Element 4: Utilities and Community Facilities

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, onsite 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 appropriate 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.



15 Churches Element 4: Civic Organizations and Other Clubs 16 **Utilities and Community** Parks and Recreation Facilities 17 **Facilities** County Parks 17 Libraries 17 3 Cemeteries 18 Introduction **Humane Societies** 18 **County and Local Government** 3 **Community Foundations** 18 Municipalities of Wood County 3 19 Land Use Regulations 3 **Public Safety EMT** and First Responder Service **Building Inspection** 4 19 County Committees, Commissions, and Hazardous Substance Response 19 **Protective Services** 19 Services 4 Shared Dispatch 20 County Government Offices/Facilities 4 Fire Protection Service 22 5 Education Forest Fire Protection 22 **Technical Colleges and Universities** 5 **Utilities and Community Facilities Trends** K-12 Education 5 22 **Utilities** 6 **Goals and Objectives** 22 Storm Water Drainage Facilities 6 **High Capacity Wells** 7 Natural Gas Service 8 **Communication Towers** 8 Wind Energy Facilities 9 **Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment** 9 Systems (POWTS) Sanitary Sewer Service 10 Sewer Service Area Planning 10 Electric Providers/Distributors 10 11 Electric Generation Solid Waste Management and Recycling 11 **Electric Transmission** 12 Storm Water Management 12 Telephone Service 13 Internet Service 13 **Community Facilities and Services** 13 **Senior Centers** 13 **Health Care Facilities** 14 **Nursing Homes** 14

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The Aging and Disability Resource Center

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Childcare Facilities

Post Offices



Element 4: Utilities and Community Facilities

Introduction

Utilities and community facilities are provided to Wood County residents by a variety of public and private entities. Throughout the County the level of services residents receive and have available varies, as well as what they pay in user fees and taxes for these services. The focus of this element will be on what utilities and community facilities are available throughout Wood County.

County and Local Government

Municipalities of Wood County

Wood County is comprised of 4 cities, 8 villages and 22 towns. All 34 municipalities regularly conduct elections for leadership positions with the frequency of elections and elected positions identified in state statutes. A current listing of elected officials can be found at the Wood County web page www.co.wood.wi.us. The local leaders of municipalities typically meet at least once a month.

All municipalities budget for local maintenance and improvements of roads, services such as garbage pickup, equipment maintenance and purchases, salaries for staff and elected officials, and costs associated with local parks and buildings maintenance. Outside of budgeting, the communities in Wood County have relied on intergovernmental cooperation, volunteer manpower, donations, and a variety of grant

funding mechanisms to fund local improvements, provide local services, and improve the quality of life of residents. As budgeting has become progressively more challenging in recent years, many municipalities realize that in order to maintain the level of services they provide, they will have to continue to find creative ways of funding improvements and paying for services, outside of tax levy other traditional revenue and funding mechanisms such as shared revenue.

In Wood County all townships are part of the Wood County Towns Association. The leaders of townships meet at monthly Towns Association meetings to talk about issues affecting towns.

Land Use Regulations

Future land use is many times determined based on allowable land uses permitted by local zoning ordinances. Wood County has a countywide zoning ordinance, but its level of detail and impact is not as extensive as many other county zoning ordinances in the State.

Wood County Ordinance #700 was drafted in 1934 and was written specifically to delineate a forestry and recreation district, and spell out permitted uses for this district. Due to the narrow scope of this ordinance, 11 of the 22 townships, and all of the cities and villages have comprehensive and more complete zoning ordinances that they administer on a local basis. Map 4-1 shows which of the communities have local zoning ordinances. Local ordinances are administered by the municipalities. Townships that do not have zoning ordinances, may have restrictions that affect use of property such as building setbacks. All of the townships that have zoning ordinances are required to have a compressive plan that is consistent with their local zoning ordinance. Because Wood County has a county zoning ordinance, all ordinance amendments made by townships are subject to approval of the Wood County Board of Supervisors.

Given the patchwork of local zoning ordinances and comprehensive plans, along with a number of County, State, and Federal Plans, the need to coordinate is becoming progressively more important. The intergovernmental cooperation element that is a part of this plan and a requirement of the comprehensive planning legislation is intended to promote coordination both horizontally and vertically among entities that engage in comprehensive planning.

Building Inspection

The Wisconsin Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) is the statewide building code for one- and twofamily dwellings built since June 1, 1980. Since January 1, 2005 there has been statewide enforcement of the UDC with each municipality in the County selecting an individual or contracting company to provide inspection services. Municipalities that do not select an inspector are assigned the state-contracted The purpose of UDC inspection agency. inspection is to ensure that minimum standards for fire safety, structural strength, energy conservation, erosion control, heating, plumbing, and electrical systems are adhered to. Construction to the minimum standards promotes a safer and healthier environment for occupants of new dwellings. More details about what is and is not covered under UDC inspections can be found by contacting the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

County Committees, Commissions, and Services

Following the April 2008 election, the Wood County Board of Supervisors was reduced from 38 to 19 supervisors. The reduction was a result of a referendum that the voters passed in November of 2006. To facilitate a smooth transition following the April 2008 election, a reorganization committee developed a new committee structure that combined the 25 county committees into 6 new committees. The 6 new committees are: Health and Human Services: Public Safety: Conservation, Education and Economic Development; Judicial

and Legislative; and Highway Infrastructure and Recreation.

County Government Offices/Facilities

Wood County Courthouse

The city of Wisconsin Rapids is the county seat of Wood County. Most government offices are located primarily at the Courthouse at 400 Market Street in Wisconsin Rapids. Some departments including Veteran's Services, Social Services, the Courts and Health Department offer limited hours in the Marshfield City Hall Plaza.

Edgewater Haven

Edgewater Haven is located at 1351 Wisconsin River Drive in the village of Port Edwards. Edgewater is a skilled nursing facility dedicated to the long-term health care and rehabilitative needs of Wood County and surrounding communities.

Health Department

The Health Department is located in the Wood County Courthouse Annex building at 184 2nd Street North in Wisconsin Rapids. At this location are the department administrative offices and the county clinic where residents can get immunizations.

Unified Services

The Wood County Unified Services building is located at 2611 12th St. South in Wisconsin Rapids. Services for individuals and families living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and alcohol and other drug abuse are available here.

Norwood Health Center

Norwood Health Center is located at 1600 North Chestnut Street in Marshfield. Norwood Health Center provides residents of Wood County and surrounding counties with quality treatment services which include a residential disabilities program, acute psychiatric care and a long-term care unit for chronically mentally ill.

Highway Department

The Highway Department Administrative Office is located at 555 17th Avenue North in Wisconsin Rapids. Equipment maintenance and storage also take place here.

In addition to the aforementioned Wood County buildings, there are additional parks, highway, maintenance, and office facilities that serve to meet the needs of various county functions and customer/resident needs.

Education

Technical Colleges and Universities

Mid-State Technical College

Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) is one of the Wisconsin Technical College System's 16 colleges. Annually over 11,000 individuals enroll as either full- or part-time students. offers technical training in more than 45 career opportunities through associate technical diplomas, and certificates. cooperation with Lakeland College, MSTC offers a variety of in-class or on-line courses for students to take to earn a bachelor's degree. 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. resident population served by MSTC is approximately 165,000 in Central Wisconsin.

