

## **CHAPTER 4     Utilities and Community Facilities Element**

### **Section 4.1     Introduction**

Adequate infrastructure, utilities, community facilities and services are important in meeting existing and future community needs for Lanark. They are the framework of a community's life and without them, present day standard of living could not exist. The decisions made for the Town regarding the utilities and community facilities will impact present and future residents.

This chapter will describe the existing utility and community facilities serving the community, and outline future desires/needs for Town of Lanark residents.

### **Section 4.2     Public Utilities Inventory**

There are limited public utilities within the Town of Lanark. The following information is intended to address the requirements of the Wisconsin State Statutes for comprehensive planning.

#### **A. Sanitary Sewer Service / On-site Wastewater Treatment Technologies**

There is no municipal sanitary sewer service within the Town of Lanark. Residents in the Town utilize private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS), otherwise known as private septic systems, as allowed by the Portage County Private Sewage System Ordinance. Small community systems or cluster systems, however, may be recommended at a future date for higher density developments within Lanark such as Boelter Lake and Evergreen Hills.

#### **B. Water Supply**

The Town of Lanark does not have a municipal water system. Residents rely on individual private wells for their water supply. Water quality is generally thought to be good. However, because of the sandy soil and shallow depths to groundwater in parts of Lanark, many activities on the land surface can potentially result in contaminants leaching to groundwater and contaminating drinking water supplies. Poorly installed wells or wells without vermin proof caps may result in bacterial contamination of the water supply. In addition, wells that have not been properly abandoned can quickly deliver contaminants to the groundwater. Some of the more common contaminants in wells in this region that have drinking water standards include bacteria, nitrate, pesticides, and lead. It is recommended that private well water be tested at least annually.

State and Federal regulations advise that nitrate levels in drinking water not exceed 10.00 parts per million (ppm) for health reasons. According to Portage County records, 179 wells have been sampled in the Town for nitrates dating back to 1981 (Map 4.1). Fifty-six (56) of these wells have been sampled since the year 2000, 3 of which had nitrate levels above 10.00 parts per million. Atrazine (an herbicide) concentrations have also been measured above the federal drinking water standard in one well in Lanark and one well in Belmont resulting in Atrazine prohibition areas (see Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resource Section of this document for more details)

Since potable water is obtained primarily from groundwater, consideration should be given to possible sources of contamination. Nitrate sources include fertilizer, animal waste, septic systems, and landfills. Landfills (also formerly known as dumps) have been around as long as people lived in Portage County, however, the locations of many of the smaller, private dumps are

unknown. The amount of materials deposited in these was small, and the toxicities of the materials were likely fairly low as compared to current solid waste. All known landfills, except the current County Landfill located on Cty Rd QQ, have been closed. According to Department of Natural Resources Administrative Code, there must be 1,200 foot separation between a private well or reservoir and the nearest edge of an existing, proposed, or abandoned landfill. The closed landfill in the Town is shown on Map 4.3.

A more detailed discussion of other sources of contamination to groundwater can be found in the County's updated Groundwater Management Plan that was adopted in 2004. More general information regarding groundwater can be found in Section 5.5 of the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources element of this plan.

### C. Storm Water Management

Responsibility for storm water management within the Town of Lanark is split between Portage County and the Town. Storm water management facilities consist mainly of ditches along the road network. Portage County maintains the ditches along the portions of County highways within Lanark, while the Town maintains any ditches along Town roads. The ditches along Town roads vary in size, ranging from 1 to 4 feet in width.

Ditches and natural drainage ways within Lanark direct the majority of surface water in an easterly direction. In the northern half of the Town, Spring Creek drains into the Tomorrow River, which then meanders east into Waupaca County. In the southern portion of the Town, surface water drains toward Allen Creek, and then east into Waupaca County. Watersheds are shown on Map 5.4

### D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

The Town currently contracts through the Portage County Solid Waste Department with Wittenberg Disposal Services, LLC, based in Wittenberg, Wisconsin, for handling solid waste and recycling. Waste is collected weekly and transported to the Portage County Landfill. The Portage County landfill is scheduled to close in 2006, after which the waste will be trucked to a landfill in Marathon County. Recyclables are collected every other week and transported to the Portage County Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in the Village of Plover.

The Town Board expects that Wittenberg Disposal will be able to meet future needs. County-level programs, such as Clean Sweep, provide a valuable service to Town residents for several items that Wittenberg Disposal will not pick up.

