

## **ELEMENT 4: UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

This element identifies and evaluates existing utilities and community facilities serving the Town of Frog Creek. Based on this inventory and assessment, the plan recommends improvements to ensure that services are adequate to meet local population demands over the next 20-year planning period. Utilities and community facilities include such things as water supply, sewers, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunication facilities, power plants, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities, fire and rescue services, libraries, schools, and other government facilities.

### **4.2 EXISTING UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

#### **Water Supply**

The Town of Frog Creek does not provide municipal water service. All residents receive their water via private wells that are owned and maintained by the property owner. Currently the town has no plans to develop a public water system.

#### **On-Site Waste Disposal Facilities**

The disposal of domestic and commercial wastewater in the Town of Frog Creek is handled through the use of individual on-site wastewater disposal systems, often referred to as septic systems, which gradually discharge the wastewater to underground drainage fields.

The Wisconsin Department of Commerce (COMM) regulates the siting, design, installation, and inspection of most private on-site sewage systems in the state. In 2000, the state adopted a revised private system policy called COMM 83. The revised policy allows for conventional sewage systems and advanced pre-treatment sewage systems. There are five types of on-site disposal system designs authorized for use today: conventional (underground), mound, pressure distribution, at-grade holding tanks, and sand filter systems. Sanitary permits are required under state law; and to obtain a permit, you would have to contact a Wisconsin licensed master plumber who will complete the necessary forms and obtain the sanitary permit. The plumber is then also responsible for the installation of the private sewage system.

#### **Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities**

Prior to 1969, solid waste management in Washburn County consisted primarily of individuals hauling to unsupervised open municipal dumps. Since that time, state and federal codes have become more restrictive and non-hazardous household wastes are landfilled only in licensed facilities. The WDNR keeps record of registered waste disposal sites in Wisconsin. Only one is located in the Town of Frog Creek. The Quick Forest Products disposal site, located at NE NE S19 42N 11W, is an inactive site. This solid waste disposal site could be a potential source of groundwater pollution.

Browning-Ferris-Industries Inc. (BFI) provides both garbage and recycling pick-up services to residents of Washburn County and runs the only private sanitary landfill in Washburn County, which is located on CTH D in the Town of Sarona. Waste Management serves a portion of Washburn County. Township residents have their choice of garbage haulers.

The recycling program in Washburn County is a two-tier program that includes curbside collection and drop-off recycling centers. Under the current Washburn County Solid Waste Ordinance, waste haulers that provide curbside collection of garbage must also provide curbside collection of certain recyclables. Curbside collection in rural areas involves storage of recyclables in separate compartments of a garbage truck, or commingling of all recyclables in a normal garbage packer truck. Drop-off sites are aimed at persons that do not have curbside garbage collection.

There are currently six drop-off recycling centers in Washburn County, two of which take expanded recyclables and one that is a transfer station. These facilities are located in the communities of Spooner, Minong, Shell Lake, Springbrook, Stone Lake, and Long Lake. The Spooner and Minong facilities are the expanded recycling centers, with the Minong facility being the only present transfer station in the county. The transfer station in Minong serves both the Town and Village of Minong and the Town of Frog Creek. Waste that is brought to the station is compacted, loaded into trailers, and taken to the landfill in Sarona for final disposal. Recyclables on the other hand, are collected and maintained separately from other solid waste materials.

**Stormwater Management**

The management and regulation of stormwater is divided among federal, state, county, and local governments depending on the status of incorporation and size and the activities affecting stormwater. Towns that have a population of less than 10,000 and are not included in a priority watershed are not required to obtain municipal stormwater discharge permits under Administrative Code NR 216. The Town of Frog Creek permits stormwater to drain through a series of ditches and culverts along town roadways. The town does not have a stormwater management plan in place, and there are no plans to add a municipal storm sewer system in the town.

