

UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The availability of utilities and community facilities in Washburn County is an important factor in determining development potential and quality of life. Understanding the location, use, and capability of public infrastructure is an important consideration when planning for the future. This information, coupled with demographic trends and projections, provides a realistic picture of service supply and demand. Utilities and community facilities include such things as sanitary sewer; municipal water; gas and electric services; solid waste disposal; telecommunication facilities; health care facilities; schools; police, fire, and rescue services; and other government facilities to name a few.

Anticipated growth in permanent population, seasonal population, visitors, homes, and jobs will necessitate the need for additional facilities and services over the next 20 years. In addition, future land development frequently follows improvements to community utilities and facilities. Therefore, the recommendations for utilities and community facilities should be coordinated with other elements such as economic development, housing, transportation, and land use. To help ensure this coordination, this section:

- inventories Washburn County's utilities and community facilities,
- identifies needs for new utilities and community facilities based on changes in the county's population and land use pattern,
- recommends improvements to existing utilities and facilities,
- sets general priorities and timelines for utility and community facility expansions, and
- assists in identifying desirable locations for new or expanded utilities and community facilities.

The following element of the plan includes an analysis of some of Washburn County's existing utilities and community facilities and a general timeline for future improvements.

4.2 66.1001 Requirements

This element of the plan contains a compilation of background information, goals, objectives, actions, and recommended programs to guide the future maintenance and development of utilities and community facilities throughout Washburn County as required under Wisconsin §66.1001. Many of the facilities and services provided are not the direct responsibility of Washburn County but are of importance in the overall coordination of services.

4.3 UTILITIES

Sanitary Sewer Service

In Washburn County, wastewater is treated either by public sanitary sewer systems or by on-site waste disposal systems. According to 1990 census data, approximately 24 percent of the county's housing units were connected to public sewer systems and 75 percent utilized private on-site septic systems. Most homes within the city limits of Spooner and Shell Lake and the village limits of Birchwood and Minong are served by public sewer systems. The disposal of domestic and commercial wastewater in Washburn County for the most part, is handled using private on-site wastewater disposal systems, often referred to as septic systems, which gradually discharge wastewater to underground drainage fields. However, two sanitary districts in the county exist, the Beaver Brook Sanitary District and the Stone Lake Sanitary District.

Beaver Brook Sanitary District

The Beaver Brook Sanitary District is located in the far northwest corner of the town, adjacent to the City of Spooner. The sanitary district encompasses approximately 180 acres and includes residential and commercial buildings.

The Beaver Brook Sanitary District completed construction of the sanitary district in 1992. The district consists of a low-pressure sewer and water system and lift station that serves approximately 69 residences and nearly a dozen businesses within the district boundaries. The district, through an agreement with the City of Spooner, purchases municipal water and sewage treatment. The district currently consumes approximately 410,000 gallons of water and 480,000 gallons of sewer per month. Some residences in the district obtain their water through private wells. This helps explain why the sewer and water consumption levels are different. After usage, the waste is piped to the City of Spooner with subsequent treatment at their facility. After treatment, the water is discharged into the Yellow River.

At the present time, there is no anticipated expansion of the district; however, the possibility does exist. If expansion were sought, the additional volume of sewage would result in addition or modification of some existing facilities.

Stone Lake Sanitary District

The Stone Lake Sanitary District serves both the Town of Stone Lake and the Town of Sand Lake, Sawyer County. The Stone Lake Sanitary District completed construction of the sanitary district in 1976. The district consists of a pressured sewer and water system, three open-air cooling aeration ponds, and two lift stations (single & master) that serve approximately 131 residences and several businesses within the district boundaries. The system, which currently uses approximately 450,000 gallons of water per month, obtained from an underground well, is treated and discharged to the Upper Chippewa River Basin. Expansion of the system has been discussed, but cost factors for expansion have limited development due to economic reasons.

Nearly all development in Washburn County's unincorporated areas utilizes private on-site sewer systems. Most systems used in the county include a typical gravity flow design, where waste flows from the house to the septic tank and from the septic tank into a soil absorption field. The wastewater is purified as it moves down through the soil and into the groundwater.

Variations to this conventional design either add a lift pump and pump the chamber or incorporate a mound absorption area to increase soil depth for purification purposes. These systems are called “mound systems”. For all conventional systems, a soil depth of at least three feet is needed to adequately purify the wastewater before it discharges into the groundwater.

Many areas and lots in Washburn County lack the required soil depth or drain field area requirements for conventional systems. As a result, residents may resort to the use of a holding tank to dispose of their wastewater. A holding tank is an underground storage unit with no outlet into the soil. The contents of the tank must be pumped regularly and transferred to a proper disposal facility. This type of waste disposal system is particularly prevalent in lakefront development areas.

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 several 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 must contact a Wisconsin licensed master plumber who will complete the necessary forms and obtain the sanitary permit. The plumber is then responsible for the installation of the private sewage system.

Under COMM 83, Wisconsin counties can further regulate private on-site waste disposal systems through a sanitary code. Washburn County has amended their sanitary code to respond to the new COMM 83 rules. Washburn County has made the following key change to their ordinance:

- Holding Tank Regulations: COMM 83 allows holding tanks as “a system of choice.” In other words, COMM 83 allows use of a holding tank even if a site is suitable for either a conventional or an advanced pre-treatment system. A revised Washburn County ordinance restores the status of holding tanks as a system of last resort. With such a change, holding tanks would only be approved if the site were unsuitable for any other type of private sewage system.

Water Supply

With the exception of the four incorporated communities and the two sanitary districts, residents of Washburn County depend on individual private wells for their water supply needs. These wells draw water from the upper aquifer, which can be susceptible to contamination. Therefore, Washburn County, working with local units of government, should consider the following to protect groundwater resources:

- minimize intensive developments in rural areas, as these areas have a low probability of groundwater pollution associated with on-site sewage systems where overall housing densities in an area are less than one house per two acres, and direct intense development to areas with municipal sanitary sewer systems;
- minimize development in groundwater recharge areas;
- direct intense development to areas with municipal sanitary sewer systems;

- implement an effective inspection and required maintenance program for all private on-site waste disposal systems; and
- work with state and local governments to clean up known contaminated sites.

Storm Water 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. Washburn County permits stormwater to drain through a series of ditches and culverts along local roadways. The county does not have a stormwater management plan in place.

Electric & Gas Utilities

Three electric companies and one municipal provider serve Washburn County. Barron Electric Cooperative, Dahlberg Light & Power, Xcel Energy, and Spooner Municipal Utilities are the primary providers of electric services to the county.

- *Spoooner Municipal Utilities*- serves the City of Spooner and portions of the Town of Spooner and the Town of Evergreen.
- *Xcel Energy*- serves residents in the City of Shell Lake, Village of Birchwood, and parts of the Towns of Trego, Springbrook, Sarona, Stone Lake, Bashaw, Barronett, Beaver Brook, Long Lake and Birchwood.
- *Barron Electric Cooperative*- serves rural portions of Washburn County including the Towns of Gull Lake, Stinnett, Spooner, Bass Lake, Madge, Crystal, and parts of the Towns of Casey, Trego, Stone Lake, Bashaw, Beaver Brook, Birchwood, Long Lake, Sarona, Barronett, and Evergreen.
- *Dahlberg Light & Power*- serves the Village of Minong and Town of Frog Creek, along with portions of Chicog, Brooklyn, and Minong.