### E. Corporate Utilities (Map 4.2)

1. Telephone and internet services in the Town are currently offered by Amherst Telephone Company, SBC, Union Telephone Company, Tomorrow River Internet Services, and Wisconsin Internet Net.
2. Telecommunications - There is one cellular tower within Lanark, located near USH 10 in the northeast part of the Town.
3. Gas and Electric Power - The Town currently receives its electric service from Alliant Energy or Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. Gas service, however, is not offered by these utilities. Propane gas can be obtained through private providers. There is no power generation plant or substation located in the Town.

**Map 4.1 Nitrate Levels**

**Map 4.2 Community Utilities**

**Map 4.3 Community Facilities**

## **Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory**

### **A. Municipal Buildings**

The Lanark Town Hall is located on 6177 Cty Rd A near Spring Creek (see Map 4.3). The town garage is located at 7174 County Road TT. A separate room is located within the garage for storage of First Responder supplies. Plans are underway to construct a new town hall that will be located next to the existing town garage.

### **B. Police Protection**

The Town of Lanark is served by the Portage County Sheriff's Department. The Portage County Sheriff's Department provides protective services through random patrols and on a "call-out" basis. Portage County is divided into 3 districts for patrol purposes. The Town of Lanark falls within two of the patrol districts, with Hwy 54 being the dividing line. The eastern district is bounded by STH 66 to the north, the Portage County line to the east, and STH 54 to the south. The southern district includes all areas of the County south of the Wisconsin River and STH 54 east of the Village of Plover. During the day shift 1 officer is assigned to each district, plus an additional officer "floats" throughout the County. During the night shift, 2 officers are assigned to each district, plus 2 additional officers float throughout the County. Officers may drive through the Town any number of times during each shift to check on businesses and residences.

The Portage County Sheriff's Department provides an expanded community policing program and a school liaison program.

### **C. Fire Protection**

The Town of Lanark is currently served by the Amherst Fire Department and Waupaca Area Fire Department. The Lanark Town Board is satisfied with the services provided by both of these departments.

The Amherst Fire department is located at 4585 Fairgrounds Road, Amherst. The Amherst Fire District protects approximately 6,000 people living in a 90 square mile area including the Villages of Amherst, Amherst Junction, Nelsonville, and Town of Amherst. Portions of the Towns of Lanark and Stockton contract for their fire protection service with the Amherst Fire District. The fire department was reorganized in 1992, combining three smaller departments. There are approximately 42 volunteer fire fighters. A new fire station building was constructed in 1995, and as of 2003, there are 7 vehicles within a single fire station including:

- 3 engine/pumpers
  - 1<sup>st</sup> out 1,250 gallon per minute pump rate with 500 gallon capacity with foam application and aerial boom with ladder
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> out – 1,000 gallon per minute pump rate with 1000 gallon capacity
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> out/reserve – 750 gallon per minute pump rate with 750 gallon capacity
- 2 tankers having a 2,000 and 3,000 gallon capacity
- 1 ladder truck
- 1 rescue vehicle
- 1 utility/grass fire vehicle

Water for these vehicles is usually pumped from the water hydrants located in the Village of Amherst as well as local streams. Irrigation wells, including two in Town of Lanark and one in Town of Amherst, are available as an additional resource for fighting fires, and there are a

number of dry hydrants across the area. Dry hydrants allow for water extraction from area lakes and streams. The fire district also has an agreement with other fire districts in Portage County to utilize their water sources if needed.

The Waupaca Area Fire District, located in Waupaca and Portage Counties, covers 145 square miles. This includes the City of Waupaca, Townships of Waupaca, Farmington, Dayton, Lind (Waupaca County) and portions of the Townships of Lanark and Belmont (Portage County). This is a volunteer department with 35 trained firefighters. The department has the following equipment:

- 4 engines/pumpers
  - 1,000 gallon per minute pump rate with a 750 gallon capacity with an 800 foot, 5-inch large diameter hose
  - 1,000 gallon per minute pump rate with a 750 gallon capacity
  - 1,500 gallon per minute pump rate with 1,250 gallon capacity
  - 750 gallon per minute pump rate with a 500 gallon capacity
- 1 ladder truck with a 1500 gallon per minute pump rate and a 200 gallon capacity, 400 foot, 5-inch diameter hose, with ladder elevations of -5 to 75 degrees
- 2 tankers each having a 3,000 gallon capacity
- 2 utility/grass fire vehicles
- 1 rescue vehicle

Water for these vehicles is usually pumped from water hydrants located in the City of Waupaca.

