

## **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 for Lanark. 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 regarding the utilities and community facilities will impact present and future residents.

This chapter will describe the existing utility and community facilities serving the community, and outline future desires/needs for Town of Lanark residents.

### **Section 4.2 Public Utilities Inventory**

There are limited public utilities within the Town of Lanark. The following information is intended to address the requirements of the Wisconsin State Statutes for comprehensive planning.

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

There is no municipal sanitary sewer service within the Town of Lanark. 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. Small community systems or cluster systems, however, may be recommended at a future date for higher density developments within Lanark such as Boelter Lake and Evergreen Hills.

#### **B. Water Supply**

The Town of Lanark does not have a municipal water system. Residents rely on individual private wells for their water supply. Water quality is generally thought to be good. However, because of the sandy soil and shallow depths to groundwater in parts of Lanark, many activities on the land surface can potentially result in contaminants leaching to groundwater and contaminating drinking water supplies.

All new private wells must be constructed by a certified well professional in accordance with Chapter [NR 812](#) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. Subsection [NR 812.08\(4\)](#) specifically requires minimum separation distances between new wells and sources of contamination. Properly constructed wells should produce good quality drinking water. Poorly installed wells or wells without vermin proof caps may result in bacterial contamination of the water supply. It is recommended that private well water be tested at least periodically.

Portage County Planning and Zoning Department administers the Well Abandonment Ordinance in the Town of Lanark. Unused wells that have not been properly filled and sealed can quickly deliver contaminants to the groundwater. Some of the more common contaminants in wells in this region that have drinking water standards include bacteria, nitrate, pesticides, and lead.

A more detailed discussion of groundwater can be found in the County's updated Groundwater Management Plan that was adopted in 2017. More specific information regarding groundwater quality and quantity in the Town of Lanark can be found in Section 5.5.D of the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources element of this plan.

### C. Storm Water Management

Responsibility for storm water management within the Town of Lanark is split between Portage County and the Town. Storm water management facilities consist mainly of ditches along the road network. Portage County maintains the ditches along the portions of County highways within Lanark, while the Town maintains any ditches along Town roads. The ditches along Town roads vary in size, ranging from 1 to 4 feet in width.

Ditches and natural drainage ways within Lanark direct the majority of surface water in an easterly direction. In the northern half of the Town, Spring Creek drains into the Tomorrow River, which then meanders east into Waupaca County. In the southern portion of the Town, surface water drains toward Allen Creek, and then east into Waupaca County. Watersheds are shown on Map 5.4

### D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

The Town landfill, located on the Town Hall Property at the corner of Cty Rd TT and STH 54, closed in 1991 (Map 4.2). According to [NR 812.08\(4\)](#) of Administrative Code, there must be a minimum separation distance of 1,200 feet between any new private well or reservoir and the nearest edge of an existing, proposed, or abandoned landfill.

The Town currently contracts through the Portage County Solid Waste Department with Advanced Disposal, based in Wisconsin Rapids, for collection of solid waste and recycling. Waste is collected weekly and transported to the Portage County Transfer Facility in the Village of Plover before going to a landfill. Recyclables are collected every other week and transported to the Portage County Material Recovery Facility (MRF), also in the Village of Plover. Advance Disposal also provides bulk item collection once a month.

The Town Board expects that Advanced Disposal will be able to meet future needs. County-level programs, such as the Clean Sweep/ Hazardous Materials Collection Program, provide a valuable service to Town residents for several items that Advanced Disposal will not pick up.

### E. Corporate Utilities (Map 4.1)

1. Telephone and internet services – Wired Telephone and broadband (high-speed internet) service in the Town is currently offered by Amherst Communications, AT&T, and Union Telephone Company. Various wireless service options exist as well.
2. Telecommunications – There are six cellular towers within Lanark.
3. Gas and Electric Power – The Town currently receives its electric service from Alliant Energy or Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. Natural gas service is not offered in the Town. Propane gas can be obtained through private providers. There is no power generation plant or substation located in the Town.