<u>University</u> of <u>Wisconsin-Marshfield/Wood</u> <u>County</u>

The University of Wisconsin-Marshfield/Wood County is 1 of 13 campuses of the UW Colleges. The 114-acre campus is located just west of the downtown in the City of Marshfield and offers two-year Associate of Arts and Science degrees and partners with other colleges on limited 4-

year programs. In fall 2005, 656 students were enrolled with most coming from Wood, Marathon, Clark, and Taylor counties.

UW-Marshfield/Wood County also offers a variety of non-credit programming that promotes intellectual stimulation, personal and professional growth, and cultural enrichment through a variety of non-credit seminars, workshops and short courses.

K-12 Education

Educational Statistics

Statistical information regarding enrollment in public schools, non-public schools, and home-based educational programs is available on an annual basis from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Enrollment is established by a one-time count on the third Friday in September and includes grades 1 through 12.

Public Schools

In Wood County there are 6 public school districts that have their educational facilities located in the County, and 7 districts total. The Village of Milladore and surrounding area is included in the Stevens Point School District Portage County. The school districts that have facilities located in the County draw enrollment from the rural areas of adjacent counties, with the exception of the Port Edwards School

| Table 4-1 Public School Enrollment, 2007-2008 | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| District | Enrollment | | | | | |
| Marshfield | 4,053 | | | | | |
| Port Edwards | 474 | | | | | |
| Wisconsin Rapids | 5,712 | | | | | |
| Pittsville | 686 | | | | | |
| Auburndale | 425 | | | | | |
| Nekoosa | 1,395 | | | | | |
| Total | 13,230 | | | | | |
| Source: Wisconsin Instruction | Department of Public | | | | | |

| Table 4-2 Public School Enrollment, 2000 - 2008 | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Year | Enrollment | | | | |
| 2000-2001 | 13,840 | | | | |
| 2001-2002 | 13,806 | | | | |
| 2002-2003 | 13,584 | | | | |
| 2003-2004 | 13,402 | | | | |
| 2004-2005 | 13,292 | | | | |
| 2005-2006 | 13,341 | | | | |
| 2006-2007 | 13,382 | | | | |
| 2007-2008 | 13,230 | | | | |
| Source: Wisconsin Instruction | Department of Public | | | | |

District that is located entirely in Wood County. The school districts are listed in table 4-1 with their 2007-2008 enrollment information. Table 4-2 shows that enrollment has been declining since 2000-2001. Dropping enrollment is due to a decrease in the number of school-aged children in the county, and an estimated decrease in household size.

Non-public Schools

Many families choose to send their children to non-public schools for a variety of reasons, and as a result, they continue to serve an important role in the educational system of the County. These schools provide educational alternatives for families, however, there typically are enrollment and tuition costs that accompany attending these educational institutions. In 2007 -2008, 1685 children were enrolled in non-public schools located in Wood County.

Home-Based Schooling

Enrollment for home-based schooling is also recorded by the Department of Public Instruction. The 2007-2008 enrollment total was 337. Home enrollment has been experiencing a small decline since 2000-2001, most likely due to a decreasing number of school aged children in the county. Table 4-3 shows enrollment since 2000-2001.

Utilities

Storm Water Drainage Facilities

Storm water management is shared among Wood County and the local municipalities. Management of storm water in rural areas consists primarily of ditches along the road network. Wood County maintains ditches along the county roads, while local municipalities maintain the ditches along town roads.

The Wood County Land Subdivision Ordinance requires consideration of drainage issues where parcels surveved traversed are watercourse. drainage way or stream. Subdividers are required to provide adequate drainage ways or easements to handle storm water runoff. In some cases the subdivider may need to construct drainage facilities, which may include curb and gutters, catch basins and inlets, storm sewers, road ditches and open All storm water drainage facilities channels. shall be constructed in accordance with plans and standard specifications approved by the County Conservation, Education, and Economic Development Committee. All developments that take place are required to meet appropriate construction site and post-construction performance standards included in Wisconsin State Code Chapter NR 151, as well as any other applicable state and federal requirements.

| Table 4-3 Home-Based School Enrollment | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Year | Enrollment | | | | |
| 2000-2001 | 362 | | | | |
| 2001-2002 | 372 | | | | |
| 2002-2003 | 365 | | | | |
| 2003-2004 | 346 | | | | |
| 2004-2005 | 368 | | | | |
| 2005-2006 | 357 | | | | |
| 2006-2007 | 338 | | | | |
| 2007-2008 | 337 | | | | |
| Source: Wisconsin Instruction | Department of Public | | | | |

The cities of Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield are required by the Environmental Protection Agency's Storm Water Phase II Rule to establish a storm water management program that is intended to improve the nation's waterways by reducing urban storm water pollution. Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources (NR) Chapter 216 rule administers the Phase II storm water permitting program. The cities of Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield storm water permits must include a program that is designed to 1) reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable 2) protect water quality; and 3) satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. Both Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield have adopted Storm Water Management Plans.

High Capacity Wells

A high capacity well is any well on a high capacity property. A high capacity property is one property that has or will have one or more wells with a combined capacity of 70 gallons per minute according to section NR 812.07(53). Well capacity is determined by the rated maximum capacity of all wells on the property, or the rate the well flows at if it is a flowing well. Total capacity of all wells on the property is used to determine whether or not the wells are high capacity wells. Property owners of parcels that contain high capacity wells are required by section NR 820.13 to report estimated pumping information to the Wisconsin DNR so that they can monitor the groundwater resource. There is no annual fee for operating a high capacity well, only a fee for constructing a well.

In March of 2008 there were 175 high capacity wells located in Wood County that were registered with the DNR. Of the 175 wells, 41 were municipal wells meeting the needs of 8 municipalities. The high number of municipal wells is due to some municipalities having multiple high capacity well sites.

Maintaining high water quality standards is a primary concern of municipal water utilities.

Preventative measures such as establishing well head protection plans and/or ordinances can ensure long term water quality by pollution prevention measures within the public water supply well head areas. In some cases advanced groundwater flow modelina techniques are used to delineate source water areas for municipal wells. A well head protection plan uses public involvement to identify the wellhead protection area, inventory potential groundwater contamination sources, and manage the well head protection area. All new municipal wells are required to have a well head protection plan. A well head protection ordinance is used to implement the plan by controlling land uses in the well head protection area. Protection areas vary in size depending on a variety of factors including topography. soils, well depth and capacity, and groundwater flow.

