

CHAPTER 4 Utilities and Community Facilities Element

Section 4.1 Introduction

Adequate infrastructure, utilities, community facilities and services are important in meeting existing and future community needs. 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 Hull 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 sanitary sewer service within the Town of Hull. 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. The Town is comfortable with the County handling all private onsite wastewater issues.

B. Water Supply

The Town of Hull does not have a municipal water system. Residents rely on individual private wells for their water supply. Please see the groundwater section of the Agriculture, Natural, and Cultural chapter for further information.

Since potable water is obtained primarily from groundwater, consideration should be given to possible sources of contamination. 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, except the current County Landfill located on Cty Rd QQ, have been closed. According to Department of Natural Resources Administrative Code, there must be 1,200 foot separation between a private well or reservoir and the nearest edge of an existing, proposed, or abandoned landfill. Landfills in the Town are shown on Map 4.2.

C. Storm Water Management

The Town of Hull has periodic stormwater runoff problems, related to a combination of natural conditions and manmade factors. Natural factors include the Town's flat surface topography, lack of natural drainage outlets in many low lying areas, and siltation of marsh/wetland areas. Man-made factors involve the construction of homes, inadequate maintenance of ditches, driveways and roads which block or divert natural drainage ways. Areas subject to stormwater runoff problems are not readily identifiable from existing data sources and typically require that specific engineering studies be conducted. A drainage study was completed in April of 1994 for that portion of the Phase I Planning Area, as identified in the 1996 Land Use Plan for the Urban Fringe, bounded by Willow Springs Drive, Jordan Road and STH 66.

Responsibility for storm water management within the Town of Hull 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 Hull, while the Town maintains any ditches along Town roads. Ditches along Town roads vary in size, ranging up to 4 feet in width. Individual homeowners are responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the ditches in front of their homes.

D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

The Town of Hull currently contracts Portage County, which contracts with Wittenberg Disposal, out of Wittenberg, WI for solid waste disposal and recycling pickup. Solid waste is taken to the Portage County landfill in the Town of Stockton and recycling material is taken to the Portage County Material Recovery Facility in the Town of Plover. The Town feels that this is an adequate arrangements at the present time. The Portage County landfill is scheduled to close in 2006, after which the waste will be trucked to a landfill in Marathon County.

E. Corporate Utilities

1. Telecommunication Facilities - There are four cell towers located in the Town of Hull, all located in close proximity to Interstate 39/51.
2. Gas and Electric Power - Major utility transmission lines within Hull include the A.N.R. natural gas pipeline, which crosses the Town of Hull from northwest to southeast. Wisconsin Public Service owns a high-voltage electric transmission line, which runs through the Town north to south in the western portion of the Township, with a substation located in the southwest part of the Town, adjacent to Stevens Point. There is one privately owned power generation plant in the Town of Hull, located on Brilowski Road, near Jordan Park.
3. Telephone and Internet services - Residents receive local landline telephone services from SBC Ameritech. Internet service is provided by several local providers.
4. Cable – The Town of Hull is served through charter communications. A franchise agreement exists between Hull and Charter Communications.

Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory

A. Municipal Buildings

The Town Municipal Building, located at 4550 Wojcik Memorial Drive, consists of the Town Hall and Town Garage. The Municipal Building contains offices for the Town Chair, Town Clerk, Assessor, Building Inspector, and Treasurer, and road foreman as well as space for public meetings. The Hull Town board usually meets the first Monday of each month. The Town Garage houses the Town's road maintenance equipment.

B. Police Protection

The Town of Hull is currently served by the Portage County Sheriffs Department. The 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 Hull is located includes USH 10, Hwy 39/51, going through the western part of the Town, and STH 66, going through the eastern part of the Town. During the day shift, 1 officer is assigned to each district, plus an additional officer "floats" throughout the County. During the night shift, 2 officers are assigned to each district, plus 2 additional officers float throughout the County. Officers may drive through the Town any number of times during each shift to check on businesses and residences. The Sheriff's department enforces all Town ordinances.

Map 4.1 Community Utilities

Map 4.2: Community Facilities

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

C. Fire Protection

The Town currently has its own fire department, located on Wojcik Memorial Drive, next to the Town Municipal Building. There are 28 volunteer members for the department. Equipment consists of 3 engines, one rescue unit, 4 tankers, and 1 utility squad, which is kept at the fire station. The Town has fire protection (ISO Public Protection Classification) rating of 7, based on a 1-10 scale with 1 being the highest. The Town of Hull Fire Department participates in a Mutual Aid agreement with surrounding municipalities within the County. If one department cannot respond to an emergency, another department is called.

D. Rescue Services

The Town of Hull 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 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. 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:

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

The First Responders group in the Town of Hull, established in April, 2003, also responds to medical emergencies in the Town. There are approximately 12 volunteers in Hull that serve the Town. Roughly half of these volunteers serve on the Town fire department.

