

CHAPTER 4 - UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

66.1001(2)(d) Wis. Stat.:

Utilities and Community Facilities element. A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the local governmental unit such as sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment technologies, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunications facilities, power-generating plants and transmission lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities and other public facilities, such as police, fire and rescue facilities, libraries, schools and other governmental facilities. The element shall describe the location, use and capacity of existing public utilities and community facilities that serve the local governmental unit, shall include an approximate timetable that forecasts the need in the local governmental unit to expand or rehabilitate existing utilities and facilities or to create new utilities and facilities and shall assess future needs for government services in the local governmental unit that are related to such utilities and facilities.

Section 4.1 Introduction

Only limited community facilities and services are available within the Town. Other public facilities and services are available in the Stevens Point/Plover, and Village of Amherst urban area. This chapter will describe the existing utility and community facilities serving Stockton, and outline future desires/needs for the residents.

Section 4.2 Public Utilities Inventory

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

No municipal sanitary sewer service exists within the Town of Stockton. 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.

The Portage County Planning and Zoning Department administers the permitting and management of POWTS county-wide.

Soil capability for on-site waste systems is conducive for development in most areas of the Town. This has been a key factor in the Town's relatively rapid growth over the past 30 years.

Approximately 90% of the soils in the Town have slight to moderate limitations for on-site sewage systems. These soils are rated as generally acceptable for conventional septic systems or mound systems. However, rapid permeability in the substratum of the "sand plain" soil may result in negative impacts on groundwater quality, particularly in areas of higher density development. Local studies indicate the need for relatively large residential lot sizes, i.e. 2 acres or greater, in order to minimize groundwater degradation from on-site waste systems.

Portions of the Arnott and Hancock moraines possess sewer limitations for on-site waste systems, due to the highly dense, compact texture of the soils. These soils may be suitable for mound or other systems allowed by Wisconsin Administrative Code for Department of Commerce Chapter COMM 83.

B. Water Supply

Town of Stockton relies completely on private wells; refer to Chapter 5 (Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources) for complete information on Groundwater. Since potable water is obtained primarily from groundwater, consideration should be given to possible sources of contamination. Please see discussion on Landfills later in this chapter and Chapter 5 for more information on contamination.

C. Storm Water Management

Responsibility for storm water management within the Town of Stockton is split between Portage County and the Town. Portage County maintains the ditches along the portion of County Roads while the Town maintains ditches along the local road network.

Keep the County and the Town's natural drainage ways open and keep development out of these areas. Development may cause drainage issues, and facilities need to be reestablished to allow for proper drainage.

New developments need to include a storm water management plan for their properties. The Portage County Planning and Zoning Department helps with the layout and configuration of these plans.

D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

Curbside solid waste and recycling pick up started in the Town of Stockton on December 2, 1991. The Town of Stockton presently is served by Advanced Disposal Co. with a five (5) year contract signed for services from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2017. The Town will remain open to other options as contracts end or is renewed. Advanced Disposal disposes of contractual solid waste at the Cranberry Creek Landfill in Wisconsin Rapids and recycles at the Portage County Recycling Center in Plover, WI.

E. Corporate Utilities

1. Telecommunication Facilities (Map 4.1)

Stockton is serviced by a number of providers located throughout the Town. The Portage County telecommunication Ordinance regulates all facilities.

2. Telephone and Internet Services

The Town is currently served by two (2) telephone companies, ATT and Amherst Telephone Company and numerous Internet providers.

3. Gas and Electric Power

WPS and Alliant Energy service electric and Wisconsin Public Service provides natural gas. Numerous propane companies in the area service locations not serviced by natural gas.

Map 4.1: Utilities

Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory

A. Municipal Buildings

The Town of Stockton's new Municipal buildings are located at 7252 6th Street, Custer. These new buildings house the town offices, municipal shop (garage), cold storage facility and Town Fire Department.