Detailed information on DNR approved wells is found on the Wisconsin DNR website. Information such as well construction, aquifer pump capacity and maximum pumpage is just some of the information that can be found by querying this database. Table 4-4 lists the public water utilities in the County.

| Table 4-4 Public Water Supplies – Wood County | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Water Utility | Municipality | | | | |
| Biron Water Utility | Village of Biron | | | | |
| Marshfield Utilities | City of Marshfield | | | | |
| Milladore Waterworks | Village of | | | | |
| | Milladore | | | | |
| Nekoosa Waterworks | City of Nekoosa | | | | |
| Pittsville Waterworks | City of Pittsville | | | | |
| Port Edwards Waterworks | Village of Port | | | | |
| | Edwards | | | | |
| Vesper Waterworks | Village of Vesper | | | | |
| Wisconsin Rapids Water | City of Wisconsin | | | | |
| Works & Lighting | Rapids | | | | |
| Commission | | | | | |
| Source: Wisconsin Dep | artment of Natural | | | | |
| Resources | | | | | |

Natural Gas Service

Natural Gas service is provided to Wood County residents by WE Energies. WE Energies is the trade mark name of Wisconsin Electric Power Company, the principal utility subsidiaries of Not all residents of Wood County Wisconsin. are able to be served by natural gas because they may be located in an area that does not have natural gas utilities. The towns in Wood County that are not served by any natural gas utilitv are Carv. Hiles. Remination. Cranmoor. All the aforementioned towns have a relatively low population density and are located in the southwest portion of Wood County.

| Table 4-5 House Heating Fuel - Wood County | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| Fuel Type | Housing Units | Percent | | | | |
| Occupied housing units | 31,367 | 100 | | | | |
| Utility gas | 17,950 | 59.6 | | | | |
| Bottled, tank, or LP gas | 3,628 | 12.0 | | | | |
| Electricity | 2,699 | 9.0 | | | | |
| Fuel oil, kerosene, etc. | 4,336 | 14.4 | | | | |
| Coal or coke | 8 | 0.0 | | | | |
| Wood | 1,314 | 4.4 | | | | |
| Solar energy | 0 | 0.0 | | | | |
| Other fuel | 137 | 0.5 | | | | |
| No fuel used | 63 | 0.2 | | | | |
| Source: 2005-2007 Ameri US Census | can Comm | unity Survey | | | | |

The 2000 US Census indicates that 59.6 percent or 17,950 homes use natural gas to heat their homes in the county, while 12 percent use bottled tank or LP gas, 9 percent use electricity, and 14.4 percent use fuel oil or kerosene. The remaining 13.8 percent of homes use a variety of fuels types such as coal, wood, and electricity to heat their homes. Table 4-5 shows the detailed breakdown of heating fuel usage.

Communication Towers

recent years cell phone technology advancements have caused many Wood County residents to progressively rely more on cell phones than land-line phones. New digital cell phone technology depends on more towers than does the older analog cell phones. demand for better cell phone coverage and competition by cell phone service providers has driven an increase in the number of cell towers and the number of antennas on each tower. Generally, there is better cell phone coverage in the county in urbanized areas and areas with higher population densities. The quality of coverage is also dependant on the service provider that a customer has.

Wood County does not have a cell tower ordinance; however some municipalities have adopted cell tower ordinances. The local ordinances have a permit process defined and regulate things like location, setbacks, and tower Many of the ordinances encourage collocation of multiple cell service providers on one tower, rather than construction of new towers. Municipalities cannot completely ban cell towers in their communities per the Federal Communications Commission Telecommunications Act of 1996. In many cases cell provider antennas are located on existing structures such as tall buildings and water towers. It is also common for cellular service providers to identify municipal or publicly owned property to locate antennas.

Although there has been concern about the negative health impacts of cell towers, there is no proof that radio frequency radiation (RF) exposure causes health problems. Also, cell towers and antennas cannot be denied construction or location for health reasons. Rural towns and villages in Wood County most often implement local ordinances for safety and setback reasons pertaining to the tower structure, and the visual impacts the structure may have on the scenic views or rural character of the area. In Wood County there are 40 cellular antenna sites, with multiple antennas

occupying some of the sites. The County maintains accurate, up-to-date information on cellular antennae locations in order to automatically locate the origin of cellular calls when individuals call the County dispatch center for emergency services. Cell phone service is available through 4 providers in Wood County.

Wind Energy Facilities

As the availability of oil and petroleum based products continues to decrease, and the price of oil continues to increase, and people look for clean and renewable fuel sources, the idea of wind energy facilities becomes more appealing. Although wind energy facilities are not prevalent fixtures of the Wood County landscape, there is a good chance that we will see more of them in the future. Wind energy facilities, also known as "windmills" have the potential of producing renewable energy with little or no emissions as a Although there is no County by product. ordinance in place at this time, anticipating the construction of wind energy facilities in the future has caused a few municipalities to consider adopting ordinances. The local wind energy facility ordinances establish a process for permitting new facilities, and are written with the primary purpose of protecting the health and public safety of the residents, without decreasing the efficiency of a small wind energy system. In these ordinances it is common to allow windmills in certain zoning districts by a conditional use process, establish setbacks, fencing, access, and other safety requirements, and determine noise thresholds. Many municipalities make an effort to preserve their rural character and scenic views, but windmills cannot be denied a permit based on their visual impact on the landscape.

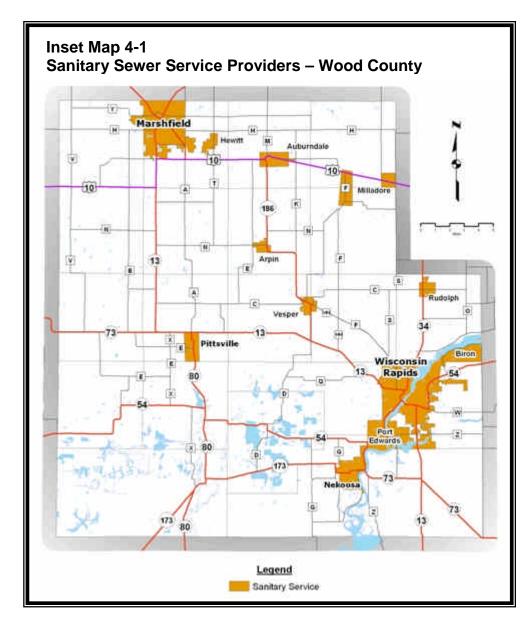
In the future there will likely be interest in building wind energy facilities by member-owned cooperatives, private and public utilities, and residents in the County.

Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS)

| Table 4-7 Private Onsite Waste Treatment Systems | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| System Type | Systems Installed | | | | |
| Pretreatment | 45 | | | | |
| Alternative & Mound Systems | 1908 | | | | |
| Conventional | 5368 | | | | |
| Holding Tanks | 2258 | | | | |
| Unknown System Type | 2,296 | | | | |
| Total 11,875 | | | | | |
| Source: Wood County Planning 2009 | & Zoning, June | | | | |

Areas that are not served by municipal sanitary sewer systems rely on Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS). Although many people commonly refer to a POWTS as a septic system, there are a variety of systems like mound systems, holding tanks, and privies that handle wastewater in the rural areas of the County. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce (DOC) and Wisconsin Counties are jointly responsible for the regulation and monitoring of POWTS. In July of 2000 the DOC completed major revisions to the state plumbing code (Comm 83) with the intent of allowing the use of more diverse technology in the design of POWTS. Ordinance #702, is the Wood County Private Sewage System Ordinance that regulates the use, location, installation, operation, management, inspections and repair of POWTS. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote and protect the public health, and preserve groundwater quality and natural resources. Table 4-7 shows the number and types of systems in the County.

The Wood County Planning & Zoning Office has staff that administers a permitting process for all new systems that are installed, and has implemented a maintenance program that ensures all private systems are properly maintained, and failing systems are replaced if necessary.



Sewer Service Area Planning

Sewer Service Area Planning is a process designed to anticipate а communities future wastewater treatment Plans identify areas that are currently served as well as adjacent areas that are suitable for future development, and as a result, may require future sewer service. The 20-year plan also identifies areas that are not well-suited for future development such as environmentally sensitive areas. In Wood County the cities of Marshfield Rapids Wisconsin are required to have plans that extend beyond their municipal boundaries into adjacent communities. The Wood County Planning Office all sewer reviews service extensions, and is responsible coordination and the approval process for sewer service area plan and map amendments.