#### D. Rescue / Emergency Services

The Town of Lanark is currently served by the Portage County Rescue Department, with ambulance service provided by Portage County. The Portage County Rescue Department covers approximately 810 square miles, and is the only ambulance service in the area. The department has 4 ambulances, all dispatched from Stevens Point, which are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Most patients are transported to St. Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point. However, they do transport to medical facilities in other cities. The rescue equipment includes the following equipment:

- 5 medic vehicles, 1 rescue air boat

First Responders and EMTs are a part of the Amherst Fire District and Lanark sub unit. Each of these groups is comprised of 12 to 14 volunteers and serves the entire Town of Lanark.

#### E. Schools

The Town of Lanark lies within the Waupaca, Tomorrow River, and Almond-Bancroft School districts for primary and secondary education (Map 4.3). There are no school buildings located within Lanark.

The Waupaca School District is approximately 160 square miles in size, and includes the City of Waupaca and surrounding Towns, and parts of the Portage County Towns of Lanark and Belmont. There are four elementary schools, one middle school, one accelerated learning center, and one high school located within the district, serving approximately 2,925 students, grades K-12. The Waupaca School District consists of approximately 214 teachers, 76 support staff, and 19 administrators, and is governed by a 7 member school board.

The Tomorrow River School District is approximately 100 square miles in size and includes the Villages of Amherst, Amherst Junction and Nelsonville, along with part of the Towns of Amherst, Buena Vista, Lanark, Stockton, and New Hope. The entire student population, Pre-kindergarten through 12, is educated on one site, within a 160,693 sq. ft. interconnected structure in the Village of Amherst. In 2004, the Amherst School complex consisted of 86 teachers, 43 support staff and 5 administrators servicing 900 students in grades Pre-Kindergarten to 12. The school is governed by a 5 member school board elected to three year terms on a rotating basis.

The Almond-Bancroft School District is approximately 108 square miles in size has schools located within the Village of Almond and the unincorporated community of Bancroft. The Bancroft elementary school has approximately 30 students in early childhood through kindergarten. The Village of Almond elementary school (1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades) has approximately 200 students and the high school (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) has approximately 300 students. Both the elementary and the high school grades are located in one building in the Village of Almond.

A number of post-secondary education opportunities for Town residents are available. State universities include: the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County, located in Wausau; the University of Wisconsin-Wood County/Marshfield in the City of Marshfield; the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh; and the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley, located in Menasha. Technical colleges include: Mid-State Technical College in Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids; North Central Technical College in the City of Wausau; and Fox Valley Technical College, located in Appleton, Oshkosh, and Waupaca. All of these facilities are within approximately one hour of Lanark.

#### F. Libraries

The Town of Lanark does not have a public library. A number of area libraries currently serve the needs of Lanark residents.

The Lettie W. Jensen Public Library, located at 278 North Main Street in Amherst, was constructed in 1988 with funds donated to the Village. The Library is run by an appointed Village library board. This library is a member of the South Central Library System. The library offers internet access, various computers programs, inter-library loan, large-print books, audio books, videos, magazines, a local history room, a copy machine, Story time kits, a book discussion group, and a weekly preschool story hour.

The Waupaca Area Public Library is located at 107 South Main Street in Waupaca. The library offers services including: Internet access, various computer programs, interlibrary loan, Genealogy resources, book discussion groups, CD & cassette availability, magazines, and newspapers, and summer reading program, among other services and programs. The Waupaca Area Public Library is part of the Outagamie Waupaca Library System. For more information, please refer to their website: <http://www.waupacalibrary.org>

Other library facilities available to residents include three branches of the Portage County Public Library and the University Library and Albertson Center for Learning Resources. The Charles M. White library is located in Stevens Point and is open seven days a week. The Village of Plover Branch library and the Village of Almond Branch library are open Monday through Saturday with limited hours. More detailed information about the Portage County Public Library system can be obtained via the internet at: <http://library.uwsp.edu/pcl/>.

The University Library and Albertson Center for Learning Resources is affiliated with the UW-Stevens Point and is located at the corner of Portage and Reserve Streets in Stevens Point. This facility offers a wide array of services and resources. For a full listing of resources and hours, visit the website at: <http://library.uwsp.edu/directory/libdir.htm>.

## G. Parks and Recreation

### Parks

There are currently no Town parks located in Lanark. However, there is one county park - Stedman Wayside, and one state park - Hartman Creek State Park, located partially in the Town. There are also three DNR owned 40-acre properties located in Lanark. Some Managed Forest Lands are also open for public use.