**Law Enforcement**

The Town of Frog Creek does not have a police station or its own police department. The Washburn County Sheriff’s Department serves as the primary law enforcement agency to the Town of Frog Creek. The department’s administrative functions and jail facility are located in the City of Shell Lake and provides emergency assistance to an 816 square mile area. The department operates on a split shift schedule. From May 1 to October 31, patrol officers work nine-hour shifts and from November 1 to April 30, patrol officers work eight-hour shifts. At any given time, one to three patrol officers are on duty each with his/her own cruiser. All emergency calls should use 9-1-1, which is staffed 24-hours by the Washburn County Sheriff’s Department.

**Fire and Rescue**

By intergovernmental agreement, the Town of Frog Creek, along with the Towns of Minong and Brooklyn, and the Village of Minong, is served by the Minong Fire Department. The Minong Fire Department operates two pumpers, two tankers, a brush buggy, an equipment van, 2 6X6

brush rigs, one snowmobile, one 4-wheeler and a rescue sled. The department is located at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Minong. 26 volunteers, 17 of whom are EMT and work with the ambulance section, staff the department. Any facility expansions or changes are the responsibility of the Minong Volunteer Fire Department.

The same intergovernmental agreement contracts with Minong Area Ambulance, located at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Village of Minong. The agreement provides ambulance services, rescue services, and a first responder team. Minong Area Ambulance operates two ambulances. Washburn County has a network of first responders who are paged or called to medical emergencies by the Washburn County Sheriff's Department. All emergency calls should use 9-1-1, which is staffed 24-hours by the Washburn County Sheriff's Department.

The towns of Gordon and Wascott provide backup service to the municipalities listed.

**Libraries**

The closest public library for residents of the Town of Frog Creek is the Hayward Carnegie Library, which is owned and operated by the City of Hayward. It was constructed in 1904 and is located at 10538 Main Street in the City of Hayward. Residents can utilize the City of Shell Lake Public Library at 501 1<sup>st</sup> Street and the City of Spooner Public Library at 421 High Street.

**Town Hall/Garage**

The town hall is located at the intersection of Town Hall Road and CTH G. Bids are presently out for a new town hall/community center. It is anticipated that a new town hall may be ready for occupancy by 2006. There is no town garage in Frog Creek. See Map 4.1 for the present town hall location.

**Cemeteries**

Frequently unnoticed, cemeteries are important community facilities that provide a tangible link with the past and serve as holy and sacred places. Currently there is one cemetery in the Town of Frog Creek. Chittamo Methodist Cemetery is located on CTH G at Colton Road. See Map 4.1 for cemetery location.

**Communication Facilities**

Due to the increase in use of wireless communication, the construction of telecommunication towers is an issue that towns are addressing more often. Access to wireless communication facilities is becoming more and more important in the modern world. Currently, no telecommunication (cell) towers are located in the Town of Frog Creek. Over time, as wireless communication companies look to expand their services, cellular towers may be erected in the town. Washburn County currently has cell tower guidelines in place for the construction of new towers. As part of the planning process, the town should work with the county in determining acceptable locations for possible future towers and appropriate ordinances regulating them.

CenturyTel, Inc. serves the town for local telephone communications. Multiple companies are available to provide long distance telephone and internet services. The quality of telecommunication services depends on the capacity of the network that serves the Town of Frog Creek. Future services will be dependant on identifying and planning for future development

areas. The comprehensive plan will help guide decisions for installing and upgrading facilities, which will be needed to provide quality services as the town's population increases.

### **Power Plants, Substations, and Transmission Lines**

There are no power plants (hydro, coal, or nuclear) and one double substation located in the Town of Frog Creek. Both substations are currently side-by-side in northern Frog Creek near Totagatic Road.

