

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 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

Adequate infrastructure, utilities, community facilities and services are important in meeting existing and future community needs. 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 of Carson regarding the utilities and community facilities will have an impact on all present and future residents.

This chapter will describe the existing utilities and community facilities serving the community, and outline future desires and needs for Town residents.

Section 4.2 Public Utilities Inventory

A. Sanitary Sewer Service

There is no sanitary sewer service in the Town of Carson. Residents in the Town utilize private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS), otherwise known as private septic systems, as regulated by the Portage County Private Sewage System Ordinance. The Portage County Planning and Zoning Department administers the permitting and management of POWTS county-wide. The Village of Junction City has sewer service but there are currently no plans for expansion into Carson.

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

B. Water Supply

The Town relies entirely on private wells and groundwater for their primary water supply. The availability and depth of groundwater varies from one type of soil to another. The groundwater supplies in the Town are limited due to presence of high bedrock. The presence of clay in the soils may also slow the flow of subsurface water. Please see the groundwater section of the Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resources chapter of this plan for further information.

Consideration should be given to possible sources of contamination that could require intervention to protect groundwater, or other expensive options to filter or acquire drinkable water. One possible source is 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, including the 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. However, modifications to this requirement may be granted by the DNR, particularly where a proposed development is upgradient from the landfill site, in terms of direction of groundwater flow. Landfills in the Town are shown on Map 4.2.

C. Storm Water Management

The Town does not have a formal storm water management plan. However, responsibility for storm water management within the Town of Carson is split between Portage County and the Town. Storm water facilities consist mainly of ditches along the road network. Portage County maintains the ditches along the portions of County Highways within Carson, while the Town maintains any ditches along Town roads. Ditches along Town roads vary in size, ranging up to 4 feet in width. Drainage ditches and natural drainage ways direct the majority of surface water runoff into Mill Creek, which eventually flows into the Wisconsin River through the Town of Linwood.

D. Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities

The Town has a contract for solid waste and recycling services with Advance (formerly Veolia) Waste Services. Solid waste is collected weekly and taken to the Cranberry Creek Landfill in Wood County near Wisconsin Rapids. Recyclables are collected bi-weekly and taken to the Portage County Material Recovery Facility in the Village of Plover. The Town is satisfied with its current level of service but will review potential changes as the need arises

E. Corporate Utilities (Map 4.1)

1. Telecommunication Facilities – There are four cell towers located in the Town of Carson; two located east of the US Highway 10 interchange with Highway 34, another just located on Deer Lane Road North and County Road M, and one on County Road E between County Road HH and County Road C. There are also two towers located in Junction City.
2. Power Generating Plants and Transmission Line – Carson receives its gas and electricity from Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. Currently, there are no power generation plants or substations located in Carson due to soil conditions. There are two 345 kV transmission lines that run through the Town, one in the southwestern corner of the Town, and the other running along the Wisconsin River.
3. Telephone and Internet Services – Telephone, wireless, and Internet services for Town residents are provided through AT & T, TDS Telecommunications Corporation, and Solarus, the largest independent telephone company in Wisconsin.

Map 4.1: Community Utilities

Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory and Analysis

A. Municipal Buildings

Municipal buildings in the Town of Carson include the Town Hall, located at the intersection of Cty Rd M and Cty Rd O, and Town Garage, which is attached to the Town Hall. The Town Hall contains an administrative office and a public meeting room, which also serves as the polling place for the Town. The Town Garage provides storage for road maintenance vehicles and other equipment. Also at this site is a substation of the Rudolph Fire Department that is owned by the Town, but leased and managed by the Fire Department.

B. Police, Fire, Rescue, Emergency Response

1. Sheriff Patrols and Policing

The Portage County Sheriff's Department provides protective services for the Town of Carson through random patrols and on a "call-out" basis. Portage County is divided into 3 districts for patrol purposes. The district in which Carson is located is bounded by Marathon County to the north, U.S. Highway 10 to the south and the Wisconsin River to the East, and the Portage County line 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.