**Map 4.1 Community Utilities**

**Map 4.2 Community Facilities**

**Map 4.3 Fire Districts**

## **Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory**

### **A. Municipal Buildings**

The Lanark Town Hall and Garage are located at 7174 Cty Rd TT (Map 4.2). A separate room is located within the garage for storage of First Responder supplies. Town Hall serves as a rest stop and meeting place for Sherriff's Department deputies while on patrol.

### **B. Police Protection**

The Town of Lanark 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 Town of Lanark falls within two of the patrol districts, with Hwy 54 being the dividing line. The eastern district is bounded by STH 66 to the north, the Portage County line to the east, and STH 54 to the south. The southern district includes all areas of the County south of the Wisconsin River and STH 54 east of the Village of Plover. During the day shift one officer is assigned to each district, plus an additional officer "floats" throughout the County. During the night shift, two officers are assigned to each district, plus two 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 Portage County Sheriff's Department provides an expanded community policing program and a school liaison program.

### **C. Fire Protection**

The northern portion of the Town of Lanark is currently served by the Amherst Fire District, while the southern portion of the Town is served by the Waupaca Area Fire District (Map 4.3). In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Forestry Division has a team that responds to wildland fires at Hartman Creek State Park and on lands immediately surrounding the park. The Lanark Town Board is satisfied with the services provided by these departments.

The Amherst Fire District is located at 4585 Fairgrounds Road, Amherst. The District has the following equipment:

- Engine 1 – A 2009 Custom Fire 2000 gallons per minute (GPM) with 750 gallon capacity rescue/pumper
- Engine 10 – A 2003 Pierce 1250 GPM pumper with 500 gallon capacity with 61' "Skyboom" aerial
- Engine 8 – A 1986 Ford/Grumman 1000 GPM pumper with 1000 gallon capacity
- Tanker 15 – A 2000 Freightliner/Monroe 2000 gallon tanker
- Tanker 17 – A 1993 Ford/Monroe 3000 gallon tanker
- Brush 1 – A 1985 Ford F350 with 300 water tank and pump
- Rescue 2 – A Ford F-350 and trailer
- Utility Off Road Vehicle – A 2012 Kubota
- A1 – A 2003 International/MedTech Ambulance
- EMS Squad 1 – A Chevrolet Blazer

Water for these vehicles is usually pumped from the water hydrants located in the Village of Amherst as well as local lakes and streams (Map 4.3). Irrigation wells, including one in the Town of Lanark and one in the Town of Amherst, are available as an additional resource for fighting fires. The fire district also has an agreement with other fire districts in Portage County to utilize their water sources if needed.

The Waupaca Area Fire District is located at 124 S. Washington Street in Waupaca. This is a volunteer department with 32 trained firefighters. The department has the following equipment:

- Engine 901 – A 2008 Pierce Enforcer with 1,500 GPM pump and 750 gallon capacity
- Engine 902 – A 1991 Grumman pumper with 1,250 GPM pump and 750 gallon capacity
- Engine 904 – A 1991 Marion Body Works pumper with 1,500 GPM and 1,500 gallon capacity
- Ladder 909 – A 1996 Pierce Lance with 1,500 GPM and 200 gallon capacity.
- Rescue 910 – A 2013 Pierce Rescue Vehicle
- Tender 905 – A 2008 Pierce Tender with 350 GPM pump and a 3000 Gallons Capacity with 2 portable dump tanks (2 – 2100 gallons each) mounted on each side of the unit.
- Tender 906 – A 2000 Pierce Tender with 350 GPM pump and a 3000 Gallons Capacity with 2 portable dump tanks (2 – 2100 gallons each) mounted on each side of the unit
- Command 903 – A 2008 Chevrolet 2500HD pick-up truck
- Brush 907 – A 2007 Chevrolet 2500 HD pick-up truck
- Brush 908 – A 2002 Chevrolet 2500HD pick-up truck
- ATV-1 (Kubota) – A 2007 Kubota

Water for these vehicles is usually pumped from water hydrants located in the City of Waupaca.

