

CHAPTER 4 Utilities and Community Facilities Element

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 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

A. Sewer / Septic Systems

The Village of Nelsonville currently does not have a municipal sewer system. Residents in the Village utilize private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS), otherwise known as private septic systems, as allowed by the Portage County Private Sewage System Ordinance. Soils are generally adequate for individual septic systems although significant construction of such systems in close proximity to any shallow wells in the village could contaminate drinking water supplies.

Planning Commissioners feel that individual septic systems are performing adequately and municipal sewer is not desired or needed in the Village of Nelsonville.

B. Private Wells

The Village of Nelsonville currently does not have a municipal water system although the Village does own a well in the downtown which supplies water to two businesses. Residents rely on private wells for their water supply. Planning Commissioners feel that a municipal water facility is not needed in the Village.

Water quality in private wells is generally considered to be good, although nitrate levels can be high and do fluctuate seasonally. State and Federal regulations advise that nitrate levels in drinking water not exceed 10.00 parts per million (ppm) for health reasons. According to Portage County records, 39 wells have been sampled in the Village for nitrates dating back to 1984. Using the most recent sample of each of these wells; 12 of the 39 wells reported nitrate levels above 10.00 parts per million. Eight (8) of these wells have been sampled since the year 2000, 2 of which had nitrate levels above 10.00 parts per million.

C. Storm Water Management

The Village does not have a storm sewer system; however, soil conditions are generally sandy and allow for rapid infiltration of storm water into the ground. Steeper slopes in the Village direct surface water towards either the Tomorrow River or Lake Elaine. The Village does not have curb and gutter, although State Highway 161 and Cty Rd SS have culverts.

D. Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities

The Village of Nelsonville contracts with an independent garbage and recycling hauler (currently Wittenberg Disposal) to pickup garbage and recycling at each residence in the Village. Commercial properties within the Village contract for garbage and recycling removal individually. The Portage County landfill is scheduled to close in 2006, after which the waste will be trucked to a landfill in Marathon County. The disposal of hazardous waste, yard waste, newsprint, aluminum cans, waste oil, and car and truck batteries is not permitted in the landfill.

E. Telecommunication Facilities / Cable Television

A 100' high-speed internet tower is located in the Village of Nelsonville. Tomorrow River Internet serves the Village. Amherst Telephone Co. provides phone and cable services.

F. Power Generating Plants and Transmission Lines; Other Utilities

Natural Gas and electric service is available to Nelsonville residents and businesses through Alliant Energy. There is an electrical substation just south Nelsonville in the Town of Amherst.

Section 4.2 Community Facilities Inventory

A. Police, Fire, Rescue, Emergency Response

Police protection and ambulance service is provided by Portage County. 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 district that Nelsonville is located in is bounded by STH 66 to the north, the Portage County line to the east, and STH 54 to the south. 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 Village any number of times during each shift to check on businesses and residences.

Nelsonville is part of the Amherst Fire District, located at 4585 Fairgrounds Road, Amherst. The Amherst Fire District protects approximately 6,000 people living in a 90 square mile area including the Villages of Amherst, Amherst Junction, Nelsonville, and Towns of Amherst, Lanark. Nelsonville has no First Responders within the Village. The department was reorganized in 1992, combining three smaller departments. A new fire station building was constructed in 1995. As of 2003, there are 7 vehicles within a single fire station including:

- 3 engine/pumpers: 1st out - 1250 gpm pump rate with 500 gallon capacity with foam application;
2nd out – 1000 gallon per minute pump rate with 1000 gallon capacity;
3rd out/reserve – 750 gallon per minute pump rate with 750 gallon capacity
- 2 tankers having a 2,000 and 3,000 gallon capacity
- 1 rescue vehicle
- 1 utility/grass fire vehicle

Water for these vehicles is usually pumped from the water hydrants located in the Village of Amherst. The fire district also has an agreement with other fire districts in Portage County to utilize their water sources if needed. Two irrigation wells are also available within the Town of Lanark as an additional resource for fighting fires in that area. The Village of Nelsonville has 1 hydrant which provides water from the Tomorrow River for fire protection. A second hydrant is available just outside the Village limits in the Town of Amherst, and the Tomorrow River itself is available as a water resource anywhere along its course.

B. Schools

Tomorrow River School District

The Tomorrow River School District, approximately 100 square miles in size, includes the Villages of Amherst, Amherst Junction and Nelsonville along with part of the Towns of Amherst, Bunea Vista, Lanark, Stockton, and New Hope (see Map 4.2). The entire student population, Pre-Kindergarten through 12, is educated on one site, within a 160,693 sq. ft. interconnected structure in Amherst, Wisconsin. The Amherst School complex consists of 86 teachers, 43 support staff and 5 administrators servicing 900 students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12. The school is governed by a 5 member school board elected to three year terms on a rotating basis.

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, Wisconsin Rapids, as well as a center in Adams, and several outreach sites.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP)

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, the UWSP has initiated a variety of innovative, regionally, or nationally recognized programs, including the National Wellness Institute, the Center for the Small City, the Central Wisconsin Economic Research Bureau, Becoming an Outdoors Woman, Environmental Education, the American Suzuki Talent Education Center, and the UWSP International Programs.

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 Schmeekle Reserve, a 225-acre nature area with a 24-acre lake, nature center and trails that are part of the Portage County 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 2004, 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 seven in the top tier of Midwestern public master's degree-granting institutions. This was the fifth consecutive year that the university placed in the top six. U.S. News and World Report uses

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 ten among Midwestern comprehensives include UW-La Crosse and UW-Eau Claire. UW-Madison ranked seventh among public doctoral universities.

