

CHAPTER 4 Utilities and Community Facilities Element

66.1001(2)(d) Wisconsin Statutes:

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 Grant regarding the utilities and community facilities will impact 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 municipal sewer service available in the Town of Grant. 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 & Zoning Department administers the permitting and management of POWTS on a County-wide basis.

B. Water Supply

The entire Town, including the Kellner area, relies on private wells for their water supply. (Please see the groundwater section of the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources chapter for further information.)

Since potable water is obtained exclusively from groundwater, consideration should be given to possible sources of contamination, which can include failing septic systems, underground storage tanks, fertilizers, pesticides, improperly abandoned wells, and landfills. Landfills (also formerly known as dumps) have been around as long as people have 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 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, variances to this requirement may be granted by the DNR. Map 4.1 includes the location of the former Grant landfill and 1,200 foot restricted area.

C. Storm Water Management

Responsibility for storm water management within the Town of Grant is split between Portage County and the Town. Management mainly consists of ditches along the road network. Portage County maintains the ditches along the portions of County highways within Grant, while the Town maintains any ditches along Town roads. Ditches along Town roads vary in size, ranging up to 4 feet in width.

The Portage County Drainage District was organized in 1903 to develop and maintain a series of drainage ditches that would lower the water table to make agriculture on and near the Buena Vista Marsh possible. The Portage County Drainage District is approximately 87 square miles in size. The ditch network contains approximately 93 miles. A majority of the eastern half of the Town is within the Portage County Drainage District (see Map 5.2). The ditches within the district help facilitate the flow and drainage of runoff during and after storm events, as well as, melt water from the spring thaw. Ongoing maintenance of the drainage ditches is necessary for farming and agriculture to continue.

D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

Residents bring their solid waste and recycling materials to the Town's Transfer Station located at the south end of the Kellner area, near the intersection of 90th Street and Griffith Avenue (Map 4.1). The Town has a contract with Advanced Disposal for solid waste to be picked up twice a week and taken to the landfill in Wisconsin Rapids, while recycling is picked up once a week and taken to the Portage County Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Plover.

Aside from solid waste and recycling materials (i.e. glass, metal, plastic, and paper), residents may bring various other special items to the Transfer Station. Acceptable items include: trees and brush less than six inches in diameter, untreated lumber and pallets, batteries, concrete block and masonry materials, used motor oil and filters, fluorescent tubes, electronic waste, metal, and bulk items. The Town employs part-time persons to assist residents in unloading and sorting their waste and recycling materials.

In addition, the Town holds a "Tire Day" event once a year when residents can bring used tires to the Transfer Station. The Town also coordinates a "Choose to Reuse" recycling event twice a year. The event allows residents to drop off unwanted items that someone else can use, in an effort to keep them from going to the landfill.

E. Corporate Utilities (see Map 4.2)

1. Telecommunication Facilities – There are six telecommunication towers in the Town of Grant. Three are located along Cty Rd F; two are along 130th Street; and one is at 100th Street and STH 54. All of these towers have multiple antennas.
2. Power Generating Plants and Transmission Lines – There are three major transmission lines within Grant, a 138 kV line running through the southwest corner of the Town and two 115 kV lines in the northwest corner of the Town. There is one electrical substation located in the Town of Grant at the intersection of Cty Rd F and Mill Road.

Map 4.1: Community Facilities

Map 4.2: Corporate Utilities

Map 4.3: Emergency Services

3. Electrical Power - supplied through Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, Wisconsin Rapids Water Works and Lighting Commission, and Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative.
4. Gas Service - The Town is located within the service territory of We Energies.
5. Telephone and Internet Services – Wired internet and phone services in the Town of Grant are provided by AT&T, Charter Communications, and Solarus, all of Wisconsin Rapids, and Union Telephone Company of Plainfield, WI. Availability of wireless communication service providers is dependent upon market conditions and location.

Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory and Analysis

A. Municipal Buildings

The Grant Town Hall is located at 9011 County Road WW. The Town Garage is located next to the Town Hall, and has the same address (see Map 4.1). The Hall contains the Clerk/Treasurer office, polling place, and public meeting space. The Garage contains road maintenance equipment, grader, two dump trucks, pick-up truck and two tractors. The Town employees include one full-time employee and two to three part-time employees as needed for removing snow in winter and summer road maintenance.