E. Schools

The Town of Hull lies within the Stevens Point School District for primary and secondary education.

Post-secondary education for Town residents is available at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Mid-State Technical College, both in Stevens Point. The University of Wisconsin-Marathon County and North Central Technical College in the City of Wausau, located approximately 35 miles north of the Town, along with the University of Wisconsin-Marshfield/Wood County in the City of Marshfield, 40 miles to the west of Hull, are also available.

1. Stevens Point Area Public 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 2002-2003 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, with a

district budget of \$2.6 million. The Stevens Point School District is the 14th largest district 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 2003-2004 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, Eau Pleine, Dewey, Carson and Stockton; as well as the Towns of Sharon, Plover Grant, Buena Vista, Milladore and Sherry.

The Stevens Point School District consists of ten 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, located in the Town of Plover, is an educational facility used by students for environmental education programs throughout the school year.

The main schools that Town of Hull students attend are Bannach Elementary and Madison Elementary, PJ Jacobs Middle School, and SPASH.

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; 90% of students go on to attend post secondary school, most of which are four-year colleges and universities. The four areas that are stressed during in SPACS include:

1. Academic and extracurricular excellence
2. Education based on the catholic Faith and virtues
3. Discipline, safety, and security
4. Personal attention

Currently, 940 students are enrolled in preschool through 12th grade. 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 pre-5, and Saint Joseph early childhood – preschool and year-round childcare; St. Peter Middle School – grades 6-8, it is considered a true middle school, where students are moved in “houses”, which is intended to provides an increase in individual attention; and Pacelli High School – grades 9-12, with a full array of courses, including remedial courses and advanced placement, extracurricular activities, counseling service and much more.

St. Paul Lutheran School serves 200 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 Hwy 10, offers instruction for grades K through twelve.

Map 4.3: School Districts

3. University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point

UW-Stevens Point has approximately 8,700 students within four academic colleges: College of Natural Resources, College of Letters and Sciences, College of Fine Arts, and the College of Professional Studies. The College of Natural Resources is the largest undergraduate college of natural resources in the nation. In total, there are 100 program choices within 49 majors, plus 78 minors and 16 graduate programs. There are 400 faculty and teaching academic staff, 200 non-teaching academic staff, and 350 support staff within the school, resulting in a 20 to one student/faculty ratio. UWSP is consistently named one of the top Public Midwestern Universities-Master's in *U.S. News and World Report's* college rankings.

4. Mid-State Technical College

Mid-State Technical College has nearly 16,000 full- and part-time students that enroll at the college each year. The college has over 40 career options available through one- and two-year technical diplomas and two-year associate degrees in business, service & health, and technical & industrial fields. Mid-State Technical College includes campuses in Stevens Point, Marshfield, and Wisconsin Rapids; a center in Adams; and several outreach sites.

5. University of Wisconsin- Marathon County

UW- Marathon County is a 2 year UW campus and is located near downtown Wausau, consisting of the main campus building, 1 residence hall (Marathon Hall), and the UWMC Fieldhouse. Average enrollment is just over 1,000 students per year. There are 14 departments which consist of 79 teaching staff, with an average of 20 students per class. The school offers both associate and bachelor degrees.

6. North Central Technical College

North Central Technical College's central campus in Wausau is supported by regional campuses in Antigo, Medford, Phillips, Wittenberg, and Spencer. The college has approximately 2,450 full-time equivalent students, and approximately 18,000 people taking at least one class annually. There are 40 one- and two-year programs available at the college, which students can obtain an associate degree, technical diploma, or a technical certificate.

7. University of Wisconsin-Marshfield/Wood County

The University of Wisconsin- Marshfield/Wood County is a two-year college campus located in the City of Marshfield. The campus offers Associate of Arts and Science (AAS) Degrees, and the ability to transfer credits to 4 year campuses. The enrollment for the current year is 625 students, with an average of 24 students per class. The student/faculty ratio is 19:1. UW-Marshfield/Wood County has 25 academic departments, with more than 50 fields of study, including health sciences, teaching, engineering, social sciences, business, humanities and the arts.

F. Parks

Jordan Park, a 293 acre County facility located at the intersection of STH 66 and Jordan Road, is the major public recreational facility in the Town of Hull. The County Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies "land contiguous to existing park for possible acquisition, in order to maintain an open space buffer and to allow for future park expansion. The potential purchase of contiguous lands by the County is dependent on the availability of funds and the desire of the private landowners to sell."

The Plover River basin provides a relatively natural/undisturbed, environmental corridor connecting Jordan County Park with Iverson Park in Stevens Point and beyond. For more information about the Plover River corridor, see the Natural Resources element.

