

CHAPTER 4: Utilities and Community Facilities

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 Public Utilities Inventory

The physical wellbeing of the Village of Park Ridge is dependent upon the adequacy of its public utilities and services. A safe and ample source of water, an adequate means of disposing of solid and liquid waste, and adequate supplies of energy are essential in maintaining the public health, economy and natural resource base of the Village.

A. Wastewater Treatment

The Village of Park Ridge does not have its own sewage treatment facility. The Village receives wastewater treatment services through a contract with the City of Stevens Point. The 99 year agreement to provide wastewater treatment services to Park Ridge was originally signed in 1956 and amended in 1994. Village residents are assessed at the same rate as City residents for sewer service, plus an additional 25% surcharge for costs associated with retirement of debt and a \$5.00 surcharge associated with the cost of metering. Regular maintenance and cleaning of sewer lines is performed by the City, however, all costs associated with maintaining sewer lines within Village limits are borne by the Village. In addition there is a 15 inch line, primarily used by the City of Stevens Point that flows through the Village.

In 2003, all 16,337 feet of 8 inch concrete sewer lines in the Village were relined at Village expense because of collapsing lines. (Map 4.1 Community Facilities)

B. Private Wells

The Village does not have a municipal water system. Residents rely on individual, on-site private wells for their water supply. Water quality is generally found to be good. Those Village residences and businesses located on Hwy 10 have access and the ability to hook up to City of Stevens Point water. Currently, five residents and twenty businesses receive City water. Cost is determined by a quarterly rate by size of meter and an additional rate per 100 cubic feet.

C. Storm Water Drainage Facilities

The Village does not have a storm sewer and curb and gutter system, however, fourteen drywells are located within the Village to aid in storm water management (Map 4.1).

Between 1996 and 1999, James Lindemann, a Master of Science student at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, researched the impacts of drywells on groundwater quality in the Village of Park Ridge. The entire thesis, titled “Evaluation of Urban Runoff Infiltration and Impact to Groundwater Quality in Park Ridge, Wisconsin” is available for review at the Village clerk’s office or the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point library. Below are excerpts from his thesis.

“From the data collected during the two year study it was discovered that groundwater is only impacted minimally by organic contaminants contained in urban runoff. Runoff samples showed contaminants such as PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), low levels of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and seasonally high chloride entering infiltrations wells. However, groundwater samples showed little to no VOC contamination, and only during one sampling event in one monitoring well did significant PAH concentrations show up. To determine the fate of contaminants entering the infiltration wells, sediment samples were taken through the bottom of the wells. It was discovered that the highly organic sediment deposit in the infiltration wells collects the PAHs from runoff and attenuated them in the upper feet of the soil, which protects groundwater from being impacted.”

Conclusions

“ - Urban runoff in the Village of Park Ridge does contain PAHs and some VOCs common in urban runoff, but they are at considerably lower levels than that found in larger urban areas.

- Chloride levels in monitoring wells and potable wells indicate that groundwater in Park Ridge is impacted by urban runoff.

- Monitoring wells located in roadside ditches compared to monitoring wells down gradient of drywells showed little differences in most cases. However, drywells did show the potential to impact groundwater more so than roadside ditches during one sampling event.

- Fine organic sediment collected in the bottom of drywells attenuates much of the organic contaminants contained in urban runoff before it reaches groundwater.

- SPMD (semipermeable polymeric membrane devices) deployed in monitoring wells showed detectable levels of PAHs during few of the sampling events. Because PAH contamination was not excessive in the Village it was difficult to determine the effectiveness of SPMD in monitoring wells. SPMDs have been proven to work effectively in surface water systems and the theory behind SPMDs indicated that this alternative sampling device is an effective sampling tool.”

Recommendations

“The dry well system in the Village of Park Ridge, Wisconsin appears to operate properly, and organic material which accumulates in the bottom of the drywells attenuated much of the organic contaminants carried by urban runoff before they reach groundwater. If the systems begin to fail, the sediment in the bottom of the drywells may have to be sampled and disposed of properly due to the elevated concentration of PAHs and possible metals, which have accumulated in the sediment over the years.

It is also a concern that the public may not be fully aware of the function the drywells serve. Educating the public and placing stencils on the grates of drywells, indicating that whatever enters has the potential to impact groundwater, will deter the public from dumping waste products into drywells.

Although this study has shown that the sediment in the bottom of drywells can accumulate contaminants common to urban runoff, it is unknown if new drywells, which lack these sediments, are a source of groundwater contamination. Future studies should address if there is a difference in groundwater quality beneath drywells with respect to the age of the drywell and the amount of sedimentation. It is also unknown if the sediments will reach saturation with respect to certain contaminants and then become a source of contamination. Addressing these questions will help in the construction of new drywells and determine the age at which the drywells must be reconditioned if drywells must be used to dispose of urban runoff.”