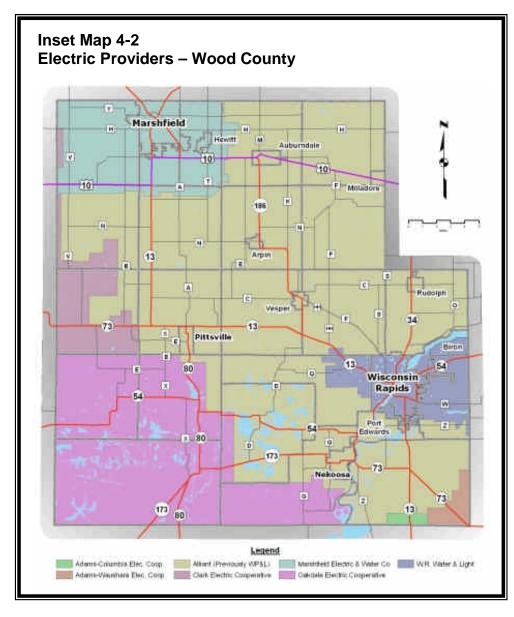
Sanitary Sewer Service

Wood County contains 12 municipal sanitary sewer service providers. Inset map 4-1 indicates the location of each sanitary sewer provider as well as the area that they serve. Based on 2000 US Census population of 75,555 Wood County residents, approximately 46,224 rely on public sanitary sewer service. The remaining 29,331 rely on Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) to handle their wastewater.

Electric Providers/Distributors

In Wood County electric service is provided by 7 different electric providers. Table 4-7 shows that Alliant Energy provides the electric power to 479 square miles of Wood County. Alliant Energy is a regulated, investor-owned public utility that provides regulated electric and natural gas service to approximately 1 million electric and 420,000 natural gas customers in the states of lowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Electric Cooperatives provide electric service to 210 square miles of Wood County. Table 4-7



shows the 4 electric cooperative that serve the County as well as the land area that each one serves. Residents that are served by cooperatives are member-owners of the cooperative that is a nonprofit business. Member-owners have a voice in determining the leadership of the cooperative, as well as how it will operate and which services it will provide.

The cities of Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids own and operate municipal electric power facilities. In both cases they provide power to some areas adjacent to the municipality. The Marshfield Electric and Water Utility serves electric customers in approximately 79 square miles while the Wisconsin Rapids Water Works and Lighting Commission serves 43 square miles of Wood County. In 2007 the Wisconsin Rapids Water Works and Lighting Commission acquired the Consolidated Water Power Company. Prior to this acquisition the Consolidated Water Power Company provided electric power for residents in the village of Biron area. Inset map 4-2 shows the approximate area that each of the electric providers covers.

Electric Generation

Most of the electricity distributed in Wood County is brought in by American Transmission Company from generation facilities located outside of the County. The electricity onlv generated locally is by 6 hydroelectric dams on the Wisconsin River that that are owned by Consolidated Water Power Company. In recent years there have been

increasing number of options for residents to generate their own electricity including windmills and other renewable energy sources.

Solid Waste Management and Recycling

There are 4 solid waste landfills licensed in Wood County (table 4-8). There are a number of solid waste and recycling providers including larger companies like Veolia Environmental Services and Waste Management. Many municipalities in the county provide garbage and recycling services to residents by utilizing their

| Table 4-7 Electric Providers – Wood County | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| Provider | Coverage Area (miles) | | | |
| Clark Electric Coop. | 33 | | | |
| Adams-Columbia | 3 | | | |
| Adams-Waushara Electric Coop | 7 | | | |
| Oakdale Electric Cooperative | 167 | | | |
| Wisconsin Rapids Water Works & Lighting | 43 | | | |
| Marshfield Electric & Water Company | 79 | | | |
| Alliant Energy | 479 | | | |
| Source: Wood County GIS | | | | |

own garbage/recycling trucks and staff, or contracting with a private company for garbage pickup. In addition, some municipalities provide limited pickup of yard waste and brush, either by seasonal or scheduled pickup. Residents also have options to recycle everything from printer cartridges to rechargeable batteries at various drop-off sites and local businesses.

Common ways that residents historically disposed of waste include open burning, dumping, or burying it. Although these practices may be acceptable on a limited basis in limited

| Table 4-8 Wood County Solid | Waste Land | ills | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Facility Name | Location Address | DNR Facility ID | | | |
| DOMTAR AW CORP ASH BARK SITE | Nekoosa | 772046770 | | | |
| DOMTAR AW CORP Wastewater | Saratoga | 772046550 | | | |
| Stora Enso North America – Water Quality CTI | Wisconsin Rapids | 772039950 | | | |
| Stora Enso North America – Wisconsin Rapids F&E LF | Wisconsin Rapids | 772040610 | | | |
| Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural | | | | | |

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quantities for some items such as brush piles or leaves, many times petroleum-based products or chemicals are disposed of in this fashion, with the potential of causing air, groundwater, or soil To encourage proper disposal of pollution. chemicals the Wood County Health Department cooperation with Viola Environmental Services offers a Clean Sweep Program two times a year for residents. Examples of acceptable materials that residents can drop off include: automotive products, lawn, garden, and farm pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, leadcreosote, thinners/solvents, paints, turpentine, varnish, and wood preservatives. As some items such as appliances become more costly to dispose of, some communities coordinate times when items can be dropped off for free or a reduced charge at a designated pickup site.

Electric Transmission

The electric transmission system moves large amounts of electric power on a regional basis. from the power source to the customer. American Transmission Company (ATC) owns, operates and maintains the electric transmission system that covers Wood County. In ATC's 2008 10-Year Transmission System Assessment the only planned improvement prior to 2018 is rebuilding the Arpin-Rocky Run 345-kV line that travels between the city of Stevens Point and the Arpin substation (map 4-2). Other transmission system limitations that directly impact portions of the County are identified in The map shows that the city of Map 4-3. Marshfield impacted bν overloaded transmission facilities, and the southeastern portion of the County is subject to low voltages. Low voltages and overloaded facilities will necessitate ATC to implement a combination of reinforcements in the future.

Storm Water Management

Runoff from municipal areas contains a mixture of pollutants from parking lots, streets, rooftops, lawns, and other areas. Surface runoff flows into the lakes, rivers, and streams that we use

for recreation, and permeates into the soil to recharge the groundwater that is the major source of drinking water and water we use daily in households. Municipal runoff contains heavy metals, pesticides, sediment, nutrients, bacteria, and oxygen-demanding organic waste. The most effective municipal storm sewer systems that efficiently convey water to avoid flooding, also transport polluted runoff without the benefit of wastewater treatment or filtration by soil or vegetation.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) include systems owned by cities, villages, towns, and counties as well as state, federal and other governments systems. The cities of Marshfield Wisconsin Rapids and are considered Phase II communities that are required to establish storm water management plans to reduce urban storm water pollution. In Wisconsin the DNR through Chapter NR 216 administer the Phase II storm water permitting program. In order to receive a Department of Natural Resources permit, a storm water management plan must include programs to 1) reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable; 2) protect water quality; and 3) satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Act.

Ditches, culverts, and local topography are the primary management tools for the majority of rural areas of Wood County. Although some measures are taken to control storm water with ditching, culverts, retention, and dispersion, management issues are becoming more complex as more development results in an increase in impervious surfaces. Adding complexity to the topic of storm water management is factoring in areas that are susceptible to flooding.