Creation of Town park land can occur when a subdivision is created, however, according to Town officials, over the last few years developers have chosen to pay the Town \$250 per lot in lieu of dedicating land for parks. There are a total of 15.09 acres of developed parks and 2.5 acres of undeveloped parks throughout the Hull. The Town of Hull and City of Stevens Point are cooperating to equip and maintain the parks in the Town that are adjacent to the City. An inventory is as follows:

Developed Acres: (Map 4.2)

- Eastwood, 2.50 acres
- Meadow Manor, 2.48 acres
- Somerset, 3.00 acres
- Jordan Acres (Sunny Crest), 0.82 acres
- Sorenson, 1.50 acres
- Pleasant View, 1.49 acres
- Pleasant View East, 3.30 acres

Undeveloped:

- Treder's West, 1.00 acre
- Conifer Acres, 1.50 acres

G. Cemeteries

The Town of Hull has four cemeteries that may adequately serve the residents through the time-frame of this plan. They are located at follows.

- JORDAN CEMETERY, Section 12, Township of Hull, Portage County, WI, on the corner of Brilowski Road and a privately owned road.
- ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY, Section 30, Township of Hull, Portage County, WI, on Old Wausau Road, on the east bank of the Wisconsin River in the Town.
- ST. CASMIR'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY, Section 13, Township of Hull, Portage County, WI, on Casmir Road.
- ROGERS BURIAL PLOT, Section 24, Township of Hull, Portage County, WI. Precise location is unknown; contains one grave.

H. Health Care Facilities

There is one health care facility in Hull, the Plaza Medical Center, located on STH 66. There are also facilities located in the City of Stevens Point, with the largest being St. Michael's Hospital and Rice Medical Center. That facility is located approximately four miles from the center of Hull. Other health care services located in the Stevens Point/Plover urban area available to Town residents include dental, chiropractic, sports medicine, and podiatry. Regional facilities are also available through the Marshfield Clinic and Aspirus Health Care Wausau.

I. 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.

There are currently (2003) four (4) licensed Family Child Care centers and no licensed Group Child Care centers in the Town of Hull, however, other licensed Family and Group Child Care centers are present in the Stevens Point Area. For a complete list, contact the Regional Division of Children and Family Services at:

2811 8th St. - Ste. 70
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
 Phone: (715) 422-5080
 Fax: (715) 422-5091

J. Libraries

The Town of Hull 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 five miles from the center of Hull. More detailed information about the Portage County Public Library system 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 and Community Facilities Conclusions

A. Summary of Findings

1. Hull will continue to rely on private septic and water systems.
2. Storm water management is an ongoing challenge for Hull.
3. Utility lines are often located in the Town right of way.
4. Hull relies on the Portage County Sheriff's Department as its policing agent.
5. Fire service is provided by a well recognized volunteer Fire Department.
6. Hull has a first Responder unit, which is housed at the Fire Station.
7. Hull's elementary students primarily attend Bannach, Washington, and Madison Schools. Secondary students attend P.J. Jacobs and SPASH. Students from Bannach, PJ Jacobs and SPASH participate in Hull's twice a year garbage pickup program along Hull roads known as Adopt-A-Highway program.
8. The Town has intergovernmental agreements with Stevens Point for maintenance and management of several parks within the Town.

B. Issues Outstanding

1. Storm water management and water runoff are an ongoing problems in Hull.
What can be done about the ongoing problems relating to storm water management and water runoff in the Town of Hull?
2. Improving police services through discussion with the Portage County Sheriff's Department is needed.
How can the Town of Hull and the Portage County Sheriff's Department work together so that police services are improved in the Town?

3. Review Fire Service, including equipment to ensure an efficient operation and cooperative efforts with other area fire departments.
Are there more efficient and cooperative ways to operate the Town of Hull fire services utilizing other area fire departments?
4. Utilities located in the Town road right-of-ways create potential problems as roads are reconstructed or new utilities are sited.
What places, other than road right-of-ways, could utilities be located so they won't create problems as roads expand or new utilities are sited?

C. Long Term Goals (Goals)

1. Review storm water management practices in Hull, including ditching and the siting of subdivisions.
2. Explore the adequacy of police service in Hull with the Portage County Sheriff's Department.
3. Review with Hull Fire Department long range equipment needs and cooperative efforts with other fire departments.

D. Short Term Goals (Objectives)

1. Provide information and assistance to Hull homeowners to protect their private septic and water systems from pollution.
2. Ensure road crew and citizens are informed about utility locations in road right a way.
3. Recognize Hull students attending Bannach, PJ Jacobs and SPASH for their contribution to a more environmentally sound Hull through their participation in Hull's Adopt-A-Highway program.
4. Continue cooperation with Stevens Point in the equipping, management and maintenance of jointly developed parks.

E. Action Plan (Policies)

1. The Hull Plan Commission should have evaluated storm water runoff and adopted a storm water management plan.
2. The Hull Plan Commission should have reviewed police services in Hull in cooperation with the Sheriff's Department and submitted a report the Hull Town Board for approval.
3. The Hull Town Board in cooperation with the Fire Department will review fire services, equipment and cooperation practices with area fire departments. A report will be submitted for adoption to the Hull Town Board.