B. Law Enforcement, Fire, Ambulance, and Rescue

1. The Town of Grant is currently served by the Portage County Sheriff's Office, which provides ongoing protective services through routine patrols and on a "call-out" basis. The Portage County Sheriff's Department provides an expanded community policing program and a school liaison program.
2. The Town is served by the Town of Grand Rapids and Village of Plainfield Volunteer Fire Departments. The Town of Grant is also part of a mutual aid agreement with all fire departments within the surrounding municipalities for fire protection assistance. The Town contracts with Grand Rapids and Plainfield Fire Departments to provide vehicle extrication services when needed.
3. Ambulance service is contracted through United Emergency Medical Response of the Town of Grand Rapids in Wood County (see Map 4.3). United is a progressive critical care paramedic level transport service, providing 911 and interfacility transfer service. There are approximately 30 members on staff and rescue equipment includes four ambulances. On January 1, 2013 United began offering critical care paramedic level interfacility transfers for any requesting hospital. On January 1, 2014 United officially became accredited as a Tactical EMS provider.

First Responders also respond to medical emergencies. Currently there are five First Responders serving the Town of Grant.

C. Schools

The Town of Grant lies within the Stevens Point Area, Tri-County Area, and Wisconsin Rapids School Districts for primary and secondary education (see Map 4.1 above).

1. Stevens Point Area Public 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, Grant, Buena Vista, Plover, Sharon, and Stockton; as well as the Wood County Towns of Milladore and Sherry.

The Stevens Point Area Public School District covers nearly 400 square miles. The Stevens Point School District is the 16th largest district in the State of Wisconsin and serves a population of approximately 50,000 and employs staff of over 1,100. The student enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year was approximately 7,400.

The Stevens Point School District consists of a 4K program, nine K-6 grade elementary schools, two 7-9 grade junior high schools, one 10-12 grade senior high school, and other specialized schools (Point of Discovery School, Charles Fernandez Center, Boston School Forest and Online Learning Center). Three charter schools operate within the district, including C.A.R.E, Wisconsin River Academy, and Point of Discovery School. The 45-acre Boston School Forest and 40 acre Halladay School Forest are educational facilities used by students for environmental education programs throughout the school year.

2. Tri-County Area School District

The Tri-County Area School District is located in the Village of Plainfield, in Waushara County, approximately eight miles from the Town of Grant. There is one K-12 building, which underwent remodeling in 1996 and the addition of a new fitness center in 2005. During the 2015-2016 school year, there were approximately 635 students enrolled and 85 teachers, aides, and support staff.

All students living outside the Village of Plainfield limits are offered bus transportation. The District has contracts with two local bus service providers. Approximately 385 students are transported daily.

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 5,325. Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools has a 4K program, eight K-5 elementary schools, one middle school (grades 6-7), one junior high school (grades 8-9), one senior high school (grades 10-12), one Charter School specializing in health occupational training (grades 11-12), and one alternative high 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.

The Grant Elementary School, built in 1955, is the only school in the Town and is part of the Wisconsin Rapids School District. The school is located on Cty Rd WW. They provide 4K-5 education, with two classes for each grade. In 2015-2016, there are 24 teachers, aides, and support staff. School enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year was 220 students.

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

D. Parks

There is one park located adjacent to the Grant Elementary School that offers six baseball diamonds with dugouts. This park is maintained by the Wisconsin Rapids Youth Baseball Association. The Grant Elementary School has a one acre playground.

Another park available to residents is the South Wood County Park. This 332-acre facility is located just west of County Road U and surrounds Lake Wazeecha. Amenities at the park include hiking/biking trails, camp sites with shower facilities, a beach area and playground, and the Willow Run disc-golf course. Red Sand Beach on Lake Wazeecha is also the home of the Annual Wisconsin State/Regional Water Ski Show Championships.

Buena Vista Wildlife Area is a 12,700 acre property located in southeastern half of the Town. While it is not designated as a park, it does offer many recreational opportunities including, bird watching and other wildlife viewing, cross country skiing, hiking, hunting, trapping, fishing, and dog training. Refer to Chapter 5 (Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element) to learn more about the Buena Vista Wildlife Area.

E. Cemeteries

The Town of Grant has one cemetery that will adequately serve the residents through the time-frame of this plan (see Map 4.1):

- St. John Lutheran Parish Cemetery (Kellner Cemetery), Section 30, Township of Grant, Portage County, WI, located on South Park Road in Kellner.

F. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities in the Town of Grant. The closest full service health care facility is Aspirus Riverview Hospital, located on Dewey Street in Wisconsin Rapids. Services range from surgery and cardiac care to physical therapy and outpatient care. Both the Aspirus Riverview Clinic and Aspirus Riverview Wound & Hyperbarics are attached to the Hospital. The Clinic provides services in family medicine, internal medicine, foot and ankle care and surgery, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, women's health, and medi-spa. Riverview Wound & Hyperbarics provides specialized care (using hyperbaric oxygen therapy and other advanced therapies) to heal chronic wounds.