Telephone Service

In recent years the options for telephone service have increased due to changing technology. Prior to cell phones, traditional land-line phone service could be found in most homes in the county. Advancements in cell phone technology and improved coverage area has caused many residents to discontinue land-line phone service and opt to use cellular phone service or Voice Over Internet Protocol(VoIP). Land line service for many is more reliable than the new technology choices available, and preferred over options that in many cases are still not complete in coverage and/or fall short in overall quality.

Voice Over Internet Protocal (VoIP) uses broadband technology to transmit phone calls. With VoIP service, consumers can make calls using their computer, a special telephone or even a regular telephone along with a broadband connection. The connection can be through a cable TV company, over cable facilities, or through a VoIP service provider using telephone facilities Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL).

Since the enactment of 1993 Wis. Act 496 and the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Commission's role with the telecommunications industry has drastically changed from regulation to ensuring a satisfactory variety, quality, and price of telecommunications.

Internet Service

Internet service is available to County residents through a variety of providers utilizing various technologies.

Community Facilities and Services

Senior Centers

Lowell Center

The Lowell Center, Wisconsin Rapids is located at 220 3rd Avenue South. The Lowell Center was established in 1982 to provide programs for seniors of Wisconsin Rapids and outlying areas. IN 2003 the center was relocated to the Centralia Center along with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin, and Park Place Adult Day Care Services. The Center is a state accredited senior center

offering a variety of programs for adult aged 50 and better. Programs cover social and recreational, educational, health and wellness, inter-generational, and volunteer opportunities.

Marshfield Senior Center

The Marshfield Senior Center is located at 111 South Maple Street. The Center welcomes anyone 50 years and older and features a lounge area, card games, exercise room, computer room, and pool tables. A wide variety of activities and programs are held throughout the year.

Health Care Facilities

There are 2 hospital located in Wood County. Riverview Hospital is located in Wisconsin Rapids and has a capacity of 79 beds for inpatient care and provides a wide range of outpatient services. Riverview Hospital recently completed a 117,000 square-foot expansion that will includes 57 private inpatient rooms. St. Joseph's Hospital is located in the city of Marshfield and is a 500+ bed tertiary care teaching facility that prides itself in being the only major rural referral medical center in Wisconsin.

In addition to the aforementioned hospitals, there are many clinics that serve the health and wellness needs of residents. The most notable clinic is the Marshfield Clinic located in the City of Marshfield, and the Riverview Family Clinic in Wisconsin Rapids.

The current health care facilities appear to be meeting the medical needs of residents. The availability of hospitals and clinics in the cities of Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids, and clinics in some of the smaller communities in and adjacent to Wood County provides residents with health care options in close proximity to where they live.

| Table 4-9 Wood County Licensed Nursing Homes | | | | | |
|---|-----|--|--|--|--|
| Provider Number of Beds | | | | | |
| Bethel Center | 111 | | | | |
| Golden Living Center-Three Oaks | 110 | | | | |
| Marshfield Care Center, LLC | 152 | | | | |
| Norwood Health Center - Pathways | 20 | | | | |
| Norwood Health Center Central | 16 | | | | |
| Edgewater Haven Nursing Home | 123 | | | | |
| Strawberry Lane Medical and Rehabilitation Center | 130 | | | | |
| Wisconsin Rapids Care Center 114 | | | | | |
| Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2009 | | | | | |

Nursing Homes

As the Issues and Opportunities Element of this plan indicates, the median age of the County is increasing, and in general terms the residents are becoming older. This demographic shift will likely require more focus on providing care and services for the elderly in the future in order to continue to meet demand. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services provides a listing of resources including nursing homes. Beyond providing services for elderly, some of these facilities provide mental health services and services for people with disabilities. Table 4-9 lists the licensed nursing homes in Wood County.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin

The Aging Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin (ADRC-CW) has offices in Marshfield and Wausau and serves adults with disabilities through the provision of information and assistance, long term care counseling and program eligibility determination. ADRC-CW is a one-stop shop for consumers interested in the continuum of long term care services. The Resource Center continues to develop programming that reflects the future of older

adults and adults with disabilities and the multitude of options they have to live their lives with dignity, respect and purpose. The Resource Center also provides a Nutrition Program, which includes congregate dining, restaurant vouchers and home delivered meals throughout Central Wisconsin. ADRC-CW is home to an Adult Day Care Center, which provides a supervised setting for caregivers to drop their loved ones off and enjoy some respite or go to work.

Childcare Facilities

The Child Care Resource and Referral Center (CCR&R) of Central Wisconsin in Wisconsin Rapids links families to child care in communities in Wood, Adams and Clark Counties. The CCR&R is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In addition to linking parents to child care, they offer support services such as technical assistance, training and newsletters. The CCR&R works to develop community awareness, advocate for child care issues, and build an adequate child care supply.

State licensing of child care facilities is handled by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. There are 2 categories of state licensed child care based on the number of children in care. The first category is Licensed Family Child Care Centers that provide care for up to 8 children. This care is typically in the provider's home, but is not required to be located in a residence. The second category is Group Child Care Centers that provide care for 9 or more children. These centers are typically located somewhere other than a residence. For a complete list of licensed child care facilities. contact the Regional Division of Children and Family Services located at 2811 8th Street, Suite 70, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, or by calling (715) 422-5091.

Post Offices

Most if not all residents utilize the services of the United States Postal Service on a regular basis. Although modern technology such as high-

speed internet, email, and automatic bill paying services provide other options, many residents still rely on the services that the more than 37,000 postal retail outlets and the USPS.com web site provide. Table 4-10 lists the 12 post offices located in Wood County.

Churches

There are over 75 churches in Wood County. In many of the small communities churches are the cornerstone of the community with history dating back to the days when the first settlers called Wood County their home. In addition to their primary purpose as serving as places of worship and spiritual growth, the churches in many cases serve other purposes and help meet community needs. Many churches provide elementary school education and daycare facilities. Some churches in the County help out families that are struggling financially by providing economic support, food, and clothing. Some of the churches have facilities that are designed for gathering of people and in many cases are used to meet on community issues and as gathering places during times of natural

| Table 4-10 | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|
| United States Post Offices - Wood County | | | | | |
| Post Office | Location | | | | |
| Arpin Post Office | 8095 Church Rd | | | | |
| Auburndale Post Office | 10548 George Ave | | | | |
| | 1608 State Highway | | | | |
| Babcock Post Office | 80 | | | | |
| Blenker Post Office | 3888 US Highway 10 | | | | |
| Marshfield Post Office | 202 S Chestnut Ave | | | | |
| Milladore Post Office | 144 Main St | | | | |
| Nekoosa Post Office | 1001 Market St | | | | |
| Pittsville Post Office | 8250 Main St | | | | |
| Port Edwards Post | | | | | |
| Office | 160 Market Ave | | | | |
| Rudolph Post Office | 1570 Main St | | | | |
| Vesper Post Office | 6565 Cameron Ave | | | | |
| Wisconsin Rapids Post | | | | | |
| Office | 8095 Church Rd | | | | |
| Source: Wood County Planning Office | | | | | |