2. Fire Department Services

Fire services for the Town of Carson come from the Rudolph Volunteer Fire Department (RVFD). This volunteer fire department is based out of the Village of Rudolph (located in Wood County). The RVFD is a private corporation that provides fire protection to the Village of Rudolph, Town of Carson, Town of Linwood, Town of Carson, the Village of Junction City, the Town of Rudolph, and one-half of the Town of Sigel. The Town of Carson is very happy with the RVFD and has a good working relationship with them. Recent emergencies have been viewed positively for the effectiveness and rapid response of the RVFD. There are 103 members of the fire and emergency services. Many of the volunteer members live or work in the Town and are available on short notice when emergencies occur.

RVFD operates out of 5 stations throughout their service district. The Town of Carson houses Fire Station #4. Station 5 is located in the Village of Junction City. Station 2 is located in the Town of Linwood. In 1998/1999 the department added a large area to the fire protection district, creating their current 226 square mile service district.

They also provide and receive mutual aid with many other departments in Wood, Portage and Marathon Counties. In 2000, 23 members completed Hazardous Materials Technician training and now assist the Portage County Hazardous Materials Team when called. Other services that are provided by Rudolph include: Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Medical Service, Vehicle Extraction, and Search & Rescue. Fire equipment includes:

- 7 Fire Engines
- 9 Water Tanks
- 2 Brush/ Wildland Vehicle
- 16 x 6 ATV
- 3 Rescue Squads
- 2 Truck/ Ladder Company

3. Emergency Medical Service and Ambulance Response

The RVFD has a rescue unit which is manned by First Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians who are professionally trained. Ambulance service is provided by Portage County. 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 that 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 both, an engine and ladder company, a rescue squad and three ambulances, has 6-8 firefighters/EMT's and the administrative staff. Station 2 houses an engine and ambulance, and has four personnel.

4. Stevens Point Fire and Rescue Services

The City of Stevens Point is centrally located within the County and has mutual assistance agreements to provide support in emergencies when the need arises to surrounding municipalities. 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. Rescue equipment includes:

- 1 quintuple combination pumper, a fire service apparatus that serves the dual purpose of an engine and a ladder truck and refers to its five functions: pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device, and ground ladders.
- 6 medic trucks, including one equipped for confined space/water & ice rescue
- 1 Fire Engine Pumper
- 2 Ladder Engines
- 1 Brush / Wildland Vehicle
- 1 Rescue air boat for water and ice rescue
- 2 vehicles for the fire chiefs. One is a 2007 Crown Victoria and the second is a 2006 Ford Expedition.

The Stevens Point Fire Department responds to fires and a variety of other calls including EMS, Police assists, controlled burns, false alarms, hazmat incidents, downed power lines, carbon monoxide checks, and other calls for assistance.

5. CodeRED Emergency Notification System

Portage County has instituted the CodeRED Emergency Notification System, an ultra high-speed telephone communications service for emergency notifications, and the City of Stevens Point Police and Fire Departments encourage County residents to participate in the program.

This system allows local Emergency Services to telephone all of the county, or just targeted areas of it, when there is an emergency situation that requires immediate action. The system delivers a recorded message to a live person or an answering machine, making three attempts to connect to any number.

Examples of times when the CodeRED system could be utilized are: severe weather or tornado warnings, drinking water contamination, utility outages, evacuation notices and routes, instances of missing persons, fires or floods, bomb threats, hostage situations, chemical spill or gas leaks, and other emergency incidents where rapid and accurate notification is essential for your safety.

C. Schools

The Town of Carson is divided between three school districts (see Map 4.2).

1. Stevens Point School District

The Stevens Point Area Public School District covers nearly 400 square miles, so transporting students is a significant activity and expenditure. During the 2012-2013 school year, the transportation department bused nearly 7,000 students to public and private schools with a fleet of 79 districted-operated and 1 contracted buses traveling 1.2 million miles. Typically, the district's annual cost for busing is about two-thirds of the state average. 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 2012-2013 school year is 7,400.

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, Carson, Dewey, Carson, Stockton, Sharon, Plover Grant, and Buena Vista, as well as the Wood County communities of Milladore and Sherry.

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 two specialized schools. Two 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, located in the Town of Plover, is an educational facility used by students for environmental education programs throughout the school year.

