

CHAPTER 4: Utilities & Community Facilities

4.1 Background

This fourth chapter follows the same three-section format as previous chapters, starting with a background, followed by an inventory & trends, and finally, the goals, objectives, and policies section.

Utilities and community facilities, provided by either public or private entities, are critical for community development. Utilities include things such as electrical service, natural gas, telephone, and cable communications. Community facilities include local governmental buildings, libraries, educational institutions, and maintenance and storage facilities, as well as services like police and fire protection, medical, municipal water, and wastewater.

A. Previous Studies

Several plans were reviewed as they relate to utilities and community facilities. These plans provide a starting point for the planning process.

1. City of Wisconsin Rapids Sewer Service Area Plan, 1985

The purpose of this plan is to develop a twenty-year sanitary sewer service boundary for the Wisconsin Rapids urban area. All communities over 10,000 in population are required to have a plan in place.

The urban sanitary sewer service area boundary identifies the geographic land area within which sanitary sewer service could be made available by the year 2005 through a cost-effective, environmentally acceptable manner. In addition to delineating an urban sewer service boundary, the Sewer Service Area Plan provides a framework for future planning at each individual municipal level.

A Sewer Service Area Plan serves the following overall purposes:

- 1) It establishes the geographic boundaries for possible sanitary sewer service;
- 2) It provides a technical basis to anticipate future needs for wastewater collection and centralized treatment facilities for the palling area;

- 3) It establishes an institutional structure for reviewing boundary and plan amendments, and for approving sewer extensions and expansions of sewage treatment plants;
- 4) It serves as a guide for community officials as they make land development decisions within their respective communities; and
- 5) It identifies areas to be protected from development by designating them as environmentally sensitive areas. Such areas will control and direct the growth of communities in order to protect environmental, social, and economic concerns.

2. Sewer Facility Plan, 2007

The existing wastewater treatment facility was designed for a flow rate of 5.16 million gallons per day and organic loading of 8,927 pounds of BOD₅. Ocean Spray expanded their operation by adding a second juice production line in 2005. The BOD₅ loading at the city wastewater treatment plant exceeded 11,000 pounds. Treatment capacity and sludge handling capacity were stressed by the increased loading. A facilities planning study was completed in 2007 to address the increased production at Ocean Spray and the addition of Urban Cranberry to the sewer service area.

The wastewater treatment plant is currently being upgraded with completion scheduled for the end of 2010. The capacity of the wastewater treatment plant will be 5.27 million gallons per day with a BOD₅ loading of 17,826 pounds. The modified wastewater treatment plant flow capacity is near the existing plant flow capacity but the ability to treat organic loads and sludge will increase by nearly 100%. This project will provide the City with capacity for the existing food producing industries and to allow future expansion if additional treatment capacity is needed.

3. Wood County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, 2005

This plan's primary purpose is to identify how to prevent injury and property damage from natural hazards. Understanding how the natural environment works is a first step in mitigating natural disasters. The Pre-Disaster plan shows how the natural environment and the built environment are in conflict, and how to mitigate that conflict (e.g. development in a floodplain is at risk of damage caused by flooding). While the probability of dam breaks is low, there is a high damage potential, and so are listed in the Mitigation Plan, along with floodplain damage possibilities in Wisconsin Rapids.

4.2 Inventory & Trends

Utilities and community facilities provided by the City of Wisconsin Rapids or by other public or private entities, are inventoried and evaluated as to their present condition and adequacy to meet the current and future needs of the City. Many of the major facilities are identified on either the Utilities or Community Facilities Map.

A. Water

1. Drinking Water

The City's water system consists of wells, storage, treatment, and distribution facilities.

a. Water Supply

The water is supplied by five ground water wells. On average, water from these wells pump at about 3,500 gallons per minute (gpm).

b. Storage

The city has three water towers that provide about 2.8 million gallons of storage. They are located at 14th and Alton, 10th and Franklin, and County Highway W and 24th Street.

c. Treatment & Distribution System

Chemicals are added into the distribution system at each well. Hydrated lime is added for pH control, Hydrofluosilicic acid is Fluoride, and polymer is added to sequester iron and control concentrations of manganese, lead, and copper.

The City's water distribution system serves most of the City. The distribution system is made-up of about 828,765 feet of pipe. The Wisconsin Rapids Water Utility policy is to upgrade water mains in conjunction with street construction projects.