This 34-acre parcel of land on the corner of 6th Street and Custer Road was acquired through negotiations with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation when Kirschling Park was purchased for the interchange at US HWY 10 and Cty Rd J. It is being developed as a multi-use park, and houses the Town's new municipal building in a centralized location.

B. Police

The Town of Stockton 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 district in which Stockton is located is bounded by STH 54 to the south, the Portage County line to the east, STH 66 to the north, and I-39 to the West. 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.

C. Fire / Rescue/ EMS

The Town of Stockton is serviced by its own fire rescue, and EMS department. Stockton's fire department building is located at 7252 6th Street, Custer.

1. Volunteer Fire Department

The Town of Stockton has a paid-on-call volunteer fire department. The Town's Fire Department includes 26 certified firefighters (as of 2016), with additional recruits entering the registration process.

In 2016, the Fire Department inventory includes:

- All FIRE & EMS personnel issued pagers for notification of fire calls
- All EMS personnel issued two-way handheld radio
- 15 two-way handheld radios available for FIRE staff
- All firefighters have own personal turn out gear with SCBA masks
- SCBA Tanks with harness (6 Spare Bottles)
- All EMS personnel issued medical response trauma bags along with automatic electronic defibrulators (AED's)
- All FIRE and EMS staff receive annual required training to maintain their certifications in order to perform their duties within the township
- Engine-01
 - 1991 Spartan Fire Engine
 - 6-person crew
 - 1,000-gallon water tank
 - 1,500-gallon water tank

- Engine-02
 - 2006 Freightliner Fire Engine
 - 5-person cab
 - 1,000 gallon water tank
 - 1,250 gallon per minute pump
- Brush-01
 - 1996 Brush Truck
 - Chevrolet 1-ton crew cab 4x4
 - 5-person cab
 - 250-gallon water tank
 - 90-gallon per minute pump
 - Fully equipped for wildland firefighting
- Tender-01 & Tender-02
 - (2) 2001 Sterling tank trucks
 - 2-person cabs
 - (2) 3,200-gallon water tanks
 - (2) 500-gallon per minute pumps
- 2010 Polaris ATV
 - 3-person cab
 - 75-gallons of water
 - 50-gallon per minute pump
 - EMS rescue bed
 - Tandem trailer with storage

The Town of Stockton Municipal Building has a high capacity well which pumps 750-gallons per minute and is used for the Stockton Fire Department and surrounding fire districts. Irrigation wells in the Town of Stockton, and lakes, are also available as an additional resource for fighting fires.

The Engine-02 is our vehicle rescue engine along with our water site high capacity (1250-gallons per minute) pumping engine for water shuttle services.

Mutual aid agreement exists with departments within the County that allows Stockton to request additional resources, including manpower and equipment to fight structural and wildland incidents within our coverage area.

2. EMS Services

The Stockton First Responders are local residents who volunteer to be the first to respond to accidents and medical emergencies within the area. First Responders are dispatched by the Portage County enhanced 911 systems, and they respond in their personal vehicles and attempt to stabilize patients before emergency personnel and/or the ambulance arrives.

The 2016 roster of the EMS department includes five (5) Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT-B) and one (1) Emergency First Responder (EMR).

The Town of Stockton is serviced by the Portage County Ambulance service. The County has 4 ambulances that are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and can respond anywhere in the county in minutes. They cover approximately 810 square miles and are the only ambulance service in most of the area. The County Ambulance is operated by the Stevens Point Fire Department, with locations on Franklin Street (Station 1) and Industrial Park Road (Station 2), both in Stevens Point. Station 1 houses an engine and Ladder Company, a rescue

squad and three ambulances, and has four personnel. Between the Stevens Point Fire Department and the Portage County ambulance service, there are a total of 17 firefighters/paramedics on staff. There are also 36 full-time trained ice/cold water rescue personnel available, of which there are at least 10 on duty 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. EMS equipment includes:

- 6 medic trucks, including one equipped for confined space/water & ice rescue
- 1 rescue air boat for water and ice rescue.