Kennedy Elementary is located in Junction City. Students from Junction City, Milladore, Carson, Carson, and Linwood attend this elementary school. Kennedy is a SAGE (Student Achievement Guarantee in Education) school, and is a colocation site for the Portage County Boys and Girls Club. Kennedy offers Early Childhood programs, as well as Speech and Language, Learning Disabilities, Gifted and Talented, and Occupational Therapy programs. Kennedy is the home of the Cougars. There were 114 students enrolled at the Kennedy Elementary School in 2012.

There has been discussion in the past of closing the Kennedy Elementary school in the Village of Junction City and it is felt that if or when this would happen, more children would attend schools in Auburndale. The Town of Carson supports having the Kennedy Elementary School in Junction City and do not support any idea or proposal to eliminate the school.

2. Auburndale School District

A portion of the Auburndale School district is located in the Town of Carson. Residents of the Town and surrounding area currently have the opportunity to send their children to the Auburndale school district. Should Kennedy Elementary school close, more parents may choose to send their kids to this district.

The Auburndale school district consists of one of each, elementary, junior high, and high school, located in the Village of Auburndale. The elementary school houses grades PreK- 5th and has 35 teaching staff and 182 students enrolled in 2012. The school also supports 9 teaching aides and 20 support staff.

The Auburndale High School houses both a junior high and a high school. It had 242 students enrolled in 2012. The junior high houses grades 6-8 and has 9 teaching staff and 5 support staff dedicated to students in grade 6-8. Twelve of the education staff and 5 of the support staff work between the Junior High and the High School. The high school houses grades 9 - 12 and has 19 dedicated teaching staff, 2 teachers aides and 17 administrative staff.

3. Wisconsin Rapids School District

The Wisconsin Rapids Public School district facilities are located in the City of Wisconsin Rapids. The school district has a student population of approximately 6,000. Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools has seven K-6 elementary schools, two junior high schools (grades 7-9), one senior high school (grades 10-12) and one Charter School for At-Risk Students (grades 9-12). The school system has a high student achievement and a low drop out rate. Staff members are continuously recognized by state organizations and agencies for their professionalism and expertise.

A number of post-secondary education opportunities for Town residents are available. State Universities include: the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in Stevens Point; the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County located in Wausau; the University of Wisconsin-Wood County/Marshfield in the City of Marshfield; and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in Oshkosh. 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, with locations in Appleton, Oshkosh, and Waupaca. All of these facilities are within an hour of Carson.

D. Parks

There are currently no Town parks, but there is Dedicated Parkland: Locations on Green Tree, Sarafin Court (for landowners), and Second Lake Drive. These lands are not Town Parks but are maintained as public open space. There is access to the Wisconsin River through Town land on: Martin Island Drive, Sleepy Hollow Road, River Drive and Second Lake Drive.

There is one County Park called the Mill Creek Preserve. This 124.3 acre preserve is located adjacent to Mill Creek in the Town of Carson in northwest Portage County. It is managed as a public hunting area and preserve for the protection of the Mill Creek Watershed. The County maintains the parking lot. Additional trees are being planted from 2011 to 2013.

E. Cemeteries

The Town of Carson has one cemetery and one burial site that are estimated to adequately serve the residents through the time frame of this plan. They are located as follows:

- ST. BARTHOLOMEW CEMETERY, Section 28, on County Road M, between Oak Road and Mill Creek.
- PIERCE GROOVER BURIAL PLOT (2 graves), in section 13, south of Junction City on County Road O, to the first four corners and then east just past the first house on the left.

Map 4.2 Community Facilities

F. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities in Carson. The closest facilities are located in the City of Stevens Point, with the largest being Ministry-St. Michael's Hospital

There is an Aspirus Clinic in Stevens Point located in the northeast corner of the I-39 and County Highway HH interchange. Marshfield Hospital has built a clinic at the northeast intersection of U.S. Interstate 39 and State Highway 66. The Klasinski Clinic in Stevens Point also offers services. Other facilities that serve Carson residents are located in Wisconsin Rapids, approximately 20 miles to the southwest, and Marshfield, which is approximately 30 miles to the west of Town.

G. Child Care Facilities

There is no licensed child care facility located in the Town of Carson. The majority of facilities exist in the Stevens Point area. 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. There are two licensed Family Child Care Center providers in Wood County, one in the Village of Auburndale and another Arpin, WI.