Map 4.1 depicts Electric Utility Providers in Washburn County.

Natural Gas

In Washburn County, 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, which runs from Shell Lake to Spooner following Highway 63, and follows CTH K north to CTH E into Trego. From Trego, the line follows STH 63 into Sawyer County servicing the communities of Earl and Springbrook. Any future extension of this main line to Washburn County residents would depend on year-round home heating customers who would be willing to pay for extensions.

Power Plants, Substations, and Transmission Lines

There is one hydro power plant and six substations currently located in Washburn County.

The Trego Hydro Power Plant is located on the Namekagon River and produces 1.39 megawatts of power, which is supplied to the system grid for electricity power to Washburn County residents.

BFI is currently in the process of applying for permits to develop a methane gas power plant at their current facility on CTH D in the Town of Saron. Landfill gas generated by the natural degradation of municipal solid waste by anaerobic (without oxygen) micro-organisms would be collected by a collection system, which typically consists of a series of wells drilled into the landfill connected by a plastic piping system. After processing the methane gas, the electricity provided by the plant would be sold to energy providers in the area. Some electricity may be used to power some of the landfill's energy needs as well. Generation ability for the power plant is estimated at 20 to 30 years.

Substations are installations at which electricity is received from one or more power stations for conversion from alternating to direct current, reducing the voltage or switching before distribution by a low-tension network. Currently, there are six substations in Washburn County located in the Towns of Frog Creek (2), Bass Lake, Beaver Brook, Saron, and the City of Spooner. Map 4.1 depicts substation locations in Washburn County.

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 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. Transmission lines in Washburn County are shown on Map 4.1. Transmission lines bisect the Towns of Frog Creek, Stinnett, Bass Lake, Stone Lake, Crystal, Spooner, Beaver Brook, Bashaw, and Saron.

Arrowhead to Weston 345 kV Transmission Line

The main objective 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 U.S. 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 Public Service Commission of Wisconsin approved the development of the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line in December 2003. Since December 2003, the American Transmission Company has been working with Washburn County on a proposed route for the 19 miles of transmission line that will run through the county. As part of the proposed project, Washburn County is projected to receive a one-time environmental impact fee of \$731,825 and an annual

impact fee of \$43,909 will then follow, depreciating each year. The annual impact fee can be used for any purposed determined by the town.

In addition to the county, the Towns of Bass Lake, Frog Creek, and Stinnett will also receive monetary funds as a result of the transmission line passing through their communities. Proposed one-time environmental impact fees include \$200,289 to Bass Lake, \$265,768 to Frog Creek, \$265,768 to Stinnett, and annual impact fees of \$12,017 to Bass Lake, \$15,946 to Frog Creek, and \$15,946 to Stinnett.

As of November 2004, Washburn County has not authorized the placement of the electrical line across portions of the county. The county has only recently begun very preliminary discussions with the American Transmission Company on the line development.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, Washburn County has no plans to develop any of the above referenced utilities. However, many local municipalities within the county may develop, expand, or rehabilitate existing systems. The county encourages communities and corporations to continue to maintain facilities that provide the best service to local residents and provide the economic competitiveness desired to maintain job growth and economic prosperity.

4.4 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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 landfills in Washburn County also closed around that time. Table 4.1 shows information regarding disposal sites in Washburn County and their general location is identified on Map 4.2.

Table 4.1: Washburn County Waste Disposal Sites

Town/City/Village	Facility Name	Legal Description	Status
Barronett T.	Barronett	NE SE S16 37N 13W	Inactive
Bashaw T.	Bashaw	SW SW S27 38N 13W	Inactive
Bashaw T.	Washburn Co.	SE SE S28 38N 13W	Inactive
Bass Lake T.	Bass Lake Forest Prod.	NE NW S18 40N 10W	Inactive
Bass Lake T.	Bass Lake	NE NW S21 40N 10W	Inactive
Bass Lake T.	Bass Lake-Beaver Lake	SW NW S12 40N 10W	Inactive
Beaver Brook T.	Bernhard Woodwork	NW NE S19 38N 12W	Inactive
Beaver Brook T.	Spooner C.	SW S14 38N 12W	Inactive
Beaver Brook T.	Horton Mfg. Demo.	SW SE S17 38N 12W	Inactive
Beaver Brook T.	Spooner Civic Center	SE NE S06 38N 12W	Inactive
Beaver Brook T.	Beaver Brook	SW SW S23 38N 12W	Inactive

Table 4.1: Washburn County Waste Disposal Sites

Town/City/Village	Facility Name	Legal Description	Status
Beaver Brook T.	WDNR	NW NE S09 38N 12W	Inactive
Birchwood T.	Birchwood	SE SE S02 37N 10W	Inactive
Birchwood V.	Village of Birchwood	NE S28 37N 10W	Inactive
Brooklyn T.	Brooklyn	SE SE S34 41N 12W	Inactive
Casey T.	Casey	NW NW S28 40N 13W	Inactive
Chicog T.	Chicog	SW SE S22 41N 13W	Inactive
Chicog T.	Chicog-Zehm Road	NE NE S31 41N 13W	Inactive
Crystal T.	Crystal	SW S15 39N 11W	Inactive
Evergreen T.	Cliff Dennis	SE NE S36 39N 13W	Inactive
Evergreen T.	Spooner C.	SE SW S36 39N 13W	Inactive
Evergreen T.	Evergreen	NE SE S16 39N 13W	Inactive
Frog Creek T.	Quick Forest Prod.	NE NE S19 42N 11W	Inactive
Gull Lake T.	Gull Lake	NW SW S21 41N 11W	Inactive
Long Lake T.	Long Lake	SW NW S09 37N 11W	Inactive
Long Lake T.	Long Lake	SW SE S24 37N 11W	Inactive
Long Lake T.	Long Lake	SE NW S11 37N 11W	Inactive
Madge T.	Madge	SE SE S23 38N 11W	Inactive
Minong T.	Minong	NE NW S35 42N 12W	Inactive
Minong T.	Minong	SW NW S26 42N 13W	Inactive
Sarona T.	Lk. Area Dis. LF. Inc.	NW S15 37N 12W	Inactive
Sarona T.	Lk. Area Dis. LF. Inc.	SE NW S15 37N 12W	Active
Sarona T.	Sarona	SE SW S03 37N 12W	Inactive
Springbrook T.	Buchmann Forest Prod.	SW NE S06 40N 11W	Inactive
Springbrook T.	Springbrook	SE S29 40N 11W	Inactive
Springbrook T.	Springbrook	NW NE S13 40N 11W	Inactive
Stinnett T.	Stinnett	SE SE S27 41N 10W	Inactive
Stone Lake T.	Stone Lake	SE NE S22 39N 10W	Inactive
Trego T.	French Debarking	NW SW S32 40N 12W	Inactive
Trego T.	Grimm's Sawmill	SE SE S07 40N 12W	Inactive
Trego T.	Trego	NE NE S02 39N 11W	Inactive

Source: WDNR

Browning-Ferris-Industries Inc. (BFI) formerly known as Lake Area Disposal 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 about three miles west of Sarona on the south side of CTH D. Waste Management serves a portion of Washburn County. Township residents have their choice of garbage haulers.

