

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

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

This element identifies and evaluates existing utilities and community facilities serving the Town of Springbrook. 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 Springbrook 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 Springbrook 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 tank, 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. These solid waste disposal sites or landfills are important potential sources of groundwater pollution. It wasn't until approximately 1990, when the costs to comply with state codes ultimately forced towns to close dumpsites that could not be upgraded. The municipal dumps in the Town of Springbrook also closed at that time. It is likely that most town, village, or city disposal sites are contaminated to some degree because of inadequate methods of disposal and monitoring techniques used at the time of operation. Table 4.1 shows information regarding old dump(s) in the Town of Springbrook.

**Table 4.1: Town of Springbrook Waste Disposal Sites**

Facility Name	Legal Description	Status
Springbrook Town Dump	SE S29 40N 11W	Inactive
Springbrook Town Dump	NW NE S13 40N 11W	Inactive
Buchmann Forest Prod.	SW NE S06 40N 11W	Inactive

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. A current proposed expansion would serve municipalities and industries located in 22 Wisconsin counties and 2 Minnesota counties. 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 BFI trucks. Drop-off sites are aimed at persons that do not have curbside garbage collection. There are currently six drop-off solid waste/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 Springbrook Solid Waste and Recycling Center, is located on Town Line Road. Only residents of the Town may bring solid waste material to the site, while anyone from the County may patronize the recycling center. The Springbrook Solid Waste and Recycling Center is only open during scheduled hours.

**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 Springbrook 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.

In the future, stormwater management may become an issue of greater importance in the Town of Springbrook as development continues, especially in areas where natural drainage flows directly to lakes, rivers, and streams. The Town of Springbrook must work cooperatively with the land conservation district, WDNR, and Washburn County to mitigate the adverse impacts of stormwater runoff and ensure that environmental resources are adequately protected.

### **Law Enforcement**

The Town of Springbrook 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 Springbrook. 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 Springbrook is served by the Spooner Fire Department. The Spooner Fire Department operates two pumpers, three tanker trucks, a rescue van, an off-road pickup truck, and two portable pumps for rural areas. The department is located at 505 Summit Avenue in Spooner, and is staffed by 35 total firefighters. Included in the staff are 4 EMT, 20 licensed first responders, and 1 full time worker. Although there are 20 first responders, there is not an official first responder team, as the department relies on North Ambulance for severe medical emergencies. Any facility expansions or changes are the responsibility of the Spooner Fire Department.

North Ambulance, located at N4755 Hwy 63 in the Town of Beaver Brook, provides 24-hour ambulance service with 3 ambulances, 8 full-time EMT, and 12 volunteer EMT. 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.

### **Libraries**

Residents of the Town of Springbrook can utilize the City of Shell Lake Public Library at 501 1<sup>st</sup> Street, the City of Spooner Public Library at 421 High Street or the Hayward Carnegie Library located at 10538 Main St. in the City of Hayward.

### **Community Center**

The Springbrook Community Center, located on STH 63 in the hamlet of Springbrook is used for town board meetings and gatherings. This building was once the Springbrook School. The original Springbrook Town Hall is located on Andrews Rd, just off CTH M in Springbrook. Town meetings and functions were moved to the Springbrook Community Center over a decade ago because of heating and restroom amenities at the old school.

### **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 are three cemeteries in the Town of Springbrook. St. Mary Magdalene Catholic is located along Hwy. 63 in Springbrook, St. Luke's Episcopal Cemetery is located on Hwy. 63 at CTH M in Springbrook, and the Earl Cemetery is located on CTH E, south of Hwy. 63. See Map 4.1, for cemetery locations.

**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 Springbrook. Over time, as wireless communication company’s 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 tower locations and ordinances. See Map 4.1 for communication facilities in Washburn County.

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 Springbrook. 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) or substations located in the Town of Springbrook, and there are no plans to locate any in the future. Refer to Map 4.2 for Utilities in Washburn County.

**Electric & Gas Utilities**

Barron Electric and Xcel Energy are the primary providers of electric services to Town of Springbrook residents and businesses. For more information on electric service providers see this section of the *Washburn County Comprehensive Plan*. Map 4.2 depicts Electric Services Areas in Washburn County.

In the Town of Springbrook, natural gas services are provided by WE Energies via a steel high-pressure natural gas main with a carrying capacity of 450 pounds of pressure runs from Shell Lake through the southeast corner of the town following Highway 63 into Sawyer County. In the town, natural gas services are found on all or parts of the following roads; Friday Rd., Poplar St., Pine Ave., North Rd. all in Earl, Ge-No Lane, Legion Lane, Trepania Rd., Lombard Lane, Andrews Rd. and USH 63. Any future extension of this main line to Town of Springbrook residents would depend on year-round home heating customers who would be willing to pay for extensions.

### 4.3 MEDICAL/HEALTH CARE AND OTHER FACILITIES

There are no medical or other related facilities located within the Town of Springbrook. Residents can receive full medical services at either Spooner Health System in the City of Spooner, Hayward Memorial Hospital in the City of Hayward or at Indianhead Medical Center in the City of Shell Lake. All of these hospitals operate a facility that is staffed 24 hours a day to respond to medical emergencies in Washburn County, the Town of Springbrook, and its surrounding area. See Map 4.1, Community Facilities for health care facility locations.