#### D. Emergency Medical Services

Portage County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provides County-wide EMS services, including ambulance and emergency medical responder (EMR) support, through contracts with the Stevens Point Fire Department, Plover Fire Department, and Amherst Fire District. The County has seven ambulances that are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and can respond anywhere in the county in minutes. Five County ambulances are operated by the Stevens Point Fire Department, with locations on Franklin Street (Station 1) and Industrial Park Road (Station 2), both in Stevens Point. One County ambulance is operated by the Plover Fire Department from their location on Post Road in Plover, and another County ambulance is operated by the Amherst Fire District from their location on Fairgrounds Road in Amherst.

The Amherst Fire District ambulance and EMR unit serves the entire Town of Lanark. The Amherst ambulance has Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), with most of them being at the paramedic level, which is the highest level of training in EMS. These members work onsite for 12 or 24 hour shifts to keep the ambulance staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Amherst EMR unit, which some people call “First Responders,” is made up of paid-on-call volunteers that are trained to at least the Basic EMT level. These members assist the ambulance on ambulance calls and the firefighters on fire and rescue calls.

#### E. Schools

The Town of Lanark lies within the Waupaca, Tomorrow River, and Almond-Bancroft School districts for primary and secondary education (Map 4.2). There are no school buildings located within Lanark.

The Waupaca School District is approximately 160 square miles in size, and serves the City of Waupaca and surrounding Waupaca County Towns, and parts of the Portage County Towns of Lanark and Belmont. There are two elementary schools, one charter school for grades 3-5, one middle school, and one high school located within the district. During the 2017-2018 school year, the Waupaca School District employed 180 teachers, 95 support staff, and 15 administrators to serve 2,167 students.

The Tomorrow River School District is approximately 100 square miles in size and serves the Villages of Amherst, Amherst Junction and Nelsonville, along with part of the Towns of Amherst, Buena Vista, Lanark, Stockton, and New Hope. District facilities include an elementary school, middle school, and high school, all located on one site within a 193,627 sq. ft. interconnected structure in the Village of Amherst. The Tomorrow River School District also contracts with the Tomorrow River Community Charter School, located at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station in Amherst Junction, to provide schooling for children in Pre-Kindergarten - 8<sup>th</sup> grade. During the 2017-2018 school year, the district employed 95 teachers, 67 support staff and 5 administrators to serve 979 students.

The Almond-Bancroft School District is approximately 109 square miles in size and serves the Village of Almond and the unincorporated community of Bancroft, and Towns of Almond, Belmont, Buena Vista, and Lanark. District facilities include an elementary school, middle school, and high school, all located under one building in the Village of Almond. Student enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year was 448 students.

A number of post-secondary education opportunities for Town residents are available. State universities include: the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County, located in Wausau; the University of Wisconsin-Wood County/Marshfield in the City of Marshfield; the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh; and the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley, located in Menasha. 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, located in Appleton, Oshkosh, and Waupaca. All of these facilities are within approximately one hour of Lanark.

#### F. Libraries

The Town of Lanark does not have a public library. A number of area libraries currently serve the needs of Lanark residents.

The Lettie W. Jensen Public Library, located at 278 North Main Street in Amherst, was constructed in 1988 with funds donated to the Village. The Library is run by an appointed Village library board. This library is a member of the South Central Library System. The library offers public computers with internet access, wi-fi, downloadable books and magazines, inter-library loan, large-print books, audio books, videos, magazines, a local history room, a copy machine, computer printer, Story time kits, a book discussion group, and a weekly children's story hour.

The Waupaca Area Public Library is located at 107 South Main Street in Waupaca. The library offers public computers with internet access, interlibrary loan, Genealogy resources, book discussion groups, a summer reading program, and various materials for loan including books, audio books, movies, music, video games, equipment, magazines, and newspapers. The Waupaca Area Public Library is part of the Outagamie Waupaca Library System. For more information, please refer to their website: <http://www.waupacalibrary.org>

Other library facilities available to residents include three branches of the Portage County Public Library: The Charles M. White library located in Stevens Point, the Village of Plover Branch library, and the Village of Almond Branch library. More detailed information about the Portage County Public Library system can be obtained via the internet at: <http://library.uwsp.edu/pcl/>.