Other facilities associated with the Aspirus health care system in the Wisconsin Rapids area include the Aspirus UW Cancer Center on Dewey Street, and the Aspirus Doctors Clinic and Walk-In Clinic located on Peach Street. Various other clinics specializing in dental, eye health, orthopedics, etc., are located in the City of Wisconsin Rapids and serve the Town of Grant residents.

The Wood County Health Department is located in Wisconsin Rapids. The Department provides a variety of services including vaccine clinics, chronic disease prevention, communicable disease follow-up, parent and child health programming, breastfeeding assistance and product sales,

child passenger safety, emergency preparedness planning, restaurant inspections, water testing, tobacco control, Women, Infant and Children (WIC), and many more programs. While the Department maintains programs for the health and safety of Wood County residents, some of their programs are offered to the general public as well. Residents of the Town of Grant should contact the Wood County Health Department to find out whether the specific service they seek is available to them. Otherwise, similar services are offered at the Portage County Health and Human Services Department, located in Stevens Point, and are available to any resident of Portage County.

Marshfield Clinic Wisconsin Rapids Center is located less than two miles from Riverview Hospital, on 24th Street South. This center provides complete primary care services including family medicine, optometry, physical therapy, and outreach services.

Residents also use the Ministry Medical Group Plover Clinic, located on Plover Road, for both regularly scheduled medical appointments and urgent care walk-ins. Health care services are also available in the City of Stevens Point, including Ministry Saint Michael's Hospital. Other health care services located in the Stevens Point/Plover urban area available to Town residents include dental, chiropractic, sports medicine, and podiatry.

G. Senior and Disabled Care Facilities

There are many public and private facilities located in the Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point/Plover areas. The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Portage County is a resource for older adults, people with disabilities, and concerned families to receive information and support on all aspects of life related to aging or living with a disability.

H. Child Care Facilities

There are two 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 eight 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 nine or more children. These centers are usually located somewhere other than a residence and may be small or large in size.

There is one licensed group child care facility located at the Grant Elementary School in the Town of Grant. This before and after school program, called 'Kids Clubhouse', is sponsored by the South Wood County YMCA and is available to children aged 5-13. For more information regarding this program, contact the South Wood County YMCA. For a complete list of childcare facilities, contact the local child care resource and referral agency:

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

I. Libraries

The closest library for most Town of Grant residents is the McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids. This facility, affiliated with the South Central Library System, is approximately seven miles from the Kellner area. The McMillan Library hosts a range of

programs for people of all ages. More information can be obtained on the internet at: <http://www.mcmillanlibrary.org/index.shtml> or by calling 715-423-1040.

Other area libraries include the Charles M. White library, main branch of the Portage County Library system located at 1001 Main Street in downtown Stevens Point, approximately 13 miles from the center of Grant. The Village of Plover Branch Library is located at 2151 Roosevelt Drive, approximately eight miles from the center of Grant. More detailed information about the Portage County Public Library resources and services can be obtained via the internet at: <http://library.uwsp.edu/pcl/> or by calling the library at: 1-800-264-0766.

Section 4.4 Utilities & Community Facilities Issues Identified by the Plan Commission

- The City of Wisconsin Rapids owns land in the southern part of the Town for possible siting of a municipal well.
- Protecting water quality and quantity for use by residents in the Town of Grant. This includes both ground and surface water.
- Maintaining the City of Wisconsin Rapids Sanitary District – Kellner area if sewer services are needed for existing and future development in the Kellner area.
- Possible need for a fire substation.
- Maintenance of drainage and roadside ditches to alleviate flooding.

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. Investigate the development of a fire substation.
2. Continue to share services across County and municipal borders whenever possible.
3. Develop municipal sewer and water utilities if needed to maintain health and protect resources, particularly groundwater.
4. Consider opportunities for cooperative efforts with school districts and other organizations to provide educational and recreational activities within the community.

C. Policies:

1. Continue developing fire, law enforcement, rescue, and ambulance services on a cooperative basis with surrounding municipalities.
2. Maintain the City of Wisconsin Rapids Sanitary District, which extends into the Kellner area, for possible provision of sewer services.
3. Enforce the Utility Accommodation Policy and note that some public utilities may be subject to conditional use approval and/or permit.
4. Rely upon South Wood County Park to provide specialized leisure time activities such as picnicking, camping, hiking, biking, water sports and winter sports.

5. Coordinate with the Wisconsin DNR to maintain Buena Vista Wildlife Area for wildlife related recreational activities.
6. Cooperate with Portage and Wood Counties, surrounding towns, and the cities of Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point in planning and providing necessary community facilities on an area-wide basis such as: Senior citizen activities and programs, Library facilities and services, Emergency services, and Utilities.
7. Protect ground and surface water resources throughout the Town.