2. Waste Water

The City of Wisconsin Rapids Wastewater Treatment Plant is located near the airport and is currently being upgraded. The capacity of the wastewater treatment plant will be 5.27 million gallons per day with a BODs loading of 17,826 pounds. The modified wastewater treatment plant flow capacity is near the existing plant flow capacity, but the ability

to treat organic loads and sludge will increase by nearly 100 percent. The total cost for the facility upgrade is about \$20 million dollars.

Much of the city is currently served by a sanitary sewer collection system comprised of older clay pipes and newer PVC pipes.

3. Storm Water

The majority of Wisconsin Rapids is currently served by the city's concrete pipe storm sewer system. The city is under Phase II regulation of EPA.

B. Public Works

1. Street Department

The City's street department garage is located at 1411 Chase Street. The department is responsible for the maintenance of the local road system, storm sewers, and waste and recycling removal.

The local road network is discussed in the transportation chapter.

2. Solid Waste and Recycling Facility

The City of Wisconsin Rapids Garage contracts a weekly curbside pick-up of solid waste, recycling, and yard-waste for both business and residents. Unlimited amounts of recyclables are accepted from all households and businesses. Private waste haulers are also available for larger waste disposal needs.

C. Public Safety

Three agencies provide various levels of police protection in and around the City. The Wisconsin Rapids Police Department, located in City Hall, provides full-time service to the city. The police department's jurisdiction is the City of Wisconsin Rapids, and it participates in a mutual aid agreement with the surrounding communities.

The Wood County Sheriff's Department, located in Wisconsin Rapids, provides service to all the towns, villages, and cities in Wood County for law enforcement. Wisconsin Rapids, along with the rest of the county, is served by enhanced 911 emergency response system that is operated by the County.

The Wisconsin State Patrol has statewide jurisdiction on all public roads, but operates mainly on State and U.S. highways, as a matter of general

practice to enforce traffic and criminal laws, and to help motorists in need. They also help local law enforcement by reconstructing traffic accidents; inspecting trucks, school buses and ambulances; and helping local agencies with natural disasters and civil disturbances.

The Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department fire department provides fire protection throughout the city. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are provided to the City of Wisconsin Rapids and the Village of Biron (by contract) at level of EMT-Paramedic. The City maintains two fire stations. Fire Station 1 is located at 1511 12th Street South, and Fire Station 2 is located at 1641 West Grand Ave.

Currently, the city has a rating of four (4) for its fire protection service, as established by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). ISO's fire protection insurance is rated on a scale of one to ten, with one representing the best protection and 10 representing an essentially unprotected community. Volunteer fire departments exist in the surrounding communities. The Department has mutual aid agreements with most adjoining towns and the WDNR.

D. Medical Facilities

Riverview Hospital, located at 410 Dewey Street, is a 99-bed facility that provides full medical services. Marshfield Clinic is located in the Woodlands Business Center. In addition, St. Joseph's Hospital is located less than one hour away in Marshfield.

E. Nursing Homes

There are two facilities located in the city. One is the Wisconsin Rapids Care Center. It is located at 1350 River Run Drive and has 88 beds. The other facility is Strawberry Lane Medical and Rehabilitation Center. It is located at 130 Strawberry Lane and has 130 beds.

F. Day Care Facilities

Wisconsin Rapids has approximately 35 regulated childcare providers: 1 YMCA camp, 16 family childcare centers, and 18 group childcare centers.

G. Educational Facilities

There are several educational facilities located in the city.

Public Schools

The City and surrounding areas are served by the Wisconsin Rapids Area School District. Total enrollment in 2007 was about 5,300. Eleven schools are located throughout the area. These are:

- Lincoln High School, 1801 16th Street South
- River Cities High School, 2390 48th Street South
- East Junior High School, 311 Lincoln Street
- West Junior High, 1921 27th Street South
- Grant Elementary School, 8511 County Road WW
- Grove Elementary School, 471 Grove Avenue
- Howe Elementary School, 221 8th Street North
- Mead Elementary School, 241 17th Avenue South
- Pitsch Elementary School, 501 17th Street South
- Washington Elementary School, 2911 Washington Street
- Woodside Elementary School, 611 Two Mile Avenue

Parochial Schools

Several parochial schools serve the area as well, including:

- Assumption High School, 445 Chestnut Street
- Assumption Middle School, 440 Mead Street
- Community Christian Academy, 550 Center Street
- Immanuel Lutheran School, 111 11th Street North
- Our Lady Queen of Heaven, 750 10th Avenue South
- St. Lawrence Early Childhood Center, 551 10th Avenue North
- St. Paul's Lutheran School, 311 14th Avenue South
- St. Vincent De Paul School, 831 12th Street South

Higher Education

Mid-State Technical College is located in the City of Wisconsin Rapids. MSTC provides a variety of one and two year educational programs. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is about 15 miles to the northeast. UWSP provides a variety of four year and master's programs.