The entire county is also supported by “Spirit of Marshfield” and “Theda Star” flight rescue teams for airlift transports to local medical facilities.

D. Schools

The Town of Stockton lies within the Stevens Point Area School District, Tomorrow River School District and the Rosholt School District (see Map 4.2).

1. Stevens Point Area School District

The Stevens Point Area Public School District includes the City of Stevens Point, Villages of Whiting, Plover, Park Ridge, Amherst Junction, Junction City; Towns of Linwood, Hull, Eau Pleine, Dewey, Carson and Stockton; as well as the Towns of Sharon, Plover Grant, and Buena Vista.

The Stevens Point School District is one of the largest districts in the State of Wisconsin and serves a population of approximately 50,000 and employs staff of over 900. The approximate student enrollment for the 2013-2014 school year is estimated at 7,353.

The Stevens Point School District consists of nine K-6 grade elementary schools, two 7-9 grade junior high schools, and one 10-12 grade senior high school and an alternative school. Three charter schools lie within the secondary schools. Three of the elementary schools are charter schools and three additional elementary schools have applied for charter status. In addition, the 45-acre Boston School Forest is an educational facility used by students for environmental education programs throughout the school year.

The Stevens Point Area Public School District covers nearly 400 square miles to transporting students, a significant activity and expenditure. During the 2015-2016 school year, the transportation department bused nearly 5,000 students per day to public and private schools with a fleet of 78 district-operated and 8 contracted buses traveling approximately 3,000 miles per day. Typically, the district’s annual cost for busing is about two-thirds of the state average, with a district budget of \$2.5 million.

School facilities are a major benefit to County residents. School playgrounds and equipment provide a wide variety of recreational activities. The schools' organized athletic programs play an important role in the community; as a major source of recreation and as a focal point of community pride and identity.

2. Parochial School System

The Stevens Point Area Catholic Schools (SPACS) have been educating students in Portage County for the past 130 years. The schools are comprehensive with a strong emphasis on college preparation; over 90% of students go on to attend post-secondary school, most of which are four-year colleges and universities.

SPACS currently has six schools involved in the program: four Elementary Schools (Saint Stanislaus, grades K-2; Saint Stephen, grades 3-5; Saint Bronislava, grades preschool-5; and Saint Joseph early childhood, preschool and year-round childcare); St. Peter Middle School, grades 6-8; and Pacelli High School, grades 9-12. For the 2012-2013 school year 1,052 students were enrolled in SPACS, preschool through 12th grade, and increase of nearly 12% from 2004.

As of 2013, the St. Paul Lutheran School serves 145 students in pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade with nine full time teachers, including a Principal and Assistant Principal who also have teaching duties. The early childhood program offers classes for 3-4 and 5 year-old children not yet enrolled in kindergarten. Northland Lutheran High School, located in Mosinee, serves the central Wisconsin region.

Two other private school options are available within the Portage County Urban Area. Branch Christian School, which is affiliated with the Seventh Day Adventist Church located within the Village of Whiting, accepts students in grades one through eight. The Stevens Point Christian Academy, located just west of the City limits on U.S. Hwy 10, offers instruction for grades K through twelve.

3. Tomorrow River School District

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 is educated on one site, within a 160,693 sq. ft. interconnected structure in Amherst, Wisconsin. The Amherst School complex consists of 86 teachers, 43 support staff and 5 administrators servicing about 1,000 students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12. The school is governed by a 5 member school board elected to three year terms on a rotating basis.

4. Rosholt School District

The Rosholt School District is located in Central Wisconsin and serves a student population of approximately 590 PreK-12 students in a single facility in the Village of Rosholt. This represents over an 8% decrease in enrollment between 2009 and 2013 and a 21% decrease in the past decade.

5. Mid-State Technical College

Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) is one of 16 publicly supported colleges in the Wisconsin Technical College System. Approximately 17,000 full- and part-time students enroll annually. MSTC offers technical training in nearly 50 careers by granting one- and two-year technical diplomas and two-year associate degrees in four areas: business, health, service technologies, and technical & industrial. In addition, MSTC also awards certificates for the successful completion of a single course or a combination of courses. The Mid-State Technical College District includes full-service campuses in Marshfield, Stevens Point, and Wisconsin Rapids; a center in Adams; and several outreach sites.

6. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Since 1894 when Stevens Point Normal School opened its doors to 300 students, the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point has grown to become a major comprehensive university, with about 9,600 students enrolled. Its academic programs offer 120 choices within 48 majors and 78 minors plus 16 graduate programs. UWSP is home to four colleges

(fine arts and communication, letters and science, natural resources, and professional studies), and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. In addition, UWSP has initiated a variety of innovative and nationally distinctive programs such as the National Wellness Institute, the Center for the Small City, the Central Wisconsin Economic Research Bureau, and the Global Environmental Management Center (GEM) Center for Watershed Science and Education.

The 400-acre main campus includes seven major buildings in addition to Old Main, UWSP's administrative building, the University Center and 13 residence halls housing approximately 3,500 students. North campus includes Schmeekle Reserve, a 225-acre nature area with a 24-acre lake, nature center and trails that are part of the Portage County 26-mile Green Circle Trail.

The Stevens Point campus is part of the University of Wisconsin System that includes 13 four-year campuses, 13 two-year centers and the University of Wisconsin-Extension. The University of Wisconsin system represents one of the finest educational institutions in the world. Access to information and research on virtually any topic is available.

In 2003, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point placed among the top public universities in the Midwest. The publication, U.S. News & World Report, ranked UWSP number six in the top tier of Midwestern public master's degree-granting institutions. This was the fourth consecutive year that the university placed in the top six. U.S. News and World Report use several criteria in rating the campuses including academic reputation, retention, faculty, students, financial resources, and alumni giving. Other UW System campuses which placed in the top six among Midwestern comprehensives include UW-La Crosse and UW-Eau Claire. UW-Madison ranked seventh among public doctoral universities.

E. Parks ,Trails, Town Parks and Facilities

1. Arnott Recreation~~al~~ Center

The Recreation Center is located in Arnott, an unincorporated community in the Town of Stockton. This building is owned by the town and is used for public meetings, 4-H meetings, snowmobile clubhouse, and for other purposes. The building was a former school, built in 1936 and was used as the Town of Stockton Hall from 1976 to 2005.

2. Arnott Lions Park

The Arnott Lions Club (chartered in 1975) owns the Arnott Lions Park. The Park provides shelters, softball diamond, restrooms, horseshoe pits, kid's playground and a picnic area. Individual families/ small groups can use the park at no charge, but if a group wishes to reserve the park for a day or more, a rental fee is charged.

3. Platted Parklands

These are lands that are dedicated to the Town for park purposes, as part of the subdivision platting process. Under the provisions of the County's Subdivision Ordinance, the developer who creates a major subdivision is required to dedicate land for park or pay a fee to the Town according to the following schedule:

- (1) Dedication to the public of one (1) acre of land for each twenty (20) lots.
- (2) Payment to the Town park fund of \$250 for each lot
- (3) Any combination of (1) and (2) as agreed to by the Town Board.

Parklands dedicated to the Town of Stockton via the platting process include:

- Arnott Centennial – small lot in Arnott
- Buckhorn Park – 1.22 acres
- Country Beautiful – 5.2 acres
- Hoffman’s Custer Square – 1.75 acres
- Kirschling Park - .9 acre remains from DOT acquisition
- Evergreen Park - .5
- Stockton Park at 3333 Custer Road – 34 acres

4. Lakes:

- Adams Lake – Described as 2.0 acres including public boat landing and access road. Lake size: 29 acres
- Bear Lake – Described as .90 acres including public boat landing and access road. Lake size: 29 acres
- Lake Thomas – Described as .25 acres. Lake size: 32 acres

5. Other Public Recreational facilities Include

Snowmobile trails are maintained by private snowmobile clubs; and portions of the Ice Age Trail Bicycle Trail.