Table 4-11
Wood County Park and Recreation Resources

| <u>K</u> | <u>ley</u> |
|----------|-----------------|
| ✓ | = Available |
| ** | = Not Available |

| Amenity | Dexter Park | Nepco Park | North Wood County Park | Powers Bluff | South Wood County Park | Richfield 360 | Wood County ATV Area | County Forest |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Camping | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Electricity | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Showers | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Toilets | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | * |
| Dump Station | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Fire Wood | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Ice | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Wilderness Camping | * | * | * | * | * | ✓ | * | * |
| Wells | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | * | ✓ | * |
| Fireplace/Grill | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | * | ✓ | * |
| Playground Equipment | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | * | ✓ | * |
| Picnicking | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | * | ✓ | * |
| Swimming | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Boat Landing Ramp | ✓ | ✓ | * | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Boat Wash Down Station | ✓ | * | * | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Fishing | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | * | ✓ |
| Fish Cleaning Station | ✓ | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Canoeing | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Water Skiing | * | ✓ | * | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Enclosed Shelter | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | * | ✓ | * |
| Open Shelter | * | ✓ | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Handicap Hunting Blinds | * | * | * | * | * | * | ✓ | * |
| Nature/Hiking Trail | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | * | ✓ |
| Downhill Skiing | * | * | * | ✓ | * | * | * | * |
| Tubing (snow) | * | * | * | ✓ | * | * | * | * |
| X-Country Skiing | * | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | * |
| Snowmobiling | ✓ | * | * | * | ✓ | * | * | * |
| Frisbee Golf | * | * | ✓ | * | ✓ | * | * | * |

disaster such as flooding, tornadoes, or fire.

Civic Organizations and Other Clubs

There are many civic organizations, clubs, and groups that are active in Wood County. Lions and Lioness Clubs, Elks Clubs, 4-H, Rotary International, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts are a

few of the groups that are very active and visible in the community. Due to the large number of organizations and clubs that meet it is difficult to accurately create a comprehensive inventory. Many of the organizations and groups have healthy memberships of local residents that are progressive minded and work on efforts that make local communities and the county stronger, healthier, and overall better places to live. With recent challenging economic conditions for government at all levels, civic organizations need to be involved whenever possible to implement programs that serve the day-to-day needs of the residents as well as improve the quality of life in Wood County. Civic organizations serve as a vehicle to rally the community around projects and initiatives, as well as target the efforts of volunteers and fund raising. In addition the organizations provide opportunities for individuals to network with likeminded people to make positive contributions to the community.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

There are an abundance of outdoor activities and public land in Wood County for residents and visitors to enjoy. The combination of state-, county-, and municipal owned properties provides a diversity of facilities and amenities in close proximity to County residents.

To provide parks and recreation facilities that meet ever changing interests and trends, the County updates the County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan about once every 5 years. By soliciting public input in the planning process, and referencing local, regional and statewide recreation trends, efforts can be refocused to best meet the needs of residents and visitors that use the parks. In addition to the plan being used as a guide for the future, having an adopted plan keeps the County, as well as any local projects identified in the plan, eligible for state grant funding opportunities.

One useful resource in local park and recreation planning is the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP is

updated every 5 years and provides statistical information that shows which recreation activities are gaining in popularity, which ones are decreasing in demand, and where there are park facility deficiencies and surpluses. The current plan covers years 2005-2010.

Many municipalities in the county plan for parks and recreation. The cities of Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids and the Village of Hewitt have detailed park and recreation plans that are updated on a regular basis. Some municipalities in the county have detailed plans that focus on a single park or recreation facility such as a trail. With the requirement of comprehensive planning for municipalities that have local zoning ordinances, many communities will likely incorporate park and recreation planning into their comprehensive plans.

County Parks

The Wood County Park System consists of 7 parks. The parks not only serve area residents, but are a tourism draw for the area. The County offers a wide variety of facilities and activities including Frisbee golf, fishing, picnic areas, enclosed shelters, and camping. Table 4-11 shows some of the amenities that are available in each of the parks and map 4-4 shows park locations. Detailed information about the parks can be found in the Wood County Park Recreation and Open Spaces Plan. The plan was last updated in 2001, and is scheduled to be updated in 2010.

Wood County contains approximately 37,554 acres of forest land, and is the 19th largest County Forest in the state. The land is open to the public to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities.

Libraries

Wood County has two large public libraries in Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield as well as four smaller libraries in Arpin, Nekoosa, Pittsville, and Vesper. The libraries offer a large selection of books and other print resources, recorded music and movies, audio books, computers with

| · | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Table 4-12 | | | | | | | |
| Libraries in Wood County | | | | | | | |
| Library | Total Service Populati on | Square Footage of Library | Computers - Public Use Internet Connected | Library Visits | Total Staff | Total Operating Expenditure | Total Material Circulated |
| Marshfield Public Library | 31,166 | 36,112 | 35 | 227,142 | 21 | \$1,243,256 | 407,833 |
| Lester Public Library - Arpin | 1,232 | 1,500 | 2 | 4,700 | 1 | \$30,491 | 8,664 |
| Lester Public Library - Vesper | 1,035 | 2,000 | 2 | 3,795 | .90 | \$24,787 | 7,538 |
| Charles & JoAnn Lester Library - Nekoosa | 5,038 | 8300 | 8 | 41,922 | 2.78 | \$151,658 | 49,573 |
| Pittsville Community Library | 3,236 | 2,400 | 5 | 6,500 | 1.03 | \$59,599 | 31,706 |
| McMillan Public Library – Wisconsin Rapids | 37,760 | 45,787 | 35 | 250,000 | 16 | \$1,339,476 | 411,305 |
| Source: Wisconsin Public Library Statistics, 2006 | | | | | | | |

internet access, online databases, information assistance, public meeting rooms, and a variety of cultural and educational programs. libraries are no longer restricted to the circulation materials they have on hand, but can circulate materials from other public libraries Interlibrary through Loan Consistent funding is important for libraries to offer new circulation materials, employ professional staff, and cover daily operating cost. Public libraries are funded by municipal, county, and state appropriations and other income such as donations and grant funding.

Cemeteries

There are approximately 70 cemeteries in Wood County. The McMillan Public Library in Wisconsin Rapids and the Marshfield Public Library have indexes that were created for historical, educational and genealogy uses. Both libraries have made indexes available on

their websites with the McMillian Library index being the more comprehensive of the two. The McMillan Library index includes the name of the cemetery, township location, Global Positioning System location, descriptive location, and a location map.

Humane Societies

There are two humane societies in Wood County that are both non-profit, tax deductible organizations dedicated to providing shelter, care and adoption of stray or abandoned cats, dogs, and small animals. The South Wood County Humane Society is located in the city of Wisconsin Rapids, and the North Wood County Humane Society is located in the city of Marshfield.

Community Foundations

Marshfield Area Community Foundation

The Marshfield Area Community Foundation was established in 1993 to improve the quality of life in Marshfield and surrounding communities. Besides having many designated funds that benefit specific charitable causes identified by the donors, there is a Community Grants Fund that provides support to local nonprofit organizations and community groups involved in education, recreation, arts and culture, conservation, community development, and other charitable benevolent purposes.

Community Foundation of South Wood County

The Community Foundation of South Wood County was established in 1994. There are nearly 400 individual charitable funds in the foundation that serve the common purpose of making a lasting difference in the quality of life in the South Wood County Area. The permanent funds support a variety of local needs through grants to nonprofit organizations involved in youth development, health and human services, education, arts and culture, historic preservation, community development and recreation.

