

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

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 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 Public Utilities Inventory**

#### **A. Sewer / Septic Systems**

The Village of Nelsonville currently does not have a municipal sewer system. Residents in the Village utilize private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS), otherwise known as private septic systems, as regulated by the Portage County Private Sewage System Ordinance. Soils are generally adequate for individual septic systems although significant construction of such systems in close proximity to any shallow wells in the village could contaminate drinking water supplies.

Planning Commissioners feel that individual septic systems are performing adequately and municipal sewer is not desired or needed in the Village of Nelsonville.

#### **B. Private Wells**

The Village of Nelsonville currently does not have a municipal water system although the Village does own a well in the downtown which supplies water to two businesses. Residents rely on private wells for their water supply. Planning Commissioners feel that a municipal water facility is not needed in the Village.

Water quality in private wells is generally considered to be good, although nitrate levels can be high and do fluctuate seasonally. Nitrate is commonly found in nitrogen fertilizers, manure, septic systems, and sewage treatment practices. Nitrate dissolves easily in water and does not absorb onto the soil, which allows it to travel easily in groundwater. 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, 43 wells have been sampled in the Village for nitrates dating back to 1977. Of these 43 samples, 20 (or 46.5%) have levels above 10 parts per million. Since 2012, 6 wells have been tested for nitrates in the Village and 3 have exceeded 10 parts per million.

#### **C. Storm Water Management**

The Village does not have a storm sewer system; however, soil conditions are generally sandy and allow for rapid infiltration of storm water into the ground. Steeper slopes in the Village

direct surface water towards either the Tomorrow River or Lake Elaine. The Village does not have curb and gutter, although State Highway 161 and Cty Rd SS have culverts.

#### D. Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities

The Village of Nelsonville contracts with an independent garbage and recycling hauler (currently Harter Disposal) to pick up garbage and recycling at each residence in the Village. Commercial properties within the Village contract for garbage and recycling removal individually. The waste is trucked to a landfill in Marathon County while recyclables are taken to the Portage County Material Recovery Facility in the Village of Plover.

#### E. Telecommunication Facilities / Cable Television

Amherst Telephone Co. provides phone, internet, and cable services.

#### F. Power Generating Plants and Transmission Lines; Other Utilities

Natural Gas and electric service is available to Nelsonville residents and businesses through Alliant Energy. There is an electrical substation just south of Nelsonville in the Town of Amherst.

### **Section 4.2 Community Facilities Inventory**

#### A. Police, Fire, Rescue, Emergency Response

##### 1. Portage County Sheriff Patrols

The Portage County Sheriff's Department provides protective services for the Village of Nelsonville through random patrols and on a "call-out" basis. Portage County is divided into 3 districts for patrol purposes. The district that Nelsonville is located in is bounded by STH 66 to the north, the Portage County line to the east, and STH 54 to the south. 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 Village any number of times during each shift to check on businesses and residences.

##### 2. Amherst Fire District Services

Nelsonville is part of the Amherst Fire District, located at 4585 Fairgrounds Road, Amherst. The Amherst Fire District serves the Villages of Amherst, Amherst Junction, Nelsonville, and Town of Amherst. The District also contracts with parts of the Towns of Lanark and Stockton for fire services.

The Amherst Fire District is comprised of 3 distinct branches of service: First Responders, Ambulance, and Fire/Rescue. All branches of the District are staffed by local members working as paid on-call and paid on-site employees.

##### a. First Responders

The Amherst Fire District First Responders are emergency medical responders that respond directly from home to all types of emergency scenes. On emergency medical calls the First Responders typically will arrive in advance of the ambulance and begin scene stabilization and patient care. Once the ambulance arrives patient care will be

transitioned to the ambulance crew, with the First Responders assisting. All of the First Responders are trained to at least the EMT-Basic level of training.

First Responders are on call for 12 hours shifts, using either a department vehicle or their personal vehicle. During the 12 hour shift, the on-call First Responders must stay within the response area and be available to respond.

#### b. Ambulance

The Amherst Fire District is in a three-way contract with Portage County and the City of Stevens Point to provide ambulance services within the boundaries of Portage County.

On July 1, 2011 the Amherst based ambulance began operating at an "intermediate" level, running with one paramedic and one advanced EMT on board during each 12-hour shift. This allows the crews to administer pain medication and cardiac drugs. The Amherst ambulance has a 21 member roster, with 10 of them being at the paramedic level. The station is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with crews working 12 hour shifts.

#### c. Fire/Rescue

Amherst Fire District fire and rescue personnel respond to any call for assistance within the district, including structure, grass, brush, and forest fires, all types of rescue situations, calls for emergency medical assistance, carbon monoxide alarms, missing citizens, down power lines, and traffic control at accident scenes.