C. Libraries

There is no library located within the Village of Nelsonville. The closest libraries are located in the Village of Amherst (Lettie Jensen public library and Tomorrow River school system libraries). Also available to Village residents are the main branch of the Portage County Library system and University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point libraries in Stevens Point, along with the Iola library.

D. Community Centers

While there are no community/senior centers in the Village of Nelsonville, the Village contributes to the Village of Amherst's Jensen Center. The Portage County Department on Aging provides transit service to the Jensen Center in Amherst and the Stevens Point Lincoln Center for transit dependent adults in Nelsonville.

E. Other Governmental Facilities

The Village Hall, located at 9500 County Road SS, is used for public meetings and elections. The maintenance building, better known as the old fire station, is used for storage in the back half and the front half is rented out. The Village Post Office is located at 9496 1st Street.

F. Cemeteries

The Nelsonville Cemetery borders the Village of Nelsonville to the north on the corner of Cty Rd Q and Cty Rd ZZ. The Portage County Cemetery is located on Lake Road.

G. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities located within the Village of Nelsonville. St. Michaels Hospital and Rice Medical Center are located 12 miles west in the City of Stevens Point. Amherst Family Medical Center, located 3 miles east at 272 Christy Street, Amherst provides complete primary care services for acute and chronic conditions. Patients range from infants to older adults, including newborns, pediatric, adult and geriatric care, and women's health.

The Waupaca Family Medicine clinic, located 15 miles east in the city of Waupaca, is also used by the residents of Nelsonville. Family Medicine includes ten family practitioners, two general surgeons, four nurse practitioners, a physician assistant, a certified nurse midwife and 40 staff members. The Waupaca facility was founded in 1975 as Waupaca Family Medicine Associates and serves more than 10,000 patients in the Waupaca area.

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.

Map 4.1: Community Facilities

Map 4.2: School Districts

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services there are no licensed day care facilities located within the Village of Nelsonville. Facilities are located nearby in the Village of Amherst and Amherst Junction. 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

Section 4.3 Parks and Recreation Inventory

A. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

The following recreational and open space opportunities are available in the Village of Nelsonville (Map 4.1).

1. Nelsonville Park – the recreational facilities for this 2 acre area consist of a swing set, tennis court, and a sledding hill.
2. Behind the Rising Star Mill is an open space area with picnic tables located along the Tomorrow River.
3. There is a swimming beach located on the southwest side of Lake Elaine for public access.

B. Other Recreational Facilities

1. Tomorrow River Trail

The Tomorrow River State Trail currently is a 14 mile trail developed along an abandoned railroad grade, starting in the Village of Plover and ending at the Waupaca County line. The trail consists of a surface of crushed limestone and is open to bicyclists, hikers, joggers, and horseback riders in the spring, summer, and fall. During the winter months the trail is open to snowmobilers, skiers, and dog sledders. The horse trail is a separate 9 mile trail along the limestone trail from Plover to Amherst Junction. Waupaca County will be developing their 14 mile section in the next few years.

2. Ice Age Hiking and Bicycle Trails

The Ice Age Bicycle Trail runs north and south along the glaciated areas of eastern portage County for a total of 48 miles. The trail was designed specifically for bicyclists, as it runs along portions of major roadways. Its current path takes it through the Villages of Amherst Junction and Amherst and then north along Cty Rd T east of Nelsonville. With the anticipated completion of the new US Highway 10 in 2006, the current route of the trail may be altered.

The proposed Ice Age Hiking Trail has segments that have been completed along the Portage County and Waupaca County line. They are located to the east of Sunset Lake County Park and through the Emmons Creek Fisheries Area/Hartman Creek State Park. Please contact the Portage County Park and Recreation Department for more information.

3. Lake Meyers Boat Landing: Public access, located on the southern end of the lake.
4. Tomorrow River Trout Fishery: the river is a Class I trout stream, and draws anglers from near and far to fish both in and around Nelsonville.

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

- A. Well and septic systems are believed to be in good condition and operating satisfactorily.
- B. There is no desire for municipal sewer and water.
- C. No issues related to storm water management.

Section 4.5 Conclusions

- A. Residents rely on private wells for their water supply. Water is generally thought to be good, although nitrate levels can be high and do fluctuate seasonally.
- B. The Village of Nelsonville has a variety of recreational opportunities within the area.
- C. Many of the community facilities and services are located nearby in the Village of Amherst.
- D. There is no desire for municipal sewer and water.

Section 4.6 Utilities / Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies

A. Goal

- 1. Maintain adequate infrastructure, and services to meet existing and future community needs.

B. Objectives

- 1. Places and activities for the youth of the community are provided and will continue to be addressed.
- 2. Create and protect green space and water resources within the Village.
- 3. Provide criteria and direction for protecting and developing land.
- 4. Plan for the provision of infrastructure, and community facilities and services to efficiently meet community needs.
- 5. Provide adequate and efficient Police and Fire Protection services to the community.

C. Policies

- 1. Continue to support the maintenance of the Rising Star Mill as a place for activities for the community.
- 2. The Village of Nelsonville should continue to participate in the Amherst Area Fire Department and Amherst Area EMT's to efficiently serve the community.
- 3. Maintain the level of service currently provided by the Portage County Sheriff's Department for police protection.