The BFI landfill is on 365 acres in the Town of Sarona. Currently, BFI has plans to expand its current 65-acre landfill by 72 acres. There are currently three deposit sites at the facility. Two of them are closed and have clay caps to keep surface water from running through the garbage and contaminating the ground water. The third deposit site is being used. Of the two capped

sites, one was an original dump site from the early 1970's. That area will be excavated as part of the expansion with the garbage from that site transferred to the new site. The proposed expansion could be opened within five years.

The landfill currently receives about 2,000 tons of trash per day, with about 65 percent of that coming from northwestern Wisconsin and some material from Duluth and the Twin Cities.

After nearly two decades of operation, it is apparent that the solid waste landfill begun by Lake Area Disposal and located in the Town of Saronia has resulted in significant unanticipated outcomes, which may result in long-term environmental consequences affecting Washburn County's natural resources. In order to anticipate future compatibilities, impacts, and to plan for a future which preserves the best environmental and aesthetic qualities of present-day Washburn County, it will be necessary to fully anticipate the consequences of future new or expanded landfill facilities.

While it is widely recognized that clean air, clean water, and open landscapes characterizing a rural aesthetic underlie our ability to support and sustain a vibrant economy, it is these most basic resources which may be at risk as demand for solid waste landfill capacity grows. In planning for future land uses which may include solid waste facilities, the county will need to ensure that the potential siting of new and expanded landfill facilities is not allowed to diminish the county's storehouse of natural resource assets.

Recognizing that high quality air and water combined with the enhanced rural aesthetic represent pre-eminent values for Washburn County and also that these same qualities will drive future economic growth, the county will seek state of the art review of all potential adverse impacts from new or expanded landfills proposed for Washburn County. It must be recognized that while aesthetic considerations will continue to play a role, in order to fully protect the high environmental quality so essential for continued economic viability, Washburn County may need to go beyond the consideration of land-use compatibilities when deciding upon conditional use permitting for such facilities.

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 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 Saronia for final disposal. Recyclables on the other hand are collected and maintained at the BFI shop on Duck Pond Road and then sent to market.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, Washburn County must continue to monitor the need for existing and potential expansion of solid waste disposal facilities and recycling programs. Although Washburn County would likely not develop its own landfill, it is critical that the county work cooperatively with private waste management companies as new or expanded facilities are proposed. In addition, it is critical that recycling efforts continue to be monitored and expanded as existing or emerging markets become more viable for recycled goods.

Telecommunications Facilities

Due to the increase in use of wireless communication, the construction of telecommunication towers is an issue that Washburn County is addressing more often. Access to wireless communication facilities is becoming more and more important in the modern world. Under the Washburn County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, placement of communication towers is permitted with a conditional use permit within the Resource Conservation, Forestry, Agriculture, Residential-Agriculture, Residential-Recreational 2, Residential-Recreational 1, Residential-Mobile and Residential zoning districts. Telecommunication towers are permitted in the Commercial zoning district and are not included in the Industrial or Residential-Shoreland districts.

As of this writing, there are 20 cell towers located throughout Washburn County. Over time, as wireless communication companies look to expand their services, more cellular towers may be erected in the county. Washburn County currently has cell tower guidelines in place for the construction of new towers. As part of the planning process, the county should work with the towns in determining acceptable locations for possible future tower locations and ordinances. Map 4.2 depicts current cell tower locations in Washburn County.

CenturyTel, Inc. serves the county 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 services the area. The comprehensive plan will help guide decisions for installing and upgrading telecommunication facilities, which will be needed to provide quality services as the county's population increases.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not expected the county will engage in the development of communication facilities. However, it is expected the county will actively participate in discussions and planning with local and regional communication providers to ensure residents have access to landline and wireless communications. The county will continue to work with local and regional communication providers and effected towns where the siting of communication towers are proposed.

Education Facilities

Most of Washburn County's school age children attend one of six public school districts in the county (Map 4.3). They include Birchwood School District, Hayward Community School District, Northwood School District, Shell Lake School District, Spooner School District, and the Rice Lake School District. However, only four of the six school systems are located in Washburn County. Below is a brief description of each school district located in Washburn County.

- School District of Birchwood- Birchwood School, located at 300 S. Wilson St. in the Village of Birchwood is a K-12 school, which has an enrollment of approximately 340 students, including just fewer than 45 employees. One of the special programs within the Birchwood School District includes the Senior Tax Exchange Program (STEP), which gives senior citizens who reside in the school district a property tax credit for volunteering at the school. Birchwood has also been recognized by *Parenting Magazine* as one of America's Top 100 school districts based on student achievements and the districts expenditure patterns. Also noteworthy, a two-story addition and remodeling of the school building was completed in 2000.
- School District of Northwood- Northwood School, located at N14463 Hwy. 53, in the Town of Minong, is a K-12 facility built in 1995 and is located approximately four miles north of the Village of Minong. The district covers approximately 435 square miles in Washburn and Douglas Counties and enrolls about 400 students with a staff size of about 65 employees.
- School District of Shell Lake- The district covers 161 square miles and has two schools – a renovated primary school and a school for grades 3-12 that was built in 1993. The primary school is located at 31 Third St. while grades 3-12 are located at 271 Hwy. 63. The district sustains a student enrollment of just over 550 with a staff of 48 teachers, 32 support staff, and 3 administrators.
- School District of Spooner- The Spooner School District covers approximately 550 square miles and includes three schools: a Pre K-4 elementary school located at 1821 Scribner St., a grades 5-8 middle school located at 500 College St., and a grades 9-12 high school that shares the same site as the middle school. The district enrollment is approximately 1,700 with a staff including 7 administrators, 125 teachers, and 53 non-teaching staff.

Beyond the public schools, there are two private schools operating in the county. St. Francis de Sales Catholic School, Spooner, provides faith-based education for students in grades K-8 and enrolls approximately 100 students annually. New Covenant Christian Academy, Spooner, also provides faith-based education for students K-11 and enrolls approximately 25 students.

