

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 well-being 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 8 inch concrete sewer lines, 16,337 feet, in the Village were relined at Village expense because of collapsing lines. (Map 4.1 Village sewer lines)

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 residents and businesses that reside on Hwy 10 have access and the ability to hook up to City water; currently five residents and twenty businesses have 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 gutter system, however, several “dry wells” are located within the Village to aid in storm water management (Map 4.1).

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 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.
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.
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.



Map 4.1: Community Facilities

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 1 ½ miles west of the Village north of Main Street, these facilities are also available to the Village.

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 and Stockton; as well as the Towns of Sharon, Plover Grant, Buena Vista, Milladore and Sheri.

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 7400.

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 is an educational facility used by students for environmental education programs throughout the school year.

The Stevens Point Area Public School District covers nearly 400 square miles to 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.

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. 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. 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 school provides before and after school supervised care, as well as after-school homework help. Interscholastic athletic programs are offered for grades 5-8 in basketball and volleyball. A new addition was recently added to the school building, providing new air conditioned classrooms. The early childhood program offers classes for 3-4 and 5-year-old children not yet enrolled in kindergarten. A teacher and assistant lead the program. The

kindergarten is full day with the emphasis on instilling social, academic and Christian values in children preparing for first grade. The school's seventh and eighth grade classes are intended to offer an alternative to the larger Junior High programs in the Stevens Point Area Public School District. Northland Lutheran High School, located in Mosinee, serves the central Wisconsin region.

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 & 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) Center 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 Portage County 26-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 and 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 child care facilities located within its boundary. Although the Villages location within the Urban Area allows for a number of facilities in the area.
3. Cemeteries: The Village has one cemetery located on the north western part of the Village between Sunset Ave and Wilshire Blvd. Owned and operated by the Jehovah's Witnesses.

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 24 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. Life long 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 put 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 to maintain surface water quality.
4. The Village may wish to consider design standards.