#### Senior & Child Care Facilities

There are currently no licensed nursing home facilities located in the Town of Springbrook. These facilities can be found in the Villages of Birchwood and Minong and the Cities of Hayward, Shell Lake and Spooner. The town has no plans to develop senior care facilities over the next 20-years. For more information on senior care facilities in Washburn County, refer to the *Utilities and Community Facilities Element* of the Washburn County Comprehensive Plan. In-home health care services are available to residents of the town through Spooner Health System Home Care, Indianhead Medical Center, Lakeview Healthcare, Hearts of Gold, and Indianhead Homecare.

There are currently no childcare facilities located in the Town of Springbrook. Washburn County residents have access to 17 different childcare providers in Washburn County according to the Washburn County Department of Human Services. Below is a list of childcare facilities that are currently available in Washburn County.

- ❖ Busy Beavers Too, Spooner
- ❖ Circle of Friends, Spooner
- ❖ Fenton's Family Care, Shell Lake
- ❖ Grey Mansion Day Care, Birchwood
- ❖ It's A Small World Family Day Care, Minong
- ❖ Terri's Tots Daycare & Preschool, Spooner
- ❖ Birchwood Pre School and Learning Center, Birchwood
- ❖ The Kids Place, Trego
- ❖ Learning Experience Day Care, Trego
- ❖ Little Folks Workshop, Spooner
- ❖ Mulligan's Day Care, Spooner
- ❖ New Adventures, Spooner
- ❖ Tiny Tots Day Care, Birchwood
- ❖ Faith Lutheran Preschool, Spooner
- ❖ Salem Preschool, Shell Lake
- ❖ Shell Lake Headstart Center, Shell Lake
- ❖ Half Pint Trailblazers (Minong Headstart), Minong

### 4.4 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Most school age children in the Town of Springbrook attend public schools in the Spooner School District. According to the last available school census (for the 2003-2004 school year on a district-wide basis), there were 1,512 pupils that were registered in the Spooner School District. The Spooner Area School District covers approximately 550 square miles and includes three schools: a Pre K-4 elementary school; a 5-8 middle school and 9-12 high school that share the same site; and a vocational building.

Nearby post secondary educational facilities include the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) and UW-Barron County campus located in Rice Lake and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College located on the LCO reservation east of Springbrook in Sawyer County.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not expected the town will engage in the development of public or private educational facilities. However, it is expected the town will actively participate in discussions and planning with both public and private schools providing or proposing facilities to ensure siting of these facilities is done so in the best interest of the community and that local residents are afforded the best educational programs possible. Educational facilities are expressed in more detail in the *Utilities and Community Facilities Element* of the *Washburn County Comprehensive Plan*. School district boundaries are depicted in Map 4.3.

## 4.5 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### Parks

As of June 2005, there are two designated parks in the Town of Springbrook.

- **Earl Park** – Located in Earl along STH 63.
- **County Wild River Park** – A 20-acre park located along the Namekagon River in Section 21.

Refer to Map 4.4, Park and Recreation Areas in Washburn County for park locations.

### Trails

Trail #39 is only designated trail in the town, and it is a snowmobile trail. Refer to Map 4.4, Park and Recreation Areas for trail locations in Washburn County.

### 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, carry-in sites, waysides, or road crossings. In the Town of Springbrook, there is one designated public access point, which is an improved boat landing for the public to access Spring Lake. There are also a number of public access points to access the Namekagon River. See Map 4.4 for Washburn County improved boat landings (boat launches) and Table 4.2 below for more details.

	<b>Section No.</b>	<b>Future Improvements</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Spring Lake	T.40N. – R.11W. Section 26		

Source: Town of Springbrook

### The Washburn County Historical Museum – Springbrook

This Church was originally built in 1906 as the St. Magdalene Catholic Church. It has been recently restored to reflect its original turn-of-the-century style. It serves as a church museum and as a local history museum. Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June through August.

## 4.6 UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

A set of recommended transportation goals, objectives, and actions steps have been developed to assist the Town of Springbrook meet its future needs desires for utilities and community facilities. Implementation of the identified actions will allow the town to work toward achieving the identified objectives and overall goal.

### UTILITY AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

<b>Goal: Support facilities and services that contribute to the overall well being of the community.</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1. Have input into cell tower locations.	Begin discussions with utility agencies to determine levels of inputs that the town might have.
2. Create standards for billboards and signs on town roads.	Research actions taken by surrounding municipalities.
	Develop ordinance addressing this issue on roads under local control.
3. Improve access to community center and parks.	Survey and list access needs for town properties.
	Investigate funding opportunities for access improvement work.
4. Continue maintenance of town and community facilities.	
5. Ensure that adequate utilities are available for any new development.	Require new developers to demonstrate that utilities are adequate, both for the present and future of proposed developments.
	Develop a list of required utility infrastructure for new developments.
6. Develop plans for rest rooms on the main floor of the community center to meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.	Determine any intermediate actions that can be taken now to ensure compliance with Act.
	Investigate funding opportunities for such work.