Nearby post secondary educational facilities include the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) campus in Rice Lake, which offers 36 programs of study and 10 certificate programs. WITC also has a Community Education Center (CEC) in Hayward. Services provided by the CEC include high school diploma through ED, HSED, and credit remediation; career testing; employability skills; study skills; computer classes; responsible beverage service classes; various self-employment classes; supervisory management associate degree; and certificates for accounting assistant, barber cosmetology manager, and technical communication. Credits in various business programs can be earned through flex courses offered at the WITC Hayward Community Education Center. WITC operates a learning center located in the City of Spooner providing limited services to area residents. The center had been slated for closing in late 2004; however, additional financial assistance was found to keep the center open.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) also has branches located in the following communities:

- City of Ashland
- City of New Richmond
- City of Superior
- Administrative Office located in the City of Shell Lake

The University of Wisconsin System also operates a two-year liberal arts/pre-professional college in the City of Rice Lake. UW-Barron County (UW-BC) is one of 13 freshman/sophomore campuses of the University of Wisconsin Colleges awarding the Associate of Arts and Science degree. The closest four-year University of Wisconsin System schools are located in the City of Superior (UW-Superior) and City of Eau Claire (UW-Eau Claire).

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not expected the county will engage in the development of public or private educational facilities. However, it is expected the county 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 public and that local residents are afforded the best educational programs possible.

Libraries

Washburn County is served by two public libraries: Shell Lake Library and Spooner Memorial Library.

The Shell Lake Public Library, located at 501 1st Street, is housed in the same building as the city hall. Services include: book, video, magazine, and audio lending; library interloan; computers with internet access and copy machines for public use; a summer reading program; Thursday story hour; issues of Washburn County Register; Shell Lake Watchman on microfilm and microfiche; and information about Shell Lake's history.

The Spooner Memorial Library is located at 421 High Street. Services include: book, magazine, video, and audiotape lending; computer, internet access and a copy machine for public use; library interloan; a preschool story hour program; a children's summer reading incentive program; outreach to the elderly and child care facilities; evening adult classes in the fall; issues of the Spooner Advocate; and national and local census information.

In addition to the public library facilities located in Shell Lake and Spooner, the libraries within the Northwood School District and Birchwood School District are open to the public.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated the county will construct a public library. The county will however, continue to support the public library systems throughout the county as specified under Wisconsin Statute 43.12.

Law Enforcement

Within Washburn County, there are four local police departments and one county sheriff's department. Only the county sheriff's department and Spooner Police Department have staff on duty 24 hours a day. Police departments in the Village of Birchwood, Village of Minong, and

Shell Lake have officers on duty part of each day and evening and on call during the remainder of the hours, with the sheriff's department also assisting with calls.

The Washburn County Sheriff's Department serves as the primary law enforcement agency to all towns in the county. The department's administrative functions and jail facility are located in the City of Shell Lake.

The department, staffed by approximately 40 people, 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. Some of the services include: law enforcement, canine unit, Special Response Team, McGruff program, CounterAct, juvenile liaison officer, Project Northland, and Kids Christmas Surprise. All emergency calls utilizing 9-1-1 are staffed 24-hours by the Washburn County Sheriff's Department.

The District 7 headquarters of the Wisconsin State Patrol is located at W7102 Green Valley Road, Spooner. The district covers the 11-county Northwestern Wisconsin Region. Services include traffic patrol and vehicle registration assistance.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is expected that the county will continue to provide protective services. Several units of government throughout the county recommended increased coverage of their community.

Fire Departments

Seven fire departments provide fire protection in Washburn County, and each gives mutual aid to neighboring departments. For more information on fire departments, see appropriate individual town comprehensive plans.

- *Birchwood Fire Department*- covers the Village of Birchwood and the Towns of Birchwood, Doyle (Barron County), Long Lake, Edgewater (Sawyer County), Wilson (Rusk County), and part of Cedar Lake (Barron County).
- *Chicog Volunteer Fire Department*- covers the Town of Chicog.
- *Minong Area Fire Department*- covers the Village of Minong and the Towns of Minong, Frog Creek, and Brooklyn.
- *Shell Lake Volunteer Fire Department*- covers the City of Shell Lake and all or part of the Towns of Bashaw, Barronett, Dewey, Beaver Brook, Roosevelt (Burnett County), and Sarona.
- *Spooner Fire District*- covers the City of Spooner and all or part of the Towns of Bashaw, Beaver Brook, Casey, Crystal, Evergreen, Gull Lake, Madge, Rusk (Burnett County), Spooner, Springbrook, and Trego.

- Stone Lake Fire Department- covers the Towns of Stone Lake and Sand Lake (Sawyer County).
- Hayward Fire Department- covers the Town of Bass Lake and Stinnett in Washburn County.

The Washburn County Forestry Department and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provide the primary fire fighting protection in the area of wildfires. At the county level, five forestry staff members are fully trained for wildfire fighting. County wildfire equipment consists of a 550H Dozer with water tanks and PPE, Hester fire plow, semi and trailer with 800 gallon water tank mounted on trailer, two ATV's with water tank inserts, three slip on water tanks for 4 x 4 pickups, JD 6410 and PosiTrack 2810 available for other needs, two water pumps in addition to the pumps on the slip on units, pickups equipped with radios programmed with all necessary emergency frequencies, and portable radios. The forestry department operates under a cooperative MOU with DNR Fire Control that commits the county to assist with wildfire suppression on county forest lands and also on other private lands at the request of DNR.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is anticipated the county will continue to maintain and upgrade fire protection services and provide adequate services to area residents and property owners resulting from wildfires.

Ambulance & First Responders

Four ambulance services provide emergency medical transportation in Washburn County. For more information on ambulance and rescue services see appropriate individual town comprehensive plans.

- Birchwood Ambulance- covers the Village of Birchwood and Towns of Meteor (Sawyer County), Birchwood, Edgewater (Sawyer County), Long Lake (part), Wilson (Rusk County), and part of Cedar Lake (Barron County).
- Minong Area Ambulance- covers the Village of Minong and Towns of Minong, Frog Creek, Chicog, and Brooklyn.
- North Ambulance Service- covers the half of Washburn County around Spooner and Shell Lake and portions of Burnett County; also has a unit stationed at A&H in Burnett County.
- Stone Lake Ambulance- covers the Towns of Stone Lake and Sand Lake (Sawyer County).

Washburn County has a network of first responders who are paged or called to medical emergencies by the Washburn County Sheriff's Office. They typically provide assistance at the scene, as ambulances are en route. Many of the first responders are also certified emergency medical technicians (EMT's).

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is anticipated the existing ambulance services available will continue to provide adequate service to area residents and property owners.

Medical Facilities

Hospitals

Washburn County is served by two hospitals.

- *Indianhead Medical Center (IMC)* - located at 113 West Fourth Street, Shell Lake. IMC is a care hospital that is state-licensed and accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. A wide range of inpatient and outpatient services are offered, and the emergency room is staffed 24 hours a day. Services include physical therapy, chemotherapy, respiratory therapy, cardiac and pulmonary testing and rehabilitation, mammography, CT scans, and diabetes consultation. A staff of specialists provides oncology, orthopedic, podiatry, and urology care. IMC Home Health Agency also provides home health care services.
- *Spoooner Health System*- located at 819 Ash Street, Spooner, is a 40-bed care facility with an attached 90-bed nursing home and home health care agency. The Spooner Health System serves the needs of Washburn County residents by providing skilled care. Spooner Health System is also fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations and is state licensed. A full range of services are provided with both in and out patient settings, including 24-hour emergency care, surgical services, obstetrics, rehabilitation, diagnostic care including a state-of-the-art CT scanner, and in-house hospice. The facility also offers access to ten specialty clinics from a 34-member consulting specialists staff. Spooner Health System also provides home health care services.

