

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 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 allowed 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 primarily 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, 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. However, modifications to this requirement may be granted by the DNR, particularly where a proposed development is upgradient from the landfill site, in terms of direction of groundwater flow. 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. A majority of the eastern half of the Town is within the Portage County Drainage District (see Map 5.4a).

Many of the District's approximately 93 miles of ditches were built in the early 1900's for the purpose of lowering the water table of on extensive marshland to accommodate agricultural production. Although the Portage County Drainage District was not chiefly created for storm water management, 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.

D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

Residents bring their waste and recycling materials to the Town's transfer and recycling center 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 Onyx Waste Services for garbage to be picked up twice a week and taken to the landfill in Wisconsin Rapids, while recycling is picked up every other week and taken to the Material Recovery Facility in Wisconsin Rapids.

In addition, the Town holds a "tire day" event a couple of times a year when residents can bring used tires to the transfer station. The Town also holds a license to burn brush.

E. Corporate Utilities (see Map 4.2)

1. Telecommunication Facilities – There are six telecommunication towers in the Town of Grant. Two are located along Cty Rd F; one along Cty Rd FF; one near Maple Street; one near Lake Road, east of Cty Rd F; and one at 100th Street and STH 54. Three of these towers have multiple antennas.
2. Power Generating Plants and Transmission Lines – There are two major transmission lines within Grant, a 138 kV line running through the southwest corner of the Town and a 115 kV line 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.
3. Electrical power - supplied through Consolidated Water Power Company, Alliant Energy, 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 the WE Energy.
5. Telephone and Internet Services – Phone services in the Town of Grant are provided by Wood County Telephone Company out of Wisconsin Rapids, Union Telephone Company out of Plainfield, WI, and SBC Telecom. Internet service is provided by Wood County Telephone and Charter Communications.

Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory and Analysis

A. Municipal Buildings

The Town Hall for Grant is located 9011 County Road WW. The Town Garage is located next to the Town Hall, and has the same address (see Map 4.1). The Town Hall contains the Clerk/Treasurer office, polling place, and public meeting space. The Town Garage contains road maintenance equipment, grader, two dump trucks, pick-up truck and two tractors. The Town employees include one full-time employee and 2-3 part-time employees as needed for removing snow in winter, summer road maintenance, and working at the Town transfer station.

Map 4.1: Community Facilities

Map 4.2: Corporate Utilities

Map 4.3: Emergency Services

B. Police, Fire, Rescue, Emergency Response

1. The Town of Grant is currently served by the Portage County Sheriff Department, 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 Grand Rapids and Plainfield Fire Departments. The Town of Grant is also part of a mutual aid agreement with all fire departments within Portage County for fire protection assistance.
3. The Town of Grant is serviced by Portage County Ambulance based in Stevens Point and Higgins Ambulance out of Wisconsin Rapids (see Map 4.3 above). Portage 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 through the Stevens Point Fire Department (with locations on Franklin Street (Station 1) and Industrial Park Road (Station 2), both in Stevens Point.

Higgins Ambulance service is located on Grand Avenue in Wisconsin Rapids. There are 20 members on staff and rescue equipment includes 3 ambulances. The company is currently ACLS certified and operating at intermediate approved by the State, but will be upgrading to paramedic approved in the near future.

First Responders also respond to medical emergencies in the Town of Grant. Currently there are nine first responders located in the Town of Grant.

C. Schools

The Town of Grant lies within the Stevens Point, 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, 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 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. 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 student enrollment for the 2003-2004 school year was approximately 7,400.

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 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 facilities are located in the Village of Plainfield, in Waushara County, approximately 8 miles from the Town of Grant. There is one K-12 building (last remodeled in December, 1996) which served a 2003-04 enrollment of approximately 850 students and 61 full time teachers. School lunch is made available for all children of the district. A staff of food-service personnel is available to serve children hot lunch on all days children are at school. The food service program is electronically managed through the purchase of a lunch card.

All students living outside the Village of Plainfield limits are offered bus transportation. The District has contracts with two local bus service providers. Approximately 650 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 6,000. Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools has ten K-6 elementary schools, two junior high schools (grades 7-9), one senior high school (grades 10-12) and one Charter School for At-Risk Students (grades 9-12). The school system has a high student achievement and a low drop out rate. Staff members are continuously recognized by state organizations and agencies for their professionalism and expertise.

The Grant Elementary School, built in 1955, is the only school in the Township and is part of the Wisconsin Rapids School District. The school is located on Cty Rd WW in the Town of Grant. They provide K-6 education, with 2 classes for each grade. There are 15 full-time teachers. School enrollment for the 2003-2004 school year was 347 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; the University of Wisconsin-Wood County/Marshfield in the City of Marshfield; and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, in Oshkosh. Technical colleges include: Mid-State Technical College, in Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids; North Central Technical College, in the City of Wausau; and Fox Valley Technical College, with locations in Appleton, Oshkosh, and Waupaca. All of these facilities are within 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 League. The Grant Elementary School has a one acre playground with a hard surface play area and playground equipment.

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.

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'S LUTHERAN 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 Riverview Hospital, located on Dewey Dr. in Wisconsin Rapids. Services range from surgery and cardiac care to rehabilitation and outpatient care.

Residents also use the Village of Plover branch of Rice Clinic, located on Plover Road and/or health care services in the City of Stevens Point, including St. Michael's Hospital and Rice Medical Center. Health care services located in the Stevens Point/Plover urban area available to Town residents include dental, chiropractic, sports medicine, and podiatry. Other regional facilities include the Marshfield Clinic locations in Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids.

G. 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 is one licensed group child care facility located at the Grant School in the Town of Grant. This before and after school program, called 'Kids Clubhouse', is sponsored by the YMCA in Port Edwards and is available to children aged 4-12. For more information regarding this program, contact the Port Edwards YMCA.

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.

H. 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 7 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 8 miles from the center of Grant. More detailed information about the Portage County Public Library resources and services, including reserving and renewing books and other materials on-line, can be obtained via the internet at: <http://library.uwsp.edu/pcl/> or by calling the library system at: 1-800-264-0766.

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

- City of Wisconsin Rapids wells being located in the Town of Grant; the Town must maintain a supply of potable water for its residents.
- Water quality and quantity should be protected for use by residents in the Town of Grant. This includes both ground and surface water resources.
- City of Wisconsin Rapids Sanitary District – Kellner area. This designation should be maintained in the event that sewer services are needed for existing and future development in the Kellner area.
- Need for a “safety center” to house fire/ambulance equipment. Financial aide in the form of grants should be investigated for this purpose.
- Ditch maintenance is necessary 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 “safety center” to house fire and ambulance equipment.
2. Continue to share services across County or municipal borders whenever possible.
3. Municipal sewer and water utilities are developed as needed, and where needed to maintain health and protect the environment, particularly groundwater.
4. The Town of Grant will consider opportunities for cooperative efforts with school districts and other organizations for providing activities within the community.

C. Policies:

1. Continue developing fire, police and ambulance services on a cooperative basis with surrounding towns and all County government.
2. Investigate the availability of grants for partial funding of a safety center.
3. The City of Wisconsin Rapids Sanitary District, which extends into the Kellner area, should be maintained for possible provision of sewer services.
4. Public utilities may be subject to conditional use approval.
5. Reliance upon South Wood County Park to provide specialized leisure time activities such as picnicing, water sports and winter sports.
6. Coordinate with the Portage County Business Council and County government offices in securing or retaining basic mercantile and health care service establishments in the Kellner Area.
7. 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, Fire/Police/Ambulance protection, Utilities- including drainage.
8. Protect water resources throughout the Town.