The University Library and Albertson Center for Learning Resources is affiliated with the UW-Stevens Point and is located at the corner of Portage and Reserve Streets in Stevens Point. This facility offers a wide array of services and resources. For a full listing of resources and hours, visit the website at: <https://www.uwsp.edu/library/Pages/default.aspx>.

## G. Parks and Recreation

### 1. Parks

There are currently no Town parks located in Lanark. However, there is one county park - Stedman Wayside, and one state park - Hartman Creek State Park, located partially in the Town. There are also three WDNR owned properties located in Lanark, including 40 acres off on Spring Lake Rd and two 2-acre parcels adjacent to the Tomorrow River on Durant Rd. Some Managed Forest Lands are also open for public use.

Stedman Wayside is three acres in size and located on County Rd DD. Limited facilities include picnic tables and fishing access.

Hartman Creek State Park is located between Portage and Waupaca Counties. It is 1,100 acres in size, with 245 acres located in Portage County. The park entrance is located in Waupaca County. There are four lakes: 22, 20, and 12 acres in size, and one small pothole lake. Major activities involve camping, hiking, cross-county skiing, and water related activities. There are 100 family campsites with showers and toilets, ten sites open during the winter and there are five group campsites. Thirteen miles of hiking trails and one mile of interpretative nature trail are within the park.

Other area facilities include Wolf Lake Park. This county park is located in the northeast corner of the Town of Almond, just to the southwest of Lanark. Although outside the Town, it is often used by Town of Lanark residents.

### 2. Recreation

A segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is located within Hartman Creek State Park. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a 1,200 mile long all-season recreational trail, running throughout the entire state of Wisconsin. It was made to accommodate hikers, cross-country skiers, backpackers and all other people who enjoy the outdoors. The trail, some of which passes through private lands, is for non-motorized traffic only. For more local information, contact the Portage County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

*Boat Landings* – There is a Town-owned boat landing located at the end of Spring Haven Drive that is used to provide access to Spring Lake from the north. A primitive launch located on WDNR-owned land provides additional public access to Spring Lake from the south. There is also a primitive launch area at Stedman Wayside for access to the Tomorrow River. Platted access to Boelter Lake is provided near the entrance to the subdivision along Boelter Lake Drive.

*Snowmobile Trails* – the Tomorrow River Snowmobile Club, based in Amherst, maintains a number of snowmobile trails within the Town.

### 3. Youth Activities

The Plan Commission has identified a number of activities and programs that are available to the youth of the Town. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list; rather it is intended to be a starting point that can help to identify potential future needs or desires. These activities include:

- The Tomorrow River Lions Club sponsors summer youth softball and baseball programs.
- The Jensen Center in Amherst offers a youth soccer program.
- Youth programs are available through the City of Waupaca Parks and Recreations Department.
- Swimming facilities are available at the Stevens Point YMCA, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Iola School, Hartman Creek State Park, Stevens Point Municipal Pool, and other County Beaches.
- The Boys and Girls Club of Portage County offers youth programs and activities at eight club locations, including Stevens Point, Plover, Almond-Bancroft, Junction City, and Rosholt.

### 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.

There are no licensed child care facilities located in the Town. The closest facilities exist in the Village of Amherst. For a complete list, contact the local child care resource and referral agency at:

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

### I. Adult Care Facilities

The Lincoln Center, in Stevens Point, is home to the Portage County Aging & Disability Resource Center, the Adult Day Center, the Senior Center, and the Holly Shoppe. More detailed information can be obtained via the internet at: <http://www.co.portage.wi.us/departments/aging-disability-resource-center> or calling (715) 346-1401 or 1-866-920-2525.

Residential care facilities, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities, are regulated by the Department of Health Services, Division of Quality Assurance (DQA). DQA provides an online provider search tool to help consumers find health and residential care providers throughout Wisconsin: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/guide/provider-search.htm>. The closest facilities exist in the Village of Amherst, and the Cities of Stevens Point and Waupaca.

## J. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities in Lanark. Facilities serving Town residents are located in the Villages of Amherst and Plover, and the Cities of Stevens Point and Waupaca. Services range from medical, dental, chiropractic and veterinary facilities.