Clinics

There are four clinics in Washburn County each offering special services and programs.

- *Duluth Clinic-Spooner*- located at 707 Ash Street, Spooner, is a member of St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic Health System. Specialties offered include hematology and oncology, dermatology, rheumatology, pulmonary medicine, gastroenterology, neurology, orthopedics, cardiology, podiatry, and ear, nose, and throat.
- *Northwoods Community Health Center*- located at 600 Shell Creek Road, Minong, is a family practice clinic with offices in Minong and Hayward. Services include a full range of medical care to families, in-hospital and in-nursing home care, family planning, x-rays, mammograms, health education, referrals to other specialists, and surgical services such as colposcopy, biopsies, and flexible sigmoidoscopy.
- *Shell Lake Clinic*- located at 105 Fourth Avenue, Shell Lake, is a clinic providing primary family medical services to Shell Lake and the surrounding area. Services include lab and drug testing and surgical services such as minor surgeries, colposcopies, biopsies, and vasectomies.
- *Stone Lake Clinic*- located at 16887 Second Street, South, Stone Lake, is an affiliate of the Indianhead Medical Center in Shell Lake that provides family medical practices.

Services include lab, x-ray, minor trauma care, EKG, immunizations, physicals, minor surgery, and referrals to specialists.

In addition to the two hospitals and four primary clinics, additional specialty services are available throughout the county. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not expected the county will engage in the development of medical or health care facilities.

Nursing Homes and Other Care Related Facilities

Spooner Health System (City of Spooner) and Terraceview Living Center (City of Shell Lake) are the only licensed long-term (nursing home) care providers in Washburn County according to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (WI DHFS), Division of Support Living, 2003. Below is a listing of other care facilities located in Washburn County.

Elderly

- Acorn Apartments, Minong
- Care Partners, Spooner
- Glenview Center, Shell Lake
- Hometown Village Apts, Minong
- Schricker Manor, Spooner
- Westside Manor, Shell Lake
- Birch Haven Manor, Birchwood
- Lakeland Manor, Shell Lake
- Spooner Health System, Spooner
- Spooner Housing Authority (Goslin Court), Spooner
- Terraceview Living Center, Shell Lake
- The Meadows, Shell Lake
- Evergreen Apartments, Shell Lake

Handicapped

- Hometown Village Apts, Minong
- Schricker Manor, Spooner
- Westside Manor, Shell Lake
- Birch Haven Manor, Birchwood
- Spooner Housing Authority (Goslin Court), Spooner

Low Income

- Acorn Apartments, Minong
- Hilltop Manor Apartments, Spooner
- Housing Authority, Minong
- Shell Lake Shores, Shell Lake

In Washburn County, there are two Community-Based Residential Facilities (CBRF) and six adult family homes. CBRF's are a home or apartment type setting where five or more unrelated adults live together, in which an individual is having difficulties with independent living. An adult family home is a facility where up to four persons who are not related reside and receive care, treatment, or services above the level of room and board.

Community Based Residential Facilities

- AIN DA ING INC., Shell Lake
- Care Partners Assisted Living, Spooner

Adult Family Homes

- Aurora Residential Alternatives #082, Spooner
- Harmon Home, Spooner
- Lock Haven AFH, Spooner
- Shady Oaks, Spooner
- Shady Pines, Spooner
- Sunset Pines, Madge

Child Care Services

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

Over the next 20-year planning horizon, it is not expected the county will engage in the development of medical facilities or care facilities for adults or children. The county will continue to own residential apartments through the Washburn County Housing Authority Committee and may develop additional housing developments for segments of the population determined to be in need of housing and where state or federal funding can offset the cost of construction. It is also anticipated the county will partner with other organizations in seeking to identify housing related needs.

Religious Buildings

Religious buildings provide places of worship for persons of many different beliefs and faiths. Within Washburn County there are 40 places to attend worship services. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated the county will construct a religious facility.

- Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Spooner
- Calvary Lutheran Church, Village of Minong
- Christ Lutheran Church, Lampson
- Christian Life Assembly of God, Spooner
- Church of the Nazarene, Spooner
- Church of the Nazarene, Village of Minong
- Cornerstone Christian Church, Spooner
- Faith Lutheran Church, Spooner
- First Grace Baptist Church, Spooner
- First Lutheran Church, Stone Lake
- First United Pentecostal Church, Spooner
- Gull Lake Wesleyan, Gull Lake
- Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness, Beaverbrook
- Lake Park Alliance, Shell Lake
- Living World Family Worship Center, Springbrook
- Long Lake Baptist Church, Sarona
- Long Lake Lutheran Church, Sarona
- Namekagon Congregational United Church of Christ, Earl
- Northwoods Christian Church, Trego
- Sacred Hearts Church, Spooner
- Salem Lutheran Church, Shell Lake

- Shell Lake Full Gospel Church, Shell Lake
- Spooner Baptist Church, Spooner
- St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Spooner
- St. Catherine's Catholic, Sarona
- St. Francis DE Sales, Spooner
- St. John's Catholic Church, Birchwood
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Shell Lake
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Spooner
- St. Mary's Catholic Church, Town of Minong
- St. Philip's Catholic Church, Stone Lake
- Stone Lake Wesleyan Church, Stone Lake
- Timberland Church, Shell Lake
- Trego Community Church, Trego
- Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) , Spooner
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Birchwood
- United Methodist Church, Birchwood
- United Methodist Church, Shell Lake
- United Methodist Church, Spooner
- Wesleyan Church, Spooner

Cemeteries

Cemeteries are important community facilities that preclude any other type of development. They are often overlooked for several reasons, one being that they are unknown. Documenting Washburn County's cemeteries ensures that future developments be done in such a way so as to preserve an important part of the counties past and future. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated the county will construct a cemetery.

Table 4.2: Washburn County Cemeteries

Cemetery Name	Municipality	Section
Barronett Lakeside	Barronett Township	29
Shell Lake Catholic	Bashaw Township	24
Shell Lake Memorial	Bashaw Township	24
Clam River	Bashaw Township	31
Northern WI Veterans Memorial	Beaver Brook Township	14
Birchwood/Woodlawn	Birchwood Township	36S
Brooklyn Twp./Lampson	Brooklyn Township	26N
Rosehill/Island Lake/Casey	Casey Township	4
Chicog Twp.	Chicog Township	14W
Anah	Crystal Township	19
Rocky Ridge/Evergreen	Evergreen Township	22
Calvary	Evergreen Township	36
Chittamo Methodist	Frog Creek Township	11W
Long Lake Lutheran	Long Lake Township	26S
Burk Family	Madge Township	21
(Grave)	Madge Township	22
Madge Evergreen	Madge Township	26
Greenwood Minong	Minong Township	24E
Old Minong/St. Marys	Minong Township	25E
Sarona	Sarona Township	2
Spooner	Spooner Township	31
St. Mary Magdalene Catholic	Springbrook Township	14

Table 4.2: Washburn County Cemeteries

Cemetery Name	Municipality	Section
St. Luke’s Episcopal	Springbrook Township	14
Earl	Springbrook Township	32
Riverside	Trego Township	17N
St. Joseph/Trego	Trego Township	35N

Source: Cemetery Locations in Wisconsin, 1999

Park & Recreation Facilities

Washburn County has many areas that are available for public use as parks and recreational facilities. The Washburn County Forest consists of 148,000 acres of public land. The forest is comprised of a wide variety of forest types ranging from the Pine Barrens in the northwest; to the large tracts of aspen, hardwood, and swamps in the northeast; to the rolling oak hills and pothole lakes in the southeast. The management of the county forest makes available a wide range of recreational uses. Map 4.4 shows the location of existing parks and recreation areas in the county.