H. Parks and Trails

The Wisconsin Rapids area park and recreation system consists of several parks and a zoo. The parks system includes a full range of developed facilities including community parks, neighborhood parks, mini-parks, and special use areas located throughout the City. The City is currently in the process of updating an outdoor recreation plan.

The city's recreational trail system is named the Ahdawgam Trails. It is a combination of dedicated, paved, off-street trails, and city streets with designated bike lanes. There are six named trails: Red, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple, and Orange that transect the city.

I. Energy & Telecommunications

The electrical service in the City of Wisconsin Rapids is provided by the Waterworks & Lighting Commission. Natural gas service in the City of Wisconsin Rapids is provided by WE Energies.

Telephone service in the city is provided by Wood County Telephone, now called Solarus. Cable and Internet service is provided by Solarus as well, although there are several new providers available as technology changes. Various cellular telecommunication service providers have coverage in the city and outlying area. Roaming agreements between antenna owners, and cellular and PCS providers, make creating a comprehensive list of providers very difficult.

J. Dams & Levees

There are two dams and one levee located in Wisconsin Rapids on the Wisconsin River. No dam breaks have been identified within Wood County. Therefore, there is no historic frequency upon which to base a future probability of a dam break, other than to say that the probability of a dam failure is very low. The Wood County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, 2005, provides greater detail about all natural hazards and dam failures.

Flood events in Wood County have caused substantial property and infrastructure damage in the past and have the potential to cause future damage since a significant number of structures still exist in the floodplain.

K. Other Government Facilities

City Hall – The Wisconsin Rapids City Hall is located at 444 West Grand Avenue.

Library - The McMillan Memorial Library is located at 490 East Grand Avenue.

County Courthouse - The Wood County Courthouse is located at 400 Market Street.

Post Office – The U.S. Post Office is located at 320 E. Grand Avenue.

4.3 Goal, Objectives, & Policies

Goal:

Promote an effective and efficient supply of utilities, facilities, and services that meet the needs and expectations of residents, and contribute to the sustainability of the community.

Objectives:

1. Coordinate community facilities and utility systems development and use with land use, transportation, and natural resource planning.
2. Direct intensive, sustainable land development to areas where a full array of utilities, community facilities, and public services are available.
3. Provide the appropriate level of community services and administrative facilities and practices, while striving for a low tax levy.
4. Protect public and environmental health through proper waste disposal.
5. Provide quality, accessible parks and recreational facilities, areas, and services for all residents, including persons with disabilities and the elderly.
6. Protect the lives, property, and rights of all residents through law enforcement and fire services.
7. Support high quality educational opportunities for all residents.

Policies:

1. Encourage compact and well-planned urban development areas so that community facilities and services (e.g., school bus routes, snow removal, police patrol) can be provided in a cost-effective, energy efficient manner.
2. Promote and continue joint service agreements as a means to consolidate and coordinate services between and among the county, other cities, villages, and towns, to achieve better services and/or cost savings, and an overall sustainable community.

3. Update long-range sewer service area plan to accommodate projected growth and development.
4. Assure a high-quality and abundant supply of water.
5. Update the City's Outdoor Recreation Plan.
6. Help coordinate and support local emergency services and facilities (e.g., police, fire, rescue/EMS) through adequate funding, training, facilities, and equipment.
7. Study long-term space needs for City administrative and departmental functions (e.g. EMS, human services, jail), and address facility needs based on further discussions.
8. Support strategies for enhancing telecommunication capabilities.
9. Support recycling by residents to reduce solid waste disposal.
10. Encourage the provision of new and improved services and facilities geared to the elderly.
11. Provide for programs and services that protect the future overall health and viability of the community, with attention to preservation of future resource needs.
12. Provide services in the most cost-effective and energy efficient methods possible.