The following is a list of equipment operated by the Amherst Fire Department. Each vehicle listed provides its primary assignment. All of the equipment is stored at the Amherst Fire Station at 4585 Fairgrounds Road.

- Engine 1 – A 2009 Custom Fire 2000 GPM rescue/pumper. Primary assignment: 1<sup>st</sup> out engine.
- Engine 10 – A 2003 Pierce 1250 GPM pumper with 61' "Skyboom" aerial. Primary assignment: 2<sup>nd</sup> out engine.
- Engine 8 – A 1986 Ford/Grumman 1000 GPM pumper. Primary assignment: Supply/reserve engine.
- Tanker 15 – A 2000 Freightliner/Monroe 2000 gallon tanker. Primary assignment: 1st out tanker.
- Tanker 17 – A 1993 Ford/Monroe 3000 gallon tanker. Primary assignment: 2nd out tanker.
- Rescue 2 – A Ford F-350 and trailer. Primary assignment: Technical and special rescue.
- Utility Off Road Vehicle – A 2012 Kubota. Primary assignment: Off road rescue, EMS, fire attack, personnel and equipment movement.
- 58A1 – A 2003 International/MedTech Ambulance. Primary assignment: All EMS calls.
- EMS Squad 1 – A Chevrolet Blazer. Primary assignment: 1st out on all Emergency Medical calls.

## B. Schools

### 1. Tomorrow River School District

The Tomorrow River School District, approximately 100 square miles in size, includes the Villages of Amherst, Amherst Junction and Nelsonville along with part of the Towns of Amherst, Buena Vista, Lanark, Stockton, and New Hope (see Map 4.2). The entire student population, Pre-Kindergarten through 12, is educated on one site, within a 193,627 sq. ft. interconnected structure in Amherst, Wisconsin. The Amherst School complex consists of 78 teachers, 51 support staff and 3 administrators servicing 1000 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.

### 2. Tomorrow River Community Charter School

The Tomorrow River Community Charter School, located at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station in Amherst Junction, provides schooling to children in Pre-Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The school, which opened its doors in 2013, is the first Waldorf-inspired public charter school in Wisconsin. The Waldorf method of teaching is an educational philosophy which pairs academics with a focus on a child's social, emotional and behavioral development. The curriculum includes hands-on projects and integrates subjects like math with science, language arts with history and social studies, rather than teaching them separately.

In its first year, the school had 50 students and it grew to 100 in its second year. Now in its third year, the student enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year was 108 students. The school has four classrooms and employs 11 teachers, 3 support staff, and a school coordinator. The school intends to expand its curriculum through eighth grade as the charter school continues to develop and expand to its capacity.

### 3. Mid-State Technical College

Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) is one of 16 publicly supported colleges in the Wisconsin Technical College System. Approximately 16,000 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 and Information Technology, Service and Health, General Education, and Technical and Industrial Certificates. The Mid-State Technical College District includes full service campuses in Marshfield, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, as well as a center in Adams, and several outreach sites.

### 4. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP)

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point UWSP is home to four colleges (the College of Fine Arts and Communication, the College of Letters and Science, the College of Natural Resources and the College of Professional Studies). UWSP offers 13 graduate programs, and more than 120 undergraduate programs in 48 majors and 78 minors. Approximately 8,905 students were enrolled during the 2015 Fall semester.

The 400 acre main campus includes 15 academic and administrative buildings including Old Main, UWSP's administrative building, the University Center and 13 residence halls housing over 3,500 students. North campus includes Schmeekle Reserve, a 280-acre nature area with a 24-acre lake, nature center and trails that are part of the Portage County 30+ mile Green Circle Trail.

Map 4.1: Community Facilities

Map 4.2: School Districts

### C. Libraries

There is no library located within the Village of Nelsonville. The closest libraries are located in the Village of Amherst (Lettie Jensen public library and Tomorrow River school system libraries). Also available to Village residents are the main branch of the Portage County Library system and University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point libraries in Stevens Point, along with the Iola library.

### D. Community Centers

While there are no community/senior centers in the Village of Nelsonville, the Village contributes to the Village of Amherst's Jensen Center. The Portage County Department on Aging provides transit service to the Jensen Center in Amherst and the Stevens Point Lincoln Center for transit dependent adults in Nelsonville.

### E. Other Governmental Facilities

The Village Hall, located at 9500 County Road SS, is used for public meetings and elections. The maintenance building, better known as the old fire station, is used for storage in the back half and the front half is rented out. The Village Post Office is located at 9496 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The Tomorrow Valley Ag Building is rented by the Village and serves as the local voting facility during elections.

### F. Cemeteries

The Nelsonville Cemetery borders the Village of Nelsonville to the north on the corner of Cty Rd Q and Cty Rd ZZ. The Portage County Cemetery is located on Lake Road.