Transmission lines are the largest and most visible electric lines on the landscape. These lines generate the most public interest because they are the most noticeable electric lines and because of the potential human and animal health affects associated with them. Transmission lines transport electricity from power plants to substations and operate at several hundred thousand volts (typically ranging from 46,000 to 345,000 volts), stand anywhere between 60 and 100 feet tall, and may serve several hundred thousand customers. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is the branch of Wisconsin State government with the overall responsibility of regulating electric utilities. Currently, one transmission line runs through the Town of Frog Creek's boundaries. It runs from the south central portion of the town in a northwest fashion and passes through the substations and on into Douglas County. Map 4.2 (Utilities) depicts transmission lines and substations located in Washburn County.

### **Arrowhead to Weston 345 kV Transmission Line**

The main element of this project is the construction of a high capacity 345kV transmission circuit to help strengthen the bulk transmission system serving the North Central region of the US and Central Canada. The line would be built between the strong electrical systems of Central Wisconsin and Northeastern Minnesota and would provide a second high capacity route for electric energy to traverse the Wisconsin – Minnesota transmission system.

The transmission line crossing the Town of Frog Creek is proposed for upgrade. The proposed Arrowhead-Weston power transmission line is being developed by the American Transmission Corporation (ATC) and will cross a portion of the town. Based on information *currently available* to local governments, ATC has proposed to provide the Town of Frog Creek with a one-time environmental impact fee payment of \$265,768 and an annual impact fee of \$15,946 for the proposed 6.9 miles of line to traverse the Town of Frog Creek. The proposed annual impact fee would be on a sliding scale where in some out-year the annual impact fee would reach \$0. The project is still being negotiated at the county level and no agreements have been reached at the time of this printing.

The proposed route had been accepted and passed by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in October 2001. Since then, the proposal has been re-filed with the Public Service Commission (December 2002), in order to re-evaluate the existing proposal. For example, the cost was estimated at \$165 million in 2001; but after some adjustments, the cost has risen to \$350 million. At the time of this writing, hearings and discussions continue on the project.

**Electric & Gas Utilities**

Dahlberg Light & Power is the primary provider of electric services to the Town of Frog Creek, and also serves the Village of Minong along with portions of Chicog, Brooklyn, and Minong. Map 4.2 depicts Electric Utility Territories in Washburn County.

In the Town of Frog Creek, natural gas services are not available. Expansions of natural gas service are not presently expected over the upcoming 20-year planning horizon, however the town intends to monitor the expansion of such services during the future.

**4.3 MEDICAL/HEALTH CARE AND OTHER FACILITIES**

The Town of Frog Creek has no medical facilities within its boundaries. Residents can receive limited medical care at North Woods Community Health Center in the Village of Minong located at 600 Shell Creek Rd, and full medical services at Hayward Area Memorial Hospital, located at 11040 N State Road 77 in the Town of Hayward. The hospital operates facilities that are staffed by full- and part-time employees 24 hours a day to respond to medical emergencies in the region. The following types of services are provided within the hospital: community and education support program, child birth service, ophthalmology, diabetic services, 24-hour physician staff emergency care, medical laboratory service, medical/surgical nursing care, lifeline, occupational therapy, outpatient nursing services, pharmaceutical, phase three cardio rehabilitation, physical therapy, radiology, respiratory therapy, urology, social services, speech therapy, transitional care services, chemotherapy, and hospice.

Also in close proximity to Frog Creek is Spooner Health System in the City of Spooner or Indianhead Medical Center in the City of Shell Lake. Both of these hospitals operate a facility that is staffed 24 hours a day to respond to medical emergencies in Washburn County and its surrounding area. See Map 4.1, Community Facilities for hospital locations.

**Senior & Child Care Facilities**

There are currently no licensed nursing home facilities located in the Town of Frog Creek. Residents who need these facilities can find them in the Villages of Birchwood or Minong and the Cities of Hayward, Shell Lake or Spooner.

There are currently no childcare facilities listed for the Town of Frog Creek. Residents who need childcare facilities can find them in the Villages of Birchwood or Minong and the Cities of Hayward, Shell Lake or Spooner.