The closest facilities to the Town are located in the Village of Amherst and the City of Waupaca. Ascension at Amherst, located at 272 Christy St in the Village of Amherst, provides complete primary care services for the entire family. The Village is also home to chiropractic and dentist offices. Waupaca facilities include: Ascension at Waupaca, located at 190 Grand Season's Dr; ThedaCare Orthopedic Care, located at 710 Riverside Dr; and ThedaCare Medical Center, located at 800 Riverside Dr.

Facilities in the Stevens Point/Plover area include: Ascension St. Michael's Hospital and Clinics.

## K. Churches and Cemeteries

There are three churches located in Lanark: the chapel associated with the Riverside Bible Camp located on County Rd DD; the Badger Community Church, operated by the Badger Ladies Aid Association, located at the intersection of STH 54 and Badger Rd.; and St. Patrick's Church, located near the intersection of Hwy 54 and Madley Road. This church, affiliated with St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, is no longer used for worship services.

There are also three cemeteries located within the Town. There are plans for continued maintenance of these facilities. They are located as follows:

- BADGER CEMETERY – This two-acre cemetery, located in Section 26 on Badger Rd and Cty Rd D, is maintained by the Town.
- HILLSIDE CEMETERY – This seven-acre cemetery, located in Section 31 at Cty Rd N and Wolf Lake Road, is also maintained by the Town.
- ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY – This two and one-half acre cemetery, located next to St. Patrick's Church in Section 19 near the intersection of Hwy 54 and Madley Road, is maintained by the St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish.

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

The following issues pertaining to utilities and community facilities were identified through the planning process:

- Problems with spring runoff in the Town, especially on Buelow Road (has no drainage) and with driveway runoff is creating ice on the roads. How can the Town effectively manage runoff?
- Town is concerned over the potential for privatization of the water supply. How can the Town protect its groundwater quality and quantity?
- How can groundwater be protected by failing septic systems?
- How can residents be better informed about proper maintenance of septic systems?
- Some residents would like hiking/recreation facilities located in the Town (on Town property)
- How can medical services response time be improved?

- There are emergency medical responders available for Amherst Fire District, but not Waupaca. There should be better coordination of emergency medical responders needed within the County.
- Town of Lanark youth who attend Waupaca schools have to pay fees to participate in City of Waupaca summer programs. Are there enough recreation opportunities in the Town?

#### **Section 4.5 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies**

**Goal 1:** Community services and facilities efficiently meet community needs.

Objective 1.1: Storm water runoff is properly managed.

Policy 1: New driveways should have water directed into the right-of-way ditches.

Objective 1.2: Continue to coordinate services such as fire, emergency medical responders, solid waste, etc., with other agencies or organizations.

Objective 1.3: Support expansion of high-speed internet service.

**Goal 2:** Residents are provided with recreational places and activities.

Objective 2.1: Identify possible sites for current or future recreational opportunities.

Policy 1: Encourage the expansion of Stedman Park.

Policy 2: Investigate the use of Town land for recreational opportunities.

Policy 3: Submit a list of possible preservation areas to the County Land Preservation Fund.

Policy 4: Maintain Spring Lake boat landing for public access.

Policy 5: Work with local, County, and State agencies and organizations to protect parks, trails, and other green spaces.

**Goal 3:** Protect public water resources.

Objective 3.1: Discourage the placement of non-agriculture related high capacity wells.

Objective 3.2: Site roads away from water bodies whenever possible.

Objective 3.3: Septic tanks should be inspected and pumped on a periodic basis.

Policy: Work with the County to ensure all private septic systems in the Town are operating properly.

**Goal 4:** Design standards are used to enhance rural character.

Objective 4.1: Encourage the use of cluster septic systems for higher density residential development.

Objective 4.2: Location and siting of utilities and associated infrastructure is consistent with community character.

Policy 1: Utility lines should be placed or buried on the far edge of the right of way whenever possible.

Policy 2: Promote the sharing of communication towers for various services.

**Goal 5**: Increase the presence of protective and emergency services in the area.

Objective 5.1: Support local emergency medical responder units.

Policy 1: Recruit volunteers for emergency medical responder services.

Objective 5.2: Encourage the development of neighborhood watch programs.