Stedman Wayside is three acres in size and located on County Rd DD. Limited facilities include picnic tables and fishing access.

Hartman Creek State Park is located between Portage and Waupaca Counties. It is 1,100 acres in size, with 245 acres located in Portage County. The park entrance is located in Waupaca County. There are four lakes: 22, 20, and 12 acres in size, and one small pothole lake. Major activities involve camping, hiking, cross-county skiing, and water related activities. There are 100 family campsites with showers and toilets, ten sites open during the winter and there are five group campsites. Thirteen miles of hiking trails and one mile of interpretative nature trail are within the park.

Other area facilities include Wolf Lake Park. This county park is located in the northeast corner of the Town of Almond, just to the southwest of Lanark. Although outside the Town, it is often used by Town of Lanark residents.

### Recreation

A segment of the *Ice Age Trail* is located within Hartman Creek State Park. The Ice Age Trail is an all-season recreational trail, running throughout the entire state of Wisconsin, made to accommodate hikers, cross-country skiers, backpackers and all other people who enjoy the outdoors. When completed, it will total approximately 1,000 miles in length. The trail, some of which passes through private lands, is for non-motorized traffic only. For more local information, contact the Portage County Chapter of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation through the Portage County Parks Department at 715-346-1433.

*Spring Lake Boat Landing* – this Town-owned boat landing is an unimproved facility located at the end of Spring Haven Drive used to provide access to Spring Lake.

*Lanark Ball Park* – this private facility located in Section 29 along STH 54 hosts a number of baseball events.

*Snowmobile Trails* – the Tomorrow River Snowmobile Club, based in Amherst, maintains a number of snowmobile trails within the Town.

### Youth Activities

The Plan Commission has identified a number of activities and programs that are available to the youth of the Town. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list; rather it is intended to be a starting point that can help to identify potential future needs or desires. These activities include:

- The Tomorrow River Lions Club sponsors summer youth softball and baseball programs.
- Boys and Girls Clubs activities are available at the Jensen Center in Amherst.
- Youth programs are available through the City of Waupaca Parks and Recreations Department.

- Swimming facilities are available at the Stevens Point YMCA, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Iola School, Hartman Creek State Park, Stevens Point Municipal Pool, and other County Beaches.

#### H. Child Care Facilities

There are 2 different categories of state licensed child care; they depend upon the number of children in care:

-Licensed **Family** Child Care Centers provide care for up to 8 children. This care is usually in the provider’s home, but it is not required to be located in a residence.

-Licensed **Group** Child Care Centers provide care for 9 or more children. These centers are usually located somewhere other than a residence and may be small or large in size.

While there are several child daycare facilities located in the Town of Lanark, there are no licensed child care facilities located in the Town. The closest facilities exist in the Villages of Amherst and Amherst Junction. For a complete list, contact the Regional Division of Children and Family Services at: 2811 8th St. - Ste. 70, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, Phone: (715) 422-5080, Fax: (715) 422-5091.

#### I. Adult Care Facilities

Nursing home and assisted living facilities for adults are available in Stevens Point and Waupaca. The Lincoln Center, in Stevens Point, is home to the Aging & Disability Resource Center, offices of the Department on Aging, the Adult Day Center, the Senior Center and the Holly Shoppe. More detailed information can be obtained via the internet at: <http://www.co.portage.wi.us/Aging/index.html> or calling (715) 346-1405 or 1-800-586-5055. In addition, full time and respite care providers are available in the Town. For a complete list of these facilities in this area, contact the Bureau of Quality Assurance, Assisted Living Section - Northern Regional Office at:

1853 N. Stevens, Suite B  
 Rhinelander, WI 54501  
 Office: (715) 365-2800  
 Fax: (715) 365-2815

#### J. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities in Lanark. Facilities serving Town residents are located in the villages of Amherst and Plover, and the cities of Stevens Point and Waupaca. Services range from medical, dental, chiropractic and veterinary facilities.

The closest facilities to the Town are located in the Village of Amherst and the City of Waupaca. Amherst Family Medical Center, located at 272 Christy Street in the Village of Amherst, provides complete primary care services for acute and chronic conditions. The Village is also home to chiropractic and dentist offices. Waupaca facilities include: the Chain O’ Lakes Family Clinic, located at 190 Grand Season’s Drive; Waupaca Family Medicine, located at 710 Riverside Dr; and Riverside Medical Center, located at 800 Riverside Dr.