- 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. The YMCA Learning Center in the Village of Junction city has been licensed for Group Child Care of 20 children. The Town of Rudolph has the Rudolph's Little Dears Child Care Center Llc licensed for Group Child Care of 33 children.

Licensed child care facilities can be found by searching the following State of Wisconsin's website. You can search by location, child care name, type of child care, or by the youngstar quality. This site will also provide a rating by 5 stars of the quality of the daycare facilities and the types of violations found at the facility:

<http://childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov/Search/BasicSearch.aspx>

For a complete list of providers, contact the Regional Division of Children and Referral of Central Wisconsin at: 210 E. Jackson Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, Phone: (715) 423-4114

H. Libraries

The Town of Carson does not have a public library. However, the Charles M. White library, affiliated with the Portage County Library system, is located on Main Street in downtown Stevens Point, approximately 12 miles from the center of Carson. There is also a Plover branch, located at 2151 Roosevelt Drive, approximately 17 miles from the center of Carson. Hours for the Plover branch can be obtained by calling 715-341-4007. More detailed information about the Portage County Public Library can be obtained via the internet at: <http://library.uwsp.edu/pci/> or by calling the library system at: 1-800-264-0766.

I. Portage County Aging and Disability Resource Center

The Aging and Disability Resource Center, located in the Lincoln Center at 1519 Water Street in Stevens Point, provides a delivered meal program to Portage County Residents who have difficulty preparing meals, skip meals, have difficulty leaving home, or are at risk due to living alone or need a regular check for safety purposes.

The meals provide 1/3 of an adult's daily nutritional requirement, improve health, provide connections to other supportive services, and offer friendship. Most special dietary requirements can be met through the program. Deliveries are made between 10:30 and 12:30 Monday through Friday with frozen meals being delivered for non delivery days. Residents who will not be home for deliveries are asked to call ahead and tell the Center they will not be present. A small donation to cover meals is requested but not required.

Section 4.4 Summary of Future Needs

The vast majority of Town residents are likely to continue using private on-site wastewater treatment systems through this plan horizon (2025). Some systems may need replacing; however, due to the low projected population increase and overall density, the Town does not anticipate the need for a municipal wastewater treatment facility through this planning period.

It is also likely that requests for more telecommunications towers will occur near the new Highway 10 facility when it is completed. Contracts and agreements with other service providers such as; fire, solid waste and recycling, snow plowing and road maintenance will be periodically reviewed.

Section 4.5 Utilities and Community Facilities Issues Identified by the Plan Commission

The following issues were derived from a review of the existing inventory and local input during the planning process:

- How can development be limited in flood prone areas?
- To what extent should public space be provided?
- How can the Town ensure standards are being met when utility lines are sited? Current criteria are not being followed when cables are buried.

Section 4.6 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal A Maintain a level of services to efficiently meet community needs.

- Objective A.1 Consideration for flooding is given to the design and construction of bridges within the Town.
- Objective A.2 Wisconsin River access points are maintained for provision of emergency services. These are located on Martin Island Drive, River Road, Sleepy Hollow, and Riverside Drive
- Objective A.3 Work with utility companies for proper siting and installation of utility lines.
- Objective A.4 Continue working with existing emergency service providers to ensure the safety of Town residents.
 - Policy A.1 Work with County to maintain public access to Wisconsin River.
 - Policy A.2 Review service contracts as needed.
 - Police A.3 Create an alternate route from County Road C to County Road M or from County Road M to County Road Short E.

Goal B Provide criteria and direction for protecting and developing land.

- Objective B.1 Encourage the development of recreational opportunities for the youth of the Town.
 - Policy B.1 Community parkland should be dedicated within or adjacent to proposed development.

Policy B.2 Development plans are reviewed by the Town Plan Commission.

Goal C Protect public green space and water resources throughout the Town.

Objective C.1 Development densities are limited in designated areas of the Town to protect water resources.

Goal D Share services across County or municipal borders whenever possible.

Objective D.1 Meet with appropriate governmental units and agencies to review the sharing or expansion of services and facilities as the need arises.