F. County Parks

1. Standing Rocks Park

Standing Rocks Park is located on 29-acre Bear Lake, in the southeastern part of the Town of Stockton. The park has been developed as a winter sports area, featuring downhill and cross-country skiing. This County facility encompasses 531 acres, the majority of which is maintained in a natural state.

The following description of the park’s facility and needs is taken from the Portage County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2001-2006 Plan:

Major Activities: Hiking, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, 18 hole Disc golf, single and double track mountain biking, 26 site field archery course, and a dog exercise area.

Facilities: Ski lodge with equipment rental, 3 rope tows, 2,200 foot ski run, 10 miles cross-country ski and mountain bike trails, ½ mile archery target trail, 15 picnic tables, indoor and pit vault toilets, dog exercise area, disc golf course, two tow rope buildings and an observation building.

Service Area: Statewide

Interest group served: Active winter sports, downhill and cross-country skiers, mountain bikers, dog owners, disc golfers and archers.

Problems/Deficiencies: Erosion of hiking and skiing trails due to use by bicyclists, overcrowding and adjacent development.

Usage trends: Increasing with popularity of winter sports and mountain biking.

2. Tomorrow River State Trail

The Tomorrow River State Trail segment within Portage County is a 14 ½ mile trail developed along an abandoned railroad grade starting in the Village of Plover and ending at the Waupaca County line. This trail goes through the communities of Arnott and Smokey Spur, with a public parking area off of Custer Rd. Waupaca County will be developing their 14 mile section in the next few years.

The trail consists of a surface of crushed limestone, which is packed smooth. It is open to bicyclists, hikers, joggers, and horseback riders in the spring, summer, and fall. During the winter months, the trail is open to snowmobiles, skiers, and dog sleds. The horse trail is a separate 9 mile trail along the limestone trail from Plover to Amherst Junction.

3. Ice Age Trail

The Ice Age Bicycle Trail runs north and south along the glaciated areas of eastern Portage County for a total of 48 miles. The trail was designed specifically for bicyclists as it runs along portions of major roadways. With the reconstruction of Highway 10, the Ice Age Bike Trail may connect with the Tomorrow River Trail to provide for a safer crossing of Highway 10.

The proposed Ice Age Walking Trail winds in and out of the County along the eastern border between Portage County and Waupaca County. Portions of the Ice Age Trail are complete; however, easements across private land are still needed for much of the trail. When completed, the Ice Age trail will extend 1,000 miles among the glacial features throughout Wisconsin.

4. State Recreational Lands

The DNR has identified Fishery Management Areas throughout the County, including the Tomorrow River and Little Plover River in the Town of Stockton. Master Plans have been prepared for these project areas, including recommendations for the management of State owned lands and the identification of private lands for possible purchase by the State. The State currently owns 85.7 acres in the Town of Stockton associated with the Tomorrow River Fisheries Areas and has identified another 140 acres for possible acquisition. Similarly, the State has identified an acquisition area of 160 acres within the Town, associated with the Little Plover River Fisheries Area. Within the Town there is presently no State land ownership associated with this project area. The State's policy regarding the acquisition of such lands is dependant upon the availability of funds and desire of the landowner(s) to sell.

G. Landfills

Landfills have been around as long as people have lived in Portage County. The locations of many of the smaller private landfills are unknown. The amount of the materials deposited in these was small and the toxicities of the materials were likely low as compared to current solid waste.

When rainwater percolating through waste materials in a landfill comes in contact with waste material, leachate is formed. The risk to groundwater from the leachate depends on the toxicity of the waste in the landfill and the geologic setting and depth to groundwater. In order to minimize introduction of contaminants into drinking water wells, the state Well Code (NR-812) prohibits installation of wells within 1200 feet of a currently operating, or closed, landfill. Variances to the 1200 foot setback can be considered by staff of the DNR.

