson PE.

Grants and funding are another focus for many of GEC's municipal clients. In the last five years, GEC has worked with communities to secure over \$10 million in grants and loans and is versed in federal funding. GEC's Grants and Funding Coordinator, Elizabeth Shumate, has presented at several conferences, including the WTA's annual conference, about grant applications and administration. "My goal is to help communities get the biggest bang for the buck," says Shumate. Many communities are discussing funding possibilities thanks to the federal government's ARPA and new infrastructure funding plans. GEC would like to



The Town of Holland in La Crosse County was in need of assistance with an existing pond not being sufficient and creating flood issues. GEC assisted with the design of a basin to greatly increase the capacity of flood mitigation.

**Corporate Motto**  
*Dedicated to serving the best interests of our clients with enthusiasm, professionalism, and demonstrated excellence since 1912.*

help in any way possible. "I always say, 'we can help as much or as little as you need,'" says Shumate. Since the founding of General Engineering Company in 1912, they continue to be dedicated to the best interest of their clients and in serving their needs. Technology and regulations have changed, but their overall principles and values dedicated to all their professional endeavors have not. Throughout their tenure, GEC has provided professional engineering and consulting services for many municipal, industrial, commercial, institutional, and private organizations.

The thread running through all their projects is problem-solving. It's what GEC's engineers and staff have been doing for 110 years.



The Town of Onalaska in La Crosse County was seeking the replacement of four area bridges, however while working with GEC engineers, the Town opted to replace the bridges with culverts, at a fraction of the cost.

For 110 years, General Engineering Company has been a multidisciplinary consulting firm headquartered in Portage, Wisconsin. Since 1912, GEC has been synonymous with quality, reliability, and innovation. They have built a reputation on serving the best interests of their clients while completing all projects in a timely and professional manner. GEC has four Wisconsin locations in Portage, La Crosse, Black River Falls, and Green Lake.

Services include:

- Civil/Municipal Engineering • Building Inspection • Surveying/GPS/Drone •
- Wastewater Services • Structural Engineering • Water Resources Services •
- Environmental Services • Grants/Funding Assistance