Facilities in the Stevens Point/Plover area include: St. Michael’s Hospital and the Rice Medical Center and Clinics.

#### K. Churches and Cemeteries

There are three churches located in Lanark: the chapel associated with the Riverside Bible Camp located on County Rd DD; the Badger Community Church, operated by the Badger Ladies Aid Association, located at the intersection of STH 54 and Badger Rd.; and St. Patrick's Church, located near the intersection of Hwy 54 and Madley Road. This church, affiliated with St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, is no longer used for worship services.

There are also three cemeteries located within the Town. There are plans for expansion of surveyed plots and continued maintenance of these facilities. They are located as follows:

- **BADGER CEMETERY** – This two-acre cemetery, located in Section 26 on Badger Rd and Cty Rd D, is maintained by the Town.
- **HILLSIDE CEMETERY** - This seven-acre cemetery, located in Section 31 at Cty Rd N and Wolf Lake Road, is also maintained by the Town.
- **ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY** - This two and one-half acre cemetery, located next to St. Patrick's Church in Section 19 near the intersection of Hwy 54 and Madley Road, is maintained by the St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish.

#### **Section 4.4 Utilities and Community Facility Issues Identified by the Plan Commission**

The following issues pertaining to utilities and community facilities were identified through the planning process:

- Problems with spring runoff in the Town, especially on Buelow Road (has no drainage) and with driveway runoff is creating ice on the roads. How can the Town effectively manage runoff?
- Town is concerned over the potential for privatization of the water supply. How can the Town protect its groundwater quality and quantity?
- How can groundwater be protected by failing septic systems?
- How can residents be better informed about proper maintenance of septic systems?
- Some residents would like hiking/recreation facilities located in the Town (on Town property)
- Some Town residents believe that knowledge of persons leaving homes unattended may help in the efficiency of the department patrol. How can police visibility be increased?
- How can medical services response time be improved?
- There are First Responders available for Amherst Fire District, but not Waupaca. There should be better coordination of First responders needed within the County.
- School choices create interesting taxation problems for the Town.
- School district maps need to be updated and distributed regularly to keep up with changes.
- The Town does not have a place for safe storage of Town records.
- Town of Lanark youth who attend Waupaca schools have to pay substantial fees to participate in City of Waupaca summer programs. Are there enough recreation opportunities in the Town?
- How can utility lines be properly sited?
- How does Town regulate placement of objects in cemeteries?

#### **Section 4.5 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies**

**Goal 1:** Community services and facilities efficiently meet community needs.

**Objective 1.1:** Provide a safe place for Town records.

Policy: Consider building a new Town Hall

**Objective 1.2:** Storm water runoff is properly managed.

Policy: New driveways should have water directed into the right-of-way ditches.

**Objective 1.3:** Enforce guidelines for placement of objects in Town cemeteries.

**Objective 1.4:** Continue to coordinate services such as fire, First Responders, solid waste, etc., with other agencies or organizations.

**Goal 2:** Residents are provided with recreational places and activities.

**Objective 2.1:** Identify possible sites for current or future recreational opportunities.

Policy: Encourage the expansion of Stedman Park.

Policy: Investigate the use of Town land for recreation opportunities.

Policy: Submit a list of possible preservation areas to the County Land Preservation Fund.

Policy: Maintain Spring Lake boat landing for public access.

Policy: Work with local, County, and State agencies and organizations to protect parks, trails, and other green spaces.

**Goal 3:** Protect public water resources.

**Objective 3.1:** Discourage the placement of non-agriculture related high capacity wells.

**Objective 3.2:** Site roads away from water bodies whenever possible.

**Objective 3.3:** Septic tanks should be inspected and pumped on a periodic basis

Policy: Work with the County to ensure all private septic systems in the Town are operating properly.

**Goal 4:** Design standards are used to enhance rural character.

**Objective 4.1:** Encourage the use of cluster septic systems for higher density residential development

**Objective 4.2:** Location and siting of utilities and associated infrastructure is consistent with community character.

Policy: Utility lines should be placed or buried on the far edge of the right of way whenever possible.

Policy: Promote the sharing of communication towers for various services.

Policy: Consider the creation of an ordinance to address light and sound issues.

**Goal 5:** Increase the presence of protective and emergency services in the area.

**Objective 5.1:** Encourage the establishment of a satellite ambulance station in eastern Portage County.

**Objective 5.2:** Support local First Responder Units.

Policy: Recruit volunteers for First Responder services.

**Objective 5.3:** Encourage the development of neighborhood watch programs.