Public Safety

EMT and First Responder Service

Wood County is served by 5 ambulance and 19 first responder service providers. First responders are many times the first to the scene of an accident or medical emergency, and responsible for stabilizing the individual until Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) arrive on the scene and can provide more advanced medical attention and transportation to a medical facility.

Hazardous Substance Response

Wood County Emergency Management, as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and Wisconsin implementing laws, prepares Off-Site Response Plans for facilities within the County that stock and/or use Extremely Hazardous Substances

(EHS) in quantities equal to or above the minimum thresholds. EHS are defined in the EPA Title III List of Lists, available from the EPA web site.

These plans, updated periodically, develop potential release scenarios for each EHS at facility considering site-specific each information, and attempt to outline general potential release consequences in order to provide guidance to emergency responders. Potential vulnerability zones are modeled using the CAMEO (Computer Aided Modeling for Emergency Operations) and/or ALOHA (Areal Locations of Hazardous Atmospheres) computer programs, and potential vulnerable facilities within these zones as well as potential sheltering facilities identified. Vulnerable facilities within these zones are notified of this, and assistance offered in the development of procedures for In-Place Sheltering and other protective activities. Vulnerable facilities include schools, hospitals, medical facilities, nursing homes, community based residential facilities major employers, industrial plants, child care and a number of other categories of facilities.

Wood County has 45 EPCRA planning facilities, and approximately 540 identified vulnerable facilities, as well as 43 shelter facilities that have agreements with the American Red Cross.

Protective Services

County

Police service in Wood County is provided by 6 municipal departments (table 4-13) and the Wood County Sheriff's Department. The Wood County Sheriff's Department, located in the Wood County Courthouse at 400 Market Street, Wisconsin Rapids, provides law enforcement services to the County. There are 42 full-time officers. There are 21 part-time reserved deputies, 4 patrol sergeants, 3 lieutenants, 3 secretaries and the Sheriff that are employed by the department. The municipalities that do not have police staff depend on the County for the majority of law enforcement services, while

municipalities that have police staff, work cooperatively County Sheriff's with the Department. The Department has 20 patrol units. 4 administration vehicles, 8 investigative vehicles, 3 rescue vehicles and 3 prisoner transport vehicles. The department also has 3 boats along with 2 jet skis, 4 snowmobiles, and 2 ATVs. The jail facility was built in 1987 with a maximum capacity of 135 persons. Often the jail is at capacity and prisoners are transported to the Waupaca County Jail. The department has identified the need for a larger storage building for vehicles. Ideally all equipment and

vehicles should be stored in the secured rescue garage facility. Not all vehicles will fit in this storage facility so some are parked in the sheriff's parking lot located at the entrance of the department.

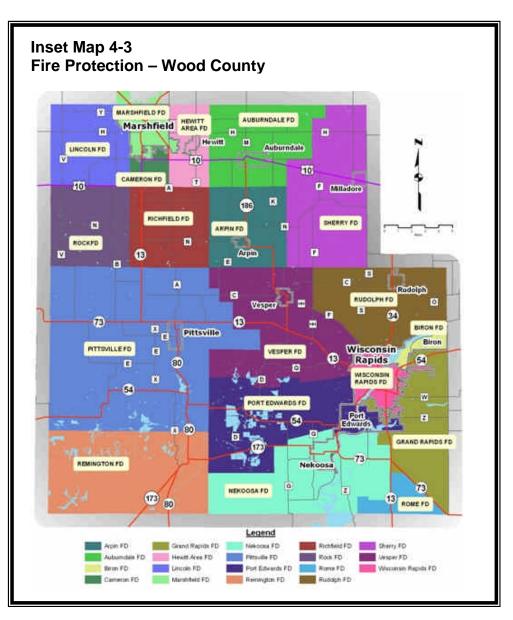
State Patrol

The Wisconsin State Patrol promotes highway safety and provides a variety of services includina size/weiaht inspection, motor carrier safety assistance. ambulance inspection, school bus inspection, crash reconstruction, and mobile data communication. Other services include aid to local law enforcement agencies through civil disturbance countermeasures. natural disaster recovery support. communications services and chemical testing services drivers suspected being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Shared Dispatch

In 2007 the dispatch centers of the city of Marshfield, the

city of Wisconsin, and Wood County joined together to provide shared dispatch services for county residents. When any caller dials 911 in the County, the call is routed to the shared dispatch center, where dispatchers send police, fire, or ambulance service. The shared dispatch is located in the Wood County Courthouse in Wisconsin Rapids, and is designated as the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the County. Startup costs for the shared dispatch were covered by Wood County, and the cities of Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids. In addition, some startup costs were funded by a Public



Service Commission grant awarded to Wood County to implement wireless enhanced 911 service, capable of mapping the location of incoming cell phone calls in addition to the location of land-line phone calls. Annual cost to operate shared dispatch is covered by the cities

of Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids, and the County.

Figure 4-1

Wood County Utility and Community Facility Trends

- 1. Property owners will continue to exercise their option to petition for annexation in order to take advantage of municipal utilities and services such as sanitary sewer and municipal water supply.
- 2. Maintenance of roads will continue to prove challenging given the increase cost of maintenance and construction, and stagnant funding.
- 3. Water quality and availability of water will continue to be an issue for residents and businesses of Wood County.
- 4. As demographics in the County shift towards an older median age, an overall older population, and smaller households, services may need to be realigned to meet changing needs.
- 5. Communities will become more involved with storm water management, and it will also be a significant factor in the location and design of new development.
- 6. Adequate and reliable electrical supply will continue to be an issue for Central Wisconsin businesses and residents as usage continues to outpace the construction of new electrical generation facilities.
- 7. Communities will look to intergovernmental cooperation to provide a high level of services at a reduced cost to residents.
- 8. Residents will have a wider variety of telecommunication options for telephone and cable television.
- 9. There will be more options available to generate energy from renewable resources such as solar and wind energy.
- 10. Declining school enrollment for K-12 will continue to pose challenges in regards to budgeting and staffing, and quality education.
- 11. Government at all levels, businesses, and residents will become more aware of green initiatives and sustainability.
- 12. Utility providers, and government at all levels will continue to implement new technology to increase efficiency and quality of services while reducing overall costs.
- 13. Available utilities and community facilities will be a significant factor in where residents and businesses choose to locate and where future development occurs.

Fire Protection Service

Fire protection service in Wood County is provided by 19 fire departments. Inset Map 4-3 shows the coverage area of each department.

Forest Fire Protection

Approximately 296 square miles of South Wood County is in what the DNR considers an Intensive Fire Protection Area. Intensive Protection Areas are the most heavily forested and highest risk fire areas in the state. These areas typically have more resources for fire suppression and ranger stations staffed with DNR personnel that are trained to detect and fight forest fires. Burning permits are required in Intensive Protection Areas, and are subject to restrictions that take into consideration fire The mission of the danger conditions. Wisconsin DNR Bureau of Forest Protection is to protect human life, property, and natural Resources from wildfire. The mission is accomplished through fire suppression, efforts, extensive training, a variety of fire prevention and safety programs, partnerships with a variety of fire related agencies, and sound scientific principles.

Utilities and Community Facilities Trends

The future holds many challenges in regards to providing quality utilities and community facilities. The most obvious challenge is the ability to fund maintenance and any necessary improvements, but at the same time keep the cost to residents affordable. Through proper planning it is possible to prepare to meet the changing needs of the population. Figure 4-1 shows some trends to be aware of when planning to provide utilities and community facilities for the next 20 years.