County Parks

Totogatic Park- The Totogatic Park and Campground is located in the northwest part of Washburn County on the Minong Flowage approximately eight miles west of the Village of Minong. The park has 71 campsites, most of which provide electricity. Facilities include a beach, boat ramp and dock, fish cleaning station, picnic areas, flush and vault toilets, showers, dump stations, water, firewood, and public telephone.

Leisure Lake Youth Camp- This facility is a lodge with several cabins on Leisure Lake northwest of Trego. The camp is available for use on a reservation basis. The Youth Camp gives first priority of use to Washburn County youth groups and outside youth groups as a secondary priority. Facilities include a ball field, picnic area, self-guided nature trail, and beach.

Sawmill Lake Campground- Washburn County operates a campground on Sawmill Lake, which is approximately eight miles north of the Village of Birchwood. Sawmill Lake Campground is a secluded campground within the County Forest Primitive area. It is surrounded by many kettle moraine lakes, which are connected by a canoe portage system. Facilities at the campground include 25 sites with picnic tables and fire rings, a dock, open-air shelter, vault toilets, and hand pumps for water. No electricity is available.

As of this writing, a joint park is being proposed between the Sate of Wisconsin and Washburn County. This proposed park would be located at the end of Red Lake Road on land between the three lakes of Bass, Loon, and Red on approximately 70 acres. However still tentative, proposed facilities may include 60-80 campsites with electricity, a pavilion, registration area, and pit toilets.

Other County Recreation Facilities

Slim Lake Flowage- Sawmill Lake Campground, operated by Washburn County, is located on Sawmill Lake eight miles north of the Village of Birchwood. Facilities at this park include a 25-site campground, a dock, picnic tables, open-air shelter, vault toilets, and hand pumps for water.

Davis Flowage Primitive Boat-In Campsites- The Davis Flowage is located three miles north of Stanberry near the intersection of CTH M and STH 77. This 250-acre body of water is a shallow flowage surrounded by county forest. The flowage is filled with old stumps and shallow flats creating excellent wildlife and fish habitat. Access to the flowage is from a boat landing along Chippanazie Road on the east side of the flowage. Entrance to the flowage is by a short float down Chippanazie Creek. No other motorized access to Davis Flowage exists. Facilities include two primitive campsites with picnic tables and fire pits.

Welsh Lake Management Unit- In cooperation with The Ruffed Grouse Society, Washburn County, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Welsh Lake Unit consists of 7,100 acres. The unit, located in east central Barronett Township and west central Sarona Township, is being actively managed for wildlife, timber harvest, and a variety of forms of outdoor recreation. The management unit consists of access roads, hunting trails, and location posts.

Cedar Creek Recreation Area- Located in the Town of Frog Creek (W), this recreation area consists of trails and spurs.

Day Use Areas- The county forest has picnic areas at the Slim Creek Flowage, Leisure Lake, Harmon Lake, and Totogatic Park. They also have boat landings on Slim Creek, Leisure Lake, Harmon Lake, Loyhead Lake, Wolf Lake, Sawmill Lake, Big McKenzie Lake, Spider Lake, Elbow Lake, Long Lake, and at the Birchwood Dam. Camping is not allowed at these areas. Waysides usually have grills, pit toilets, hand pumps for water, and picnic tables, while historical marker parks just offer a parking area, the historical marker, and possibly a picnic table.

Washburn has three waysides and two historical marker parks. The waysides exist on STH 63 about halfway between Spooner and Hayward and also on STH 63 between Shell Lake and Turtle Lake. The Yellow River historical marker park on STH 70 is 0.5 miles east of Spooner. The Namekagon River historical marker park is located one mile east of the junction of highways 53 and 63 in Trego.

Camping on the county forest is allowed with the prior permission of the forest administrator and with a tent or lesser facility. Camping during the nine-day gun deer season is allowed with larger facilities within 200 feet of a town road or county forest road.

State Fish and Wildlife Areas

The State of Wisconsin owns and manages several fish and wildlife areas throughout the county. Many areas have been established to promote fishery and wildlife development. These areas are identified in the natural, agricultural, and cultural resources chapter.

Municipal Public Parks & Boat Landings

Within Washburn County exists public parks and boat landings. Washburn County and individual municipalities often share maintenance of these facilities. Table 4.3 lists all public parks and boat landings within Washburn County and their municipal location.

Table 4.3: Municipal Parks & Boat Landings

Park	Location	Park	Location
North Shore Park	City of Shell Lake	Howell Bridge	Town of Chicog
Memorial Park	City of Shell Lake	Chicog Lake (Lower Chicog)	Town of Chicog
Shell Lake Recreational Park	City of Shell Lake	Gull Lake	Town of Gull Lake
Blooming Valley Park	City of Spooner	Fristad Park	Town of Long Lake
Eastland Addition Park	City of Spooner	Harmon Lake	Town of Madge
Centennial Park	City of Spooner	Minong Town Park	Town of Minong
College Street Park	City of Spooner	Sarona Town Park	Town of Sarona
Dale and Vale Street Park	City of Spooner	Spooner Lake	Town of Spooner
North School Park	City of Spooner	Stinnett Park	Town of Stinnett
Thompson Baseball Field	City of Spooner	Stone Lake Park	Town of Stone Lake
Triangle Park	City of Spooner	Trego Lake Park	Town of Trego
Veteran's Memorial Waterfront Park	City of Spooner	Trego Town Park	Town of Trego
Beaver Lake Town Park	Town of Bass Lake	Namekagon River	Town of Trego
Elbow Lake	Town of Birchwood	Lake Avenue	Village of Birchwood
Loyhead Lake	Town of Birchwood	Bluegill Village Park	Village of Birchwood
Spider Lake	Town of Birchwood	Doolittle Park and Campground	Village of Birchwood
Wolf Lake	Town of Birchwood	Ball Field	Village of Minong
Slim Creek Flowage	Town of Birchwood	Children's Trout Pond	Village of Minong
Sawmill Lake	Town of Birchwood	Josiah Bond Park	Village of Minong
McKenzie Lake	Town of Casey	Minong Area Youth Ball Field	Village of Minong
County Youth Camp	Town of Casey	Play Park/Little League Park	Village of Minong

Washburn County Golf Courses

There are four golf courses located in Washburn County. You can find their location on Map 4.4, Parks and Recreation Areas.