**4.4 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

The Town of Frog Creek is served by the Northwood School District (Map 4.3). The Northwoods School is located on USH 53 approximately four miles north of the Village of Minong. The district covers approximately 435 square miles in Washburn and Douglas Counties. Northwood School is a K-12 facility built in 1995 that enrolls approximately 400

students with a staff size of 65 employees. Educational facilities are expressed in more detail in the Utilities and Community Facilities section of the *Washburn County Comprehensive Plan*.

An extremely small portion of the northeast corner of the town lies within the Hayward School District. According to the last available school census (for the 2000-2001 school year on a district-wide basis), there were 1,929 pupils in the Hayward School District.

## 4.5 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### Parks

As of September 2002, there are no parks, no designated camping sites or other designated day-use recreation areas in the Town of Frog Creek.

**Totagatic River State Wildlife Area.** This 2,719-acre, all state-owned wildlife area is located in parts of both Washburn (Frog Creek) and Sawyer (Town of Lenroot) Counties located seven miles north of Hayward off of STH 27. Habitat includes the flowage itself, forested uplands, and numerous openings and overlooks to view wildlife such as waterfowl, deer, ruffed grouse, woodcock, bears, fishers, eagles, osprey, black terns, osprey, otter, fox, and coyotes. The flowage supports a very good fishery, especially largemouth bass. Hiking, bird watching, berry picking, and wildflower observation are some of the other recreational opportunities offered.

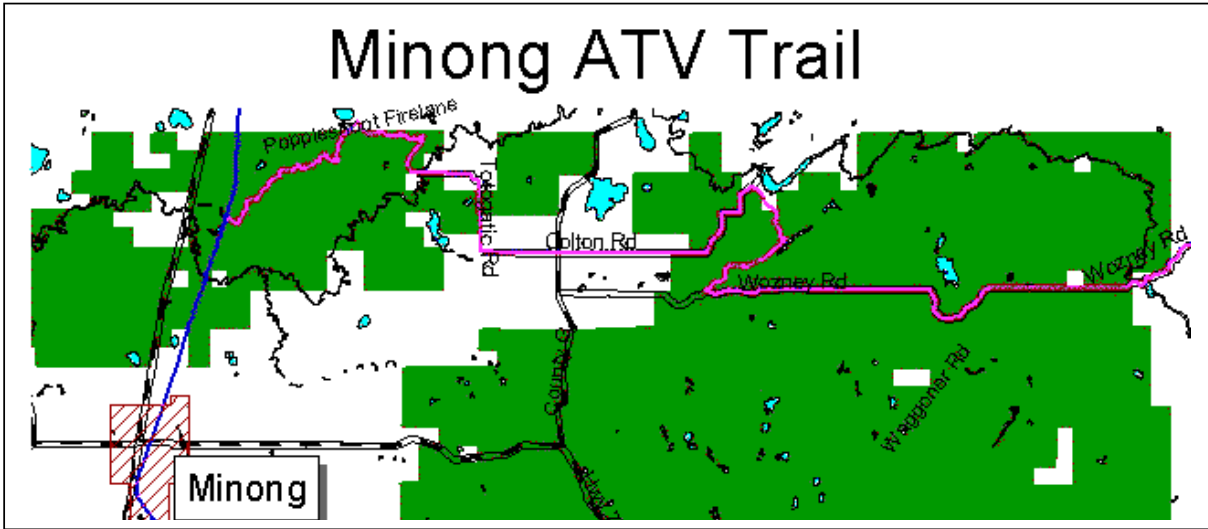
### ATV Trails

The County Forest does allow limited motorized vehicle access on roads and trails within the forest. The Washburn County Forest is split into 30 integrated resource management units, each unit designated as open to motorized travel; open to motorized travel on designated roads and trails; or closed to all motorized travel. The County has 49,000 acres of forest open to motorized travel on all established roads and trails; 78,000 acres of forest with roads open to motorized travel on a two mile density, and 21,000 acres closed to all motorized travel.