Goals and Objectives

A. Goal: Utilize capacity of existing services and facilities before new services and facilities are implemented.

- 1. Consider the cost of providing public services (police, fire, road maintenance, school bus service, etc.) when permitting new development.
- 2. Know the capacity and limits of all services and facilities that municipalities provide so that they can plan for future growth that they can accommodate.

B. Goal: Promote the redevelopment and infill development of lands with existing infrastructure and public services.

- Direct future development to areas that offer basic public services such as sewer and water.
- Develop boundary agreements between municipalities so that future annexations take place in a coordinated fashion, and future land use changes can be anticipated.
- Consider options for brownfield development, and seek out grant funding to assist with site cleanup.

C. Goal: Protect the quality and quantity of the County's groundwater resources.

- 1. Continue to administer County and municipal ordinances that contribute surface and groundwater quality.
- Recognize the role that not-for-profit groups can have on groundwater quality and be supportive of their efforts.
- 3. Encourage clean sweep programs so that residents have low-cost options to properly dispose of chemicals.
- 4. Provide educational programs that teach residents of all ages about sustainable water resources.

- 5. Encourage residents who have private wells to regularly test water quality.
- 6. Encourage wellhead protection planning around high-capacity municipal wells
- 7. Educate residents on the need to test water from private wells on a regular basis.
- Consider promoting and coordinating efforts to improve storm water management practices to maintain groundwater and surface water quality, and minimize damage related to flooding.

D. Goal: Protect private property values and uses while assuring adequate utility expansion in the future to meet growing needs.

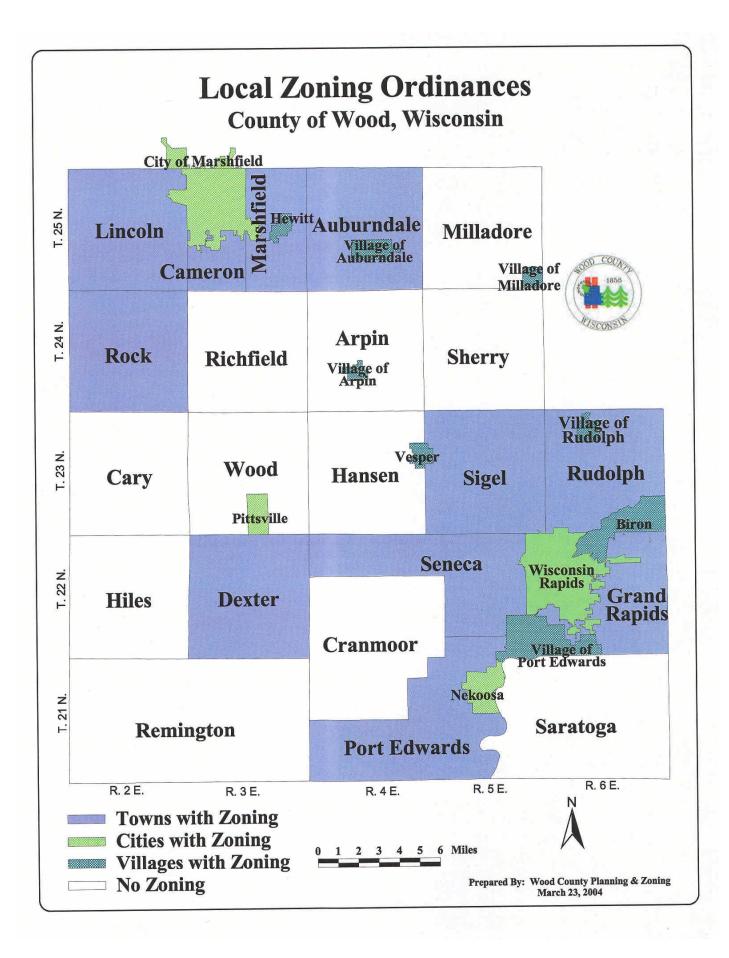
- 1. Encourage municipalities to develop utility expansion plans and policies with neighboring communities.
- 2. Encourage municipalities to create "official maps" that identify future streets and utility corridors.
- 3. Encourage towns, Villages and cities of Wood County to complete comprehensive plans based on local public participation, and encourage them to update the plans as often as necessary.

E. Goal: Maintain the overall quality of educational experiences and variety of educational opportunities in Wood County.

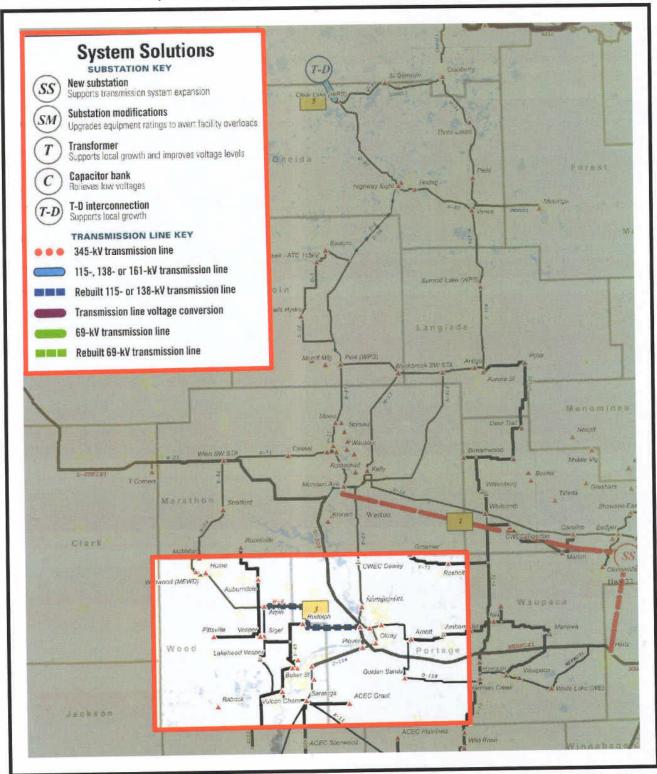
- 1. Support the continuation of many educational and cultural resources that libraries in the County offer.
- 2. Support the programs of the UW-Extension office that serve as a resource for County residents.
- 3. Promote educational programs of YMCA and other community organizations.
- 4. Work to ensure the long-term quality of public school and other K-12 educational opportunities in the County.
- 5. Continue to value the role that the UW and technical colleges play in preparing individuals for careers.

F. Goal: Promote and protect the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the general public.

- 1. Work to accommodate expansion or reduction in utilities and services when necessary to meet needs of residents.
- 2. Update of sewer service area plans as needed to ensure that sewer service expansions take place in the best suited areas.
- 3. Continue to provide residents with recreation options through the State, County, and local parks, public lands for outdoor recreations, water recreation, and bicycle and pedestrian trails.
- 4. Update the County Park Recreation and Open Spaces Plan every 5 so that the County can respond to ever changing recreation demands and remain eligible for state grant funding to pay for necessary maintenance and improvements.
- Continue to ensure that all communities have options in regard to emergency services that are reliable and reasonably priced.
- Continue to be aware of residents' general health care needs and promote a variety of health care choices in Central Wisconsin.
- Continue to support recycling, white goods drop off events, and similar programs to reduce dumping of garbage in ditches, or improper disposal such as burning.



Wood County Arpin-Rocky Run 345-KV line Rebuild Project





Wood County

Zone 1 System Limitations