D. Solid Waste Disposal

The Village of Park Ridge is one of a number of Portage County communities that are part of a consortium contracting with a private waste hauler through the Portage County Solid Waste Management Board for solid waste collection and disposal. The solid waste is currently hauled to the Portage County landfill. The Portage County landfill is scheduled to close in 2006, after which the waste will be trucked to a landfill in Marathon County. Newsprint, aluminum, tin cans, glass, magazines, plastic, etc. are also collected by the private contractor and are recycled as part of the Village's recycling program. “Fall clean-up” curb side pickup is currently provided as a service to Village residents for larger household items. The Village also does Christmas tree chipping at the Village hall. Yard waste, curb side pickup is currently being contracted with City of Stevens Point on a trial basis.

E. Corporate Utilities

1. Natural Gas - Natural gas is available throughout the Village from the Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) Corporation. Wisconsin Public Service offices are located in the Village of Plover at 1101 Plover Road. Gas is provided to WPS via the ANR Pipeline Company.

Map 4.1 - Community Facilities

2. Electric Power - Electricity is provided by the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS).
3. Telephone Service - Local telephone service is provided primarily by SBC. Long distance, cellular and other specialized phone services are also available from a number of private firms.
4. Cable Television - Cable television is provided by Charter Communications, which provides analog and digital cable services. In addition, Charter Pipeline provides high-speed internet access through existing cable lines.
5. Internet Service – is available to Village residents through a variety of sources.

Section 4.2 Community Facilities Inventory

A. Village Facilities and Services

1. Municipal Center - The Park Ridge Municipal Center is located at 24 Crestwood Drive. It serves as the Village polling place, meeting room, and Village Fire Department.
2. Police Protection and Ambulance service – The Village does not have its own police department. The Portage County Sheriff’s Department provides protective services through periodic patrols and on a “call-out” basis. The Portage County Ambulance service (operated by the Stevens Point Fire Department) also provides service to Park Ridge.
3. Fire Protection – The Park Ridge Fire Department is located at 24 Crestwood Drive in Park Ridge. The department is served completely by volunteer fire fighters covering a fire district of 144 acres. Assistance is provided to and from neighboring fire departments through a countywide mutual aid agreement. As of 2003, the Park Ridge Fire Department utilized the following equipment inventory:



- Engine 672: 1994 Navistar International / E-One, 1250 GPM pump, 1000 gallon water tank.
- Hose Wagon 673: 1985 Chevy Welch / 3-D, 2400 ft LDH, 350 GPM pump, 1000 gallon water tank with dump valve.
- Squad 675: 1972 International Step Van, Personnel Carrier / air pack equipped seats, 5 bottle cascade air system, 18KW PTO generator, 8000 watt lighting system, 10,000 watt available power for equipment, refrigerator / microwave for rehab, running water, IC center / accountability board, variety of hand / power tools.



Squad 675 was refurbished and placed into service in November 2001. Tanker 673 was refitted into a tanker/hose wagon and can reach any point in the village from the closest hydrant. Through an agreement with the City of Stevens Point a water main was installed and a hydrant

attached in the center of the Village to assist in water supply. This hydrant, along with other hydrants surrounding the Village, has eliminated the need for tanker shuttles to secure water for firefighting.

4. Library - The Village of Park Ridge does not have its own public branch library. The main branch of the Portage County library is located 2 miles west of Park Ridge at 1001 Main Street, Stevens Point. University of Wisconsin Stevens Point library resources are located 1½ miles west of the Village north of Main Street; these facilities are also available to Village residents.
5. Public Parking – There is no public parking available within the Village of Park Ridge.

B. School Facilities

1. Stevens Point Area 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 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 School District consists of ten K-6 grade elementary schools, two 7-9 grade junior high schools, 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 and 40-acre Halladay School Forest are educational facilities used by students for environmental education programs throughout the school year.

The Stevens Point Area Public School District covers nearly 400 square miles 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 buses and 1 contracted bus 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.

Students from Park Ridge attend Washington Elementary and PJ Jacobs Junior High. Since 1996 every school and district building has had additions and/or remodeling except PJ Jacobs and the Bliss Educational Service Center (administration office building). In 1995, classrooms and the commons were added on the PJ Jacobs School. The Bliss Center was built in 1980 and no additions or remodeling has been done on this 13,431 square foot building.

School facilities are a major benefit to Village residents. School playgrounds and equipment provide a wide variety of recreational activities. The schools' organized athletic programs

play an important role in the community, as a major source of recreation and as a focal point of community pride and identity.

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.

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 preschool-5; and Saint Joseph early childhood, preschool and year-round childcare); St. Peter Middle School, grades 6-8; and Pacelli High School, grades 9-12. For the 2003-04 school year, 940 students were enrolled in SPACS, preschool through 12th grade.

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 3-5-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.

3. Mid-State Technical College

Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) is one of 16 publicly supported colleges in the Wisconsin Technical College System. Approximately 16,000 full- and part-time students enroll annually. MSTC offers technical training in nearly 50 careers by granting one- and two-year technical diplomas and two-year associate degrees in four areas: business, health, service technologies, and technical and industrial. In addition, MSTC also awards certificates for the successful completion of a single course or a combination of courses. The Mid-State Technical College District includes full-service campuses in Marshfield, Stevens Point, and Wisconsin Rapids; a center in Adams; and several outreach sites.

4. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Since 1894 when Stevens Point Normal School opened its doors to 300 students, the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point has grown to become a major comprehensive university, with about 8,700 students enrolled. Its academic programs offer 100 choices within 51 majors and 78 minors, plus 16 graduate programs. UWSP is home to four colleges (fine arts and communication, letters and science, natural resources, and professional studies), and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. In addition, UWSP has initiated a variety of innovative and nationally distinctive programs such as the National Wellness Institute, the Center for the Small City, the Central Wisconsin Economic Research Bureau, and the Global Environmental Management Center (GEM) for Watershed Science and Education.

The 400 acre main campus includes seven major buildings in addition to Old Main, UWSP's administrative building, the University Center and 13 residence halls housing approximately 3,000 students. North campus includes Schmeckle Reserve, a 225-acre nature area with a 24-acre lake, nature center, and trails that are part of the 30+ mile Green Circle Trail.

The Stevens Point campus is part of the University of Wisconsin System that includes 13 four-year campuses, 13 two-year centers, and the University of Wisconsin-Extension. The University of Wisconsin system represents one of the finest educational institutions in the world. Access to information and research on virtually any topic is available.

In 2003, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point placed among the top public universities in the Midwest. The publication U.S. News & World Report ranked UWSP number six in the top tier of Midwestern public master's degree-granting institutions. This was the fourth consecutive year that the university placed in the top six. U.S. News & World Report use several criteria in rating the campuses, including academic reputation, retention, faculty, students, financial resources, and alumni giving. Other UW System campuses, which placed in the top six among Midwestern comprehensives, include UW-La Crosse and UW-Eau Claire. UW-Madison ranked seventh among public doctoral universities.

C. Other Community Facilities

1. Health Care Facilities: With the Village's central location within the Urban Area of Portage County, residents have access to a wide variety of health care facilities. St Michael's Hospital, with the attached Rice Medical Center, is located approximately one mile west of Park Ridge in Stevens Point. Rice Medical Clinic Plover Family Practice is located approximately 5 miles to the south. Both Stevens Point and Plover offer a full line of medical-related services.
2. Child Care Facilities: According to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Village does not have any childcare facilities located within its boundary. The Village's location within the Urban Area provides for access to a large number of facilities in the area.
3. Cemeteries: The Village has one cemetery, owned and operated by the Jehovah's Witnesses, located in the northwestern part of the Village between Sunset Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard.

C. Parks and Recreation and Open Space

1. Park Facilities

There are no parks located within the Village of Park Ridge; however, the Village does contribute \$4.00 per Village resident annually to the City of Stevens Point for park purposes. Iverson Park, 127.57 acres, borders the Village to the east.

2. Green Circle Trail

The Green Circle Trail is an approximately 30 mile pedestrian/bicycle recreational trail that encircles the Stevens Point urban area. Existing trails located along the Wisconsin River, between Bukolt Park and the River Pines Living Center facility on Sherman Avenue, formed the foundation of the trail, which was eventually linked with additional public property and

private property easements throughout Stevens Point, the Villages of Whiting and Plover, and the Town of Hull.

The Green Circle Trail is intended to meet the growing recreational needs of area residents and provide access to open spaces, close to where these people live. The trail will provide for activities including bicycling/bicycle trails, roller blading, jogging, cross-country skiing and nature study, all of which have experienced dramatic growth in popularity, but have not been typical responsibilities of area recreation managers.

The Green Circle Trail, as completed accomplishes three goals:

- a. The construction of a multipurpose trail network, accessible to all area residents and visitors, that will provide new recreational opportunities consistent with local needs as called for by the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors and defined by the Stevens Point Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- b. Preserve and enhance the natural diversity of undeveloped land in and around Stevens Point, particularly the Plover River and Wisconsin River Corridors.
- c. Encourage appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural history of the Stevens Point urban area.

Section 4.3 Utility and Community Facilities Goals/Objectives/Policies

A. Goal

1. Provide adequate infrastructure, utilities, and community facilities and services to meet existing and future community needs.

B. Objectives

1. Lifelong learning is an opportunity in our community.
2. Provide places and activities for the youth of the community.
3. Protect water resources County-wide.
4. Design standards are used to enhance urban character.
5. Share services across County or municipal borders whenever possible.
6. Plan for the provision of infrastructure, utilities, and community facilities and services to efficiently meet community needs.
7. The Village encourages best management practices for protecting groundwater quality (such as limiting the amount of salt spread on roads).
8. The Village encourages the abandonment of non-conforming wells.

C. Policies

1. Support local school and education systems.
2. Continue to monitor water quality in the Village.
3. Continue to support the maintenance of Iverson Park as a buffer to the Plover River to maintain surface water quality.
4. The Village may wish to consider design standards.