- Black Bear Golf-W7677 Nancy Lake Rd. Minong (18 holes)
- Butternut Hills Golf-N2976 Golf Rd. Sarona (18 holes)
- Clam River Golf Club-1199 Hilltop Rd. Shell Lake (18 holes)
- Spooner Golf Club-W6120 Cty. H, Spooner (18 holes)

Washburn County Fairgrounds

A rodeo arena, livestock barns, display buildings, a 4-H center, a carnival midway area, and large grassed parking lots make up the facilities at the Washburn County Fairgrounds located in the City of Spooner. The Washburn County Junior Fair and the Heart of the North Rodeo are held at this site annually along with several other community events throughout the year.

Sports Center

Northwest Sports Complex, located in the City of Spooner, offers a variety of recreational activities including walleyball, walking track, indoor swimming, ice skating, racquetball, weightlifting, and a fitness center. Meeting rooms and catering are also available.

Motorized Trails

Snowmobile- Washburn County manages 225 miles of snowmobile trails. Many of the trail miles run through the county forest and are maintained by local snowmobile clubs. For a map of snowmobile trails in Washburn County see the locally produced snowmobile trail maps developed by local snowmobile clubs.

ATV- At this time, there is only two designated ATV trails on the Washburn County Forest, with the exception of the Wild Rivers Trail.

- **Minong ATV Trail-** This trail is a 20-mile course that connects the Wild Rivers Trail and Minong with trails in Sawyer County. It's primarily found on or along township and county forest roads, including Colton Road, Poppleshoot Fire Lane, and Wozny Road. County forest portions are closed between April 1 and May 31.
- **Spider Lake ATV Trail-** This is an 8-mile loop around Spider Lake on county forestland. It starts at the Spider Lake Resort near Birchwood, and it connects west to Berry Road.

Some county forest roads, town roads, and trails are open to ATV's depending on whether the area is designated open to motorized travel, open to motorized travel on designated roads and trail, or closed to all motorized travel. For more information and maps, contact the Washburn County Forest Department.

Harmon Lake Recreation Trails Area- The Harmon Lake Trails area consists of a 2,700-acre block of Washburn County Forest located 13 miles east of Spooner, in the Town of Madge, accessible from STH 70 and CTH B. The area is intensively managed to improve the habitat for ruffed grouse by developing a mosaic of forest types, age classes, and stand sizes that match the needs of grouse. Only snowmobiles are allowed on this state funded trail.

Tuscobia Trail- The Tuscobia Trail is a 74-mile abandoned railroad grade that extends from Rice Lake to Park Falls. The trail is a multi-use trail depending on the time of year and section of trail. Some activities on the trail include ATV riding, snowmobiling, walking, running, hiking, fishing, and bird watching. The segment from Rice Lake to just west of the Village of Birchwood is part of the Ice Age Trail and is closed to ATV's year-round.

Wild Rivers Trail- The Wild Rivers Trail (WRT) is a 96-mile multi-use, four season recreational trail that traverses Washburn County in a north-south fashion along the abandoned "Soo Line" railroad grade. The trail meanders through Barron, Douglas, and Washburn Counties. A six-mile section of the WRT between Spooner and Trego currently parallels the Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad's excursion train. The trail has parking facilities at four locations located at Minong, Trego, Spooner, and Saronia with restrooms available at the Trego and Saronia facilities. Designated as a multi-use, four season trail, recreational activities allowed on the trail include but are not limited to walking, bicycling, running, horseback riding, snowshoeing, dog sledding, cross country skiing, ATV'ing, and snowmobiling. The WRT also provides access to hundreds of miles of local and county trails. Washburn County received approximately \$400,000 to place

a gravel surface on approximately 28 miles of the WRT in 2003. Refer to Map 4.4, Park and Recreation Areas, for the location of the WRT.

Non-Motorized Trails

Non-motorized recreational facilities in Washburn County include scenic hiking and walking trails, off-road biking, horseback riding trails, cross country ski trails, and canoe routes. What follows is a listing and, in some cases a description, of current and proposed non-motorized trails in Washburn County.

Nordic Woods Ski Trail- The Nordic Woods ski trail, which is located on Highway 70 between Spooner and Stone Lake, is approximately 15 kilometers in length with a number of loop trails. The terrain is rolling and winds through hardwood ridges and around numerous lakes. The trail is in the process of an upgrade to accommodate both traditional and freestyle skiers.

Totogatic Ski Trail- The Totogatic ski trail is located north of the Village of Minong on Highway 53. The trail is approximately eight kilometers in length with a number of loops. The terrain ranges from flat to rolling and is groomed for traditional skiing only.

Leisure Lake Ski Trail- This trail, located at Leisure Lake approximately eight miles northwest of Trego, is approximately five kilometers in length and ranges from flat to rolling. The trail runs through both county forest and national park service property and is maintained by the National Park Service. The trailhead is at the parking lot of the Leisure Lake Youth Camp.

Beaver Brook Ski Trail- The Beaver Brook trail is a multi-loop trail inside the Beaver Brook Wildlife Management Area located at Highway 53 and Cranberry Marsh Rd.

Timberland Hills Ski Trail- Timberland Hills ski trail is a 24-kilometer multi-loop trail, with one stretch lighted for night skiing. The trail is located ten miles west of Spooner on Highway 70, then south on County Highway H.

Trego Lake Ski Touring Trail- This trail is a 3.6-mile system with loops for all ski levels and is located on North River Road, north of Trego on Highway 53.

College Street Park Ski Trail- This is a 1.2-mile trail in Spooner with loops for beginners and intermediate skiers. It is located at City Park on the north end of College Street.

Sawyer Brook Springs Trail- This trail runs through the football field, woods, and along Sawyer Brook Springs in the City of Shell Lake. Access is behind Indianhead Arts and Education Center.

Shell Lake South Side Walking Trail- A one to two mile woodchip covered loop through woods and meadow on Shell Lake's south side. Access is along the former railroad bed that parallels Highway 63.

Red Barn Ski Trail- This trail is on private property that is behind the Red Barn Campground north of County Highway B one mile east of downtown Shell Lake. Although the trail is on private property it is open to the public.

Hunt Hill Nature Center and Audubon Sanctuary- Located 4.3 miles from Sarona on Hunt Hill Road, off Audubon Road, this facility has 4.5 miles of trails through prairie, bogs, and forests, with distances on individual trails ranging from a quarter mile to 2.5 miles. Open for hiking from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Trego Nature Trail- The Trego Nature Trail is a 2.8-mile loop along the Namekagon River. Access is along Highway 63, about a quarter mile east of St. Croix Riverway Visitor Center.

Stone Lake Horseback Riding Trail- This multi-use, non-motorized trail is a 30-mile long route with trailheads at Dugan Lake Rd. and North Harmon Lake Rd. The trail moves west into the Town of Crystal, then south into the Town of Madge, west into Birchwood and north to Harmon Lake.