**Snowmobile Trails.** Washburn County operates 220 miles of State funded snowmobile trails. Trails are maintained and groomed by local snowmobile clubs. These clubs also groom numerous, unfunded club trails. Trails cross County Forest and private lands.

**Minong ATV Trail.** The 20-mile Minong ATV trail connects the community of Minong with Sawyer County near Nelson Lake. This trail provides an ATV link between the Wild River Trail north of Minong and communities in Sawyer County. The trail runs primarily on County Forest Roads and township roads, with a 1.5-mile wooded trail connection. The trail follows the Poppleshoot Fire Lane, Colton Road, and Wozny Road. See Figure 4.1 on the following page. This trail is open year round, but portions on the Washburn County Forest are closed to ATV travel from April 1 to May 31.

Figure 4.1: Minong ATV Trail Route



Source: Washburn County Forestry

**Public Access Points**

Public access points are points of entry for the public to make use of public lakes, forests, and parks. Public access points would include boat landings (most common), carry-in sites, waysides, or road crossings. In the Town of Frog Creek there are two improved boat landings for the public to access lakes and rivers. See Map 4.1 for Washburn County improved boat landings (boat launches) and Table 4.1 below for more information.

Water Body	Section No.	Future Improvements	Timeframe
DeRosier Lake	T.42N. – R.11W. Section 2	None noted	NA
Colton Flowage	T.42N. – R.10W. Section 6	None noted	NA

**4.6 FUTURE NEEDS**

The Town of Frog Creek has identified existing utilities and community facilities serving the town. To assess future needs for services related to such utilities and community facilities, Table 4.2 forecasts the need to expand, rehabilitate, or provide new utilities and facilities and to assess future needs for government services in the Town of Frog Creek that are related to such utilities and facilities over the next 20 years.

Table 4.2: Future Utilities and Community Facilities Timetable					
	Future Needs	Over the 20-year planning horizon			Comment
		Expand	Rehab	New	
Sanitary Sewer Service					All homes in the town have private wastewater disposal systems
Storm Water Management					
Water Supply					All water supplied by private wells
Solid Waste Disposal					Expand if needed.
Recycling Facilities					Expand if needed.
Communication Facilities	Future research				
Power Plants and Transmission Lines	Under study				Countywide negotiations for transmission line currently underway.
Cemeteries	Future research				
Health Care Facilities					Available regionally
Child Care Facilities					Available regionally
Law Enforcement					Available regionally
Fire					Available regionally
Rescue					Available regionally
Libraries					The public libraries serving the town are located in nearby communities. These libraries meet current and forecasted needs over the 20-year planning period.
Schools					Regional
Parks	Future research				
Trails	Future research				
Town Hall/Garage	New town hall/community center			X	Currently out for bids.
Other Govt. Facilities					None

Source: Town of Frog Creek Plan Commission

### 4.7 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

The local infrastructure, services, and amenities associated with utility and community facilities are important to local residents, seasonal residents, and visitors to the town. Many of the services and functions associated with utilities and community facilities impact the overall quality of life and the future development of the town.

A set of recommended goals, objectives, and action-plans has been developed to assist the Town of Frog Creek in addressing utility and community facilities. Actions identified with each objective are intended to assist the town with meeting the overall goal of maintaining and enhancing community facilities and services, thus contributing to the overall improvement of the town.

**GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION STATEMENTS**

**UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

Goal: Provide utilities, facilities, and services that relate to resident expectations and a rural atmosphere.

1. Promote the logical expansion of facilities to serve future development.
  - a. Ensure that proper infrastructure is available before development plans are approved in the town.
2. Review on an annual basis the solid waste/recycling agreement with the Town and Village of Minong.
  - a. Communicate with the two-county solid waste/recycling management authority (Recycling Control Commission) with regards to suggestions for improvements and/or changes in programming.
3. Monitor the development of telecommunication potential in the area.
  - a. Ask that communication companies and agencies contact the town when new facilities or programs are being proposed.
4. Continue the new construction of the town hall, and its associate use as a community center for the town.