The locations (Map 4.2) of several landfills, including the existing Portage County Landfill and former municipal landfills are known. All including the County Landfill, and certain private landfills, have been closed. Sampling from private wells near these closed landfills has not shown widespread deterioration of groundwater, but no systematic sampling has been conducted to date. The DNR is currently conducting a five year assessment of all closed landfills in the state, to determine potential risks to the groundwater.

Certain private landfills in the County are licensed to accept construction demolition waste, or waste from paper processing. In the case of the former, the materials deposited do not have a high potential to leach contaminants to groundwater. For the paper company landfills, extensive testing of the materials and sampling of nearby monitoring wells is conducted.

The Portage County landfill located on Highway QQ was closed in 2006, after which the waste is trucked to Cranberry Creek Landfill in Wisconsin Rapids. Portage County and the Town of Stockton have negotiated a settlement for the existing solid waste facility. The landfill will be zoned to Conservancy and the County will seek no rezoning of the property without the Town of Stockton Boards approval. The agreement states that Portage County will maintain and test samples of designated groundwater monitoring wells two up gradient and four down gradient of the Solid Waste Disposal Facility. Please see “Negotiated Settlement Agreement between Portage County and the Town of Stockton RE: County Existing Solid Waste Disposal Facility” for review of agreement. Portage County and the Town of Stockton Town Board have appointment the Town of Stockton Plan Commission as the Portage County Landfill Monitoring Committee.

H. Cemeteries

The Town of Stockton has 7 cemeteries located within the Town limits.

1. Cate Cemetery – located on County road HH and Burbank Road
2. St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery - located on Esker Road in Custer
3. Arnott (or Richmond) Cemetery - located on 4th Street
4. Lombard Cemetery - located on Custer Road and County Road D
5. Morrill Cemetery – located on Kennedy Road and 2nd Street
6. St. Mary’s Fancher – located on Lake Thomas Road and County Road K
7. Higgins Burial Plot - located in Section 7, about ½ mile west of Burbank Road on the fence line (this burial plot is not located on the map)

I. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities located within the Town of Stockton. Residents utilize those services and facilities available in Plover, and Stevens Point, through Ministry Health Services and their various branches in Plover and Stevens Point. Ministry St Michael’s Hospital is located in the City of Stevens Point. Other health care facilities located in the area available to the Town residents include dental and chiropractic offices, sports medicine, podiatry and many other health care facilities, some privately owned. Regional facilities are also available through the Marshfield Clinic and Aspirus in Stevens Point and Wausau.

Map 4.2: Community Facilities

allowing for some development outside the boundary (71%); Very flexible, allowing anyone who asks for sewer and water to get it wherever they are (6%).

Survey Question 14: How would you rate each of the following local services:

	Good/Excellent	Poor/Very Poor
Police protection	53%	5%
Fire protection	52%	12%
Ambulance service	57%	4%
Garbage collection	67%	4%

- B. We will look at mapping the current drainage areas and make sure these areas are kept open.
- C. Town will review the practicality and feasibility of package septic plants and communal well development for future consideration.
- D. Response times for fire need to be shortened.
- E. Protect groundwater.
- F. The Town of Stockton is not currently a member of the Stevens Point Urban Area Sewer Service Committee. With the development pressures from the City anticipated over the next 20 years, this may change.

Section 4.5 Utilities/Community Facilities Goals, Objectives, and Policies

A. Goal

Plan for the provision of infrastructure, utilities, and community facilities and services to efficiently meet community needs.

B. Objectives

1. Remain abreast of issues and plans related to solid waste management in Portage County, as they pertain to the Town of Stockton.
2. Maps drainage areas in the Town and points west.
3. Protect water resources throughout the Town.

C. Policies

1. Maintain a working relationship with the Portage County Solid Waste Management Board and Solid Waste Department.
2. Support continued use of the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) with other fire departments in Portage County.
3. Implement broad based drainage areas for lands west of Hancock moraine.
4. Encourage the use of Best Management Practices by agricultural operations to ensure a supply of potable water.
5. Maintain single family housing densities at a 2 acre minimum for unsewered lots.