### G. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities located within the Village of Nelsonville. Ministry St. Michaels Hospital, Rice Medical Center, Aspirus Clinic, and Marshfield Clinic are located 12 miles west in the City of Stevens Point. Amherst Family Medical Center, associated with Ministry Medical Group, is located 3 miles east at 272 Christy Street in Amherst. This clinic provides complete primary care services for acute and chronic conditions. Patients range from infants to older adults, including newborns, pediatric, adult and geriatric care, and women's health.

The Village of Amherst also has the Roberts and Associates Physical Therapy facility. This facility treats for manual physical therapy, worker's compensation, aquatic therapy, trigger point dry needling, and lower back pain.

The ThedaCare Medical Center, located 15 miles east in the city of Waupaca, is also used by the residents of Nelsonville. In addition to 24-hour emergency care, with ThedaCare Medical Center of Waupaca provides access to cardiac specialists, obstetrics, general surgery, orthopedics and rehabilitation services as well as a full array of ancillary services including radiology, laboratory and therapy.

### 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.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services there are no licensed day care facilities located within the Village of Nelsonville. Facilities are located nearby in the Village of Amherst and Amherst Junction. For a complete list, contact the local child care resource and referral center:

Childcaring Inc.  
1107 West Grand Avenue  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
Phone: (715) 423-4114

### **Section 4.3 Parks and Recreation Inventory**

#### **A. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space**

The following recreational and open space opportunities are available in the Village of Nelsonville (Map 4.1).

1. Nelsonville Park – the recreational facilities for this 2 acre area consist of a swing set, merry-go-round, picnic tables, tennis court, and a sledding hill.
2. Behind the Rising Star Mill is an open space area with picnic tables located along the Tomorrow River.
3. There is a swimming beach located on the southwest side of Lake Elaine for public access.

The following lands have been identified by the Village of Nelsonville as desirable for future parkland and open space. Village acquisition of these lands will occur as they become available, and are financially feasible:

1. Lands of significant natural, historic, and cultural value.
2. Lands along the Tomorrow River.
3. Tomorrow River LLC property - Approximately 37 acres of riparian corridor, wetlands, and uplands along the Tomorrow River, including 2,160 feet of straight line river frontage between Cty Rd SS and Welton Drive. Upon acquisition, the Village plans to use the property for a public natural area that capitalizes on the opportunities it provides for low-impact outdoor recreational activities and environmental education. Such activities may include fishing, paddling, hiking, jogging, mountain biking, picnicking, camping, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.

#### **B. Other Recreational Facilities**

##### **1. Tomorrow River Trail**

The Tomorrow River State Trail currently is a 29 mile trail developed along an abandoned railroad grade, starting in the Village of Plover and ending just outside the Village of Manawa in Waupaca County. The trail consists of a surface of crushed limestone and is open to bicyclists, hikers, joggers, and horseback riders in the spring, summer, and fall. During the winter months the trail is open to snowmobiling, skiing, and snow shoeing. The horse trail is a separate 14 mile trail along the limestone trail from Plover to the Portage/Waupaca County line.

2. Lake Meyers Boat Landing: Public access, located on the southern end of the lake.
3. Tomorrow River Trout Fishery: The river is a Class I trout stream, and draws anglers from near and far to fish both in and around Nelsonville.

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

- A. Well and septic systems are believed to be in good condition and operating satisfactorily.
- B. There is no desire for municipal sewer and water.
- C. No issues related to storm water management.

#### **Section 4.5 Conclusions**

- A. Residents rely on private wells for their water supply. Water is generally thought to be good, although nitrate levels can be high and do fluctuate seasonally.
- B. The Village of Nelsonville has a variety of recreational opportunities within the area.
- C. Many of the community facilities and services are located nearby in the Village of Amherst.
- D. There is no desire for municipal sewer and water.

#### **Section 4.6 Utilities / Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies**

##### A. Goal

1. Maintain adequate infrastructure, and services to meet existing and future community needs.

##### B. Objectives

1. Places and activities for the youth of the community are provided and will continue to be addressed.
2. Create and protect green space and water resources within the Village.
3. Provide criteria and direction for protecting and developing land.
4. Plan for the provision of infrastructure, and community facilities and services to efficiently meet community needs.
5. Provide adequate and efficient Police and Fire Protection services to the community.
6. Continue to acquire additional property for public recreational opportunities within the Village, including the Tomorrow River LLC property.

##### C. Policies

1. Continue to support the maintenance of the Rising Star Mill as a place for activities for the community.
2. The Village of Nelsonville should continue to participate in the Amherst Fire District to efficiently serve the community.
3. Maintain the level of service currently provided by the Portage County Sheriff's Department for police protection.