Birchwood Canoe Trails- Washburn County has two primitive canoe routes within the Birchwood canoe unit. The first begins at Loyhead Lake and allows portages between seven lakes. The second begins at Sawmill Lake and allows portages between nine lakes. Both routes are in the primitive area with little to no development and provide a unique opportunity for a quiet, back country experience.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is anticipated the county will continue to preserve, enhance, and develop recreational facilities. Cooperative development projects between jurisdictions will be sought to further the relationship between county and local governments and maximize funding opportunities.

Other Government Facilities

Governor Tommy G. Thompson Fish Hatchery

This facility is the largest hatchery of muskellunge in the world, and one of only 12 automated hatcheries internationally. Operated by the Department of Natural Resources, it provides fish for many lakes in Northwestern Wisconsin. A visitor center is part of the facility and is open from the third week in April until Labor Day.

Washburn County Highway Shop

The primary Washburn County Highway Shop is located in the City of Spooner along STH 63. In 2003, Washburn County purchased land in the Town of Spooner along CTH H, between STH 63 and USH 53, for developing a new highway shop. One satellite county highway facility is located in the Town of Minong, north of the Village of Minong.

Municipal Buildings

A comprehensive list of municipally owned buildings is shown in Table 4.4. Most municipal buildings are found in the Cities of Shell Lake and Spooner.

Table 4.4: Municipal Buildings

Municipality	Municipal Buildings
Town of Barronett	Town Hall, Garage, Barn
Town of Bashaw	Town Hall
Town of Bass Lake	Town Hall, Garage
Town of Beaver Brook	Town Hall, V.A. Cemetery Administration, WDOT Garage, State Patrol District 7 HQ
Town of Birchwood	Town Hall, Garage
Town of Brooklyn	Town Hall
Town of Casey	Town Hall
Town of Chicog	Town Hall, Fire Hall
Town of Crystal	Town Hall
Town of Evergreen	Town Hall
Town of Frog Creek	Town Hall
Town of Gull Lake	Town Hall, Garage
Town of Long Lake	Town Hall, Garage
Town of Madge	Town Hall
Town of Minong	Town Hall, Garage, old town hall, restroom/changing building in town park, Northwood School
Town of Sarona	Town Hall
Town of Spooner	Town Hall, County Garage, UW Experimental Farm & Sheep Barn
Town of Springbrook	Town Hall, Community Center, covered picnic shed
Town of Stinnett	Town Hall
Town of Stone Lake	Town Hall, Garage
Town of Trego	Town Hall, Tadpole Corners School, several cottages in town park, National Park Service Information bldg, N.P.S. Garage
Village of Birchwood	Birchwood School, County Senior Center, Fire Hall, Police Department, Village Hall, Water Department
Village of Minong	WDNR Ranger Station, County Senior Center, Fire Hall, Village Hall, Police, Water Department
City of Shell Lake	County Courthouse & Law Enforcement Center, City Hall & Library, UW-EC Indianhead Arts & Education Center, Police Department, Shell Lake School, Campground buildings, Historical Society, County Senior Center, Fire Hall
City of Spooner	City Hall & Police Department, Library, Fire Hall, Spooner Utilities Garage, Spooner High School, Spooner Middle School, Spooner Elementary School, WDNR Fish Hatchery, County Offices, County Forestry Garage, County Highway Garage, WDNR Service Center, WDNR Ranger Station, NRCS office, County Senior Citizens Center, WI National Guard, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Recycling Center, County Tourism Center, WI Jobs Center

4.5 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS, OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

A set of recommended goals, objectives, and actions has been developed to assist the county in addressing utility and community facilities. Actions identified within each objective are intended to assist the county with meeting the overall goals.

Goal: Develop or enhance necessary area utilities and community facilities through active participation and planning of facilities serving residents and visitors of Washburn County.	
Objectives	Action-Plan
1. Study and monitor the future need for community facilities and services.	<p>Subject all future government facility expansion or new construction to a cost benefit analysis.</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Inventory existing community facilities.</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Encourage all units of government to develop capital improvement plans and share their plans with other units of government.</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Discourage redundancy, when possible, of community facilities in contiguous and overlapping jurisdictions.</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Evaluate health care needs as part of existing and future community facilities.</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Examination of emergency services cost benefit analysis with a stipulation that those benefiting the greatest; bear a higher percentage of the cost.</p>
2. Examine the potential for public facilities, such as campgrounds, to generate revenue to offset some or all of their operating costs.	Conduct a study of surrounding counties and states to determine facility use charges and develop an analysis of use based fees vs. costs to operate county owned facilities.
3. Encourage the use of community facilities for multi-purpose events to maximize use of the facility(s) by the public.	Develop a list of community facilities availability for public use with contacts countywide.
4. Update the existing sanitary permit tracking system and implement a “notification” maintenance schedule for private on-site treatment systems.	Implement a system whereby property owners having an on-site treatment system, old or new, would be notified of the systems need for periodic pumping/maintenance.
5. Encourage the planning, siting, and information services that facilitate access to, and safety of, local utilities and facilities.	<p>Develop or acquire a map identifying all utility routes and owners with information relevant for emergency services.</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Work with local jurisdictions and developers on the future siting and construction of facilities such as landfills, cell towers, power lines, gravel pits, and demolition sites.</p>

<p>Goal: Washburn County strives to ensure that all households have access to and fully utilize efficient, cost-effective waste management services which minimize the impact of said services on natural resources through increasing reliance on non-landfill alternatives for waste management.</p>	
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>Action-Plan</p>
<p>1. Ensure all households in Washburn County have access to recycling services.</p>	<p>Promote and encourage participation in and support for Northwest Cleansweep household hazardous waste collection program.</p>
	<p>Promote and encourage environmentally sound alternatives, including composting of yard wastes.</p>
	<p>Focus environmental programs on hazardous materials that are most harmful to the environment.</p>
	<p>Work to make recycling facilities and services more convenient for Washburn County residents.</p>

Residential, commercial, and manufacturing/industrial development is anticipated to continue over the 20-year planning horizon. As this development occurs, it is important that overall utility and community facilities be developed and enhanced to provide the most feasible and economically responsible operation. In many instances, Washburn County does not provide local utility services. Rather, the county supports local governments in developing and expanding necessary services.

Overall, the redevelopment and infill of vacant lots, especially in cities and villages, is encouraged for all types of development. In the future, residential development is projected to remain at relatively moderate density development based on existing and projected future development trends. However, it is realized that much of the commercial and manufacturing development will likely occur on already vacant undeveloped land. Development designs that maximize the use of shared roadways, development of frontage roads, and limiting sprawl are encouraged. Commercial and industrial development designs are encouraged for higher density developments in an effort to minimize costs associated with public utilities and to allow for greater access by pedestrians. It is recommended that if developers desire to design future large-scale commercial, industrial, or residential build-outs, the developers should be responsible for a greater portion of all public facility costs associated with their development as all units of government are being asked to constrain existing budgets.