4 Utilities & Community Facilities

Efficient provision of community facilities and high quality utilities control taxes, boosts property values, and contributes to many aspects of the quality of life within Rusk County. Local features such as utilities, schools, parks, and protective services help define a community. These services require substantial investment supported by the local tax base or user fees. Thus, the level of services is generally determined by the community's ability to pay for it and the interest in having it.

Overview

In order to estimate the future community facility needs of Rusk County, an inventory of existing conditions was conducted. This part of the plan chapter presents the results of that inventory. The locations of various utilities and community facilities are shown on the maps at the conclusion of this chapter.

4.1 Description of Existing Public Utilities & Community Facilities

Sanitary Sewer and/or Water Service

Within Rusk County there are nine public sanitary sewer service providers. The providers include Bruce, Conrath, Glen Flora, Hawkins, Ingram, Ladysmith, Sheldon, Tony, and Weyerhaeuser.

Bruce – Bruce's public water supply has two wells with an average of 55,000 gallons a day being pumped and an elevated storage system holding 65,000 gallons. Bruce's type of waste water treatment is a 2-cell aerated lagoon system with two seepage cells.

Conrath – Conrath has private water systems with no elevated storage device. Conrath's type of waste water treatment is a STEP system with a sub-surface sand filter.

Glen Flora – Glen Flora's water supply has one well with an average of 7,160 gallons a day being pumped and an elevated storage system holding 50,000 gallons. Glen Flora's type of

waste water treatment is a STEP system with a sub-surface sand filter.

Hawkins – Hawkins' water supply has two wells with an average of 34,600 gallons a day being pumped and an elevated storage system holding 50,000 gallons. Hawkins' type of waste water treatment is a 2-cell aerated lagoon system with seasonal storage.

Ingram – Ingram has private water systems with no elevated storage device. Ingram also has private waste water treatment systems.

Ladysmith – Ladysmith's water supply has four wells with an average of 367,000 gallons being pumped a day and an elevated storage system holding system holding 500,000 gallons. There was a 100,000 gallon tank but was destroyed on September 2nd, 2002 when a tornado hit Ladysmith destroying it. There is a 200,000 gallon tank in the planning stages to be built. Ladysmith's type of waste water treatment is a 3-cell aerated lagoon system.

Sheldon – Sheldon's water supply has two wells with an average of 18,000 gallons being pumped a day and an elevated storage system holding 60,000 gallons. Their type of waste water treatment is a 3-cell aerated lagoon system.

Tony – Tony's water supply has one well with an average of 10,660 gallons being pumped a day with an elevated storage system holding 50,000 gallons. Their type of water treatment is a 2-cell stabilization pond system.

Weyerhaeuser – Weyerhaeuser has one well with an average of 23,000 gallons being pumped a day with an elevated storage system holding 50,000 gallons. Their type of water treatment is a 2-cell stabilization pond system.

Stormwater Management

The goal of stormwater management is to prevent runoff from delivering pollutants or sediment to rivers, wetlands, lakes and streams. Commonly applied stormwater management tools include: ditches, grassed causeways/waterways, culverts, rock chutes, retention basins or settling ponds, storm sewer, curb and gutter, and construction site erosion control. State law requires certain construction sites, municipalities, and industrial sites to obtain Stormwater Discharge Permits from the WDNR. Incorporated communities with a population less than 50,000 are not required to obtain a permit. Industrial sites are categorized based on their potential for contamination of stormwater runoff.

Telecommunication Utilities

Local telephone service within Rusk County is provided by three primary providers which are CenturyTel, Bruce Telephone, and Indianhead Telephone Company. Internet Services are provided by CenturyTel, Charter, Indianhead, Bruce, Mosaic and satellite service.

Electric and Gas Utilities

The primary electric providers for Rusk County are XCEL Energy, Jump River Electric Co-op, Chippewa Valley Electric Co-op and Barron Electric Co-op. Gas where available is provided by We Energies.

Power Plants/Pipelines/Substations/Transmission Lines

Rusk County does have a handful of power generating plants. All are considered to be green energy generating plants, as they are hyrdro or waste-to energy. The Indeck Ladysmith Pellet Plant is a 100,000 ton wood residential/industrial pellet producer.

Hyrdo Electric Power		**35.8 Total MW**
Flambeau Hydro	(Dairyland Power)	24 MW
Big Falls Hydro	(Xcel Energy)	7.4 MW
Ladysmith Hydro	(Xcel Energy)	2.8 MW
Thornapple Hydro	(Xcel Energy)	1.6 MW

Waste to Energy Electicity

Timberline Trail Landfill 5.6 MW

Waste Management/Dairyland Power Facility

Indeck Ladysmith Pellet Plant –
100,000 ton wood residential/industrial pellet producer.

Rusk County produces enough renewable electricity to power nearly 35,000 homes, and produces enough wood pellets annually to heat 25,000 homes.

Two other significant energy infrastructure items in the County are the Enbridge Oil Pipeline, and the Arrowhead-Weston Transmission line.

The Enbridge Oil Pipeline is actually a 3 pipes, pipeline that carries oil from the oil sands fields in Canada to processing plants in the United States. Two of the pipes haul oil into the United States and the third pipe hauls a material used to extact the oil from the sand back into Canada. The pipeline crosses the County from the Northwest to the Southeast, crossing the County line in the Exeland area (NW) and Sheldon area (SE).

The Arrowhead-Weston Transmission line is a 345KV line that brings power into the energy grid from Hydro dams in Manitoba, Canada. The Arrowhead-Weston line and the Enbridge Pipeline largely follow the same corridor through the County. The name Arrowhead-Weston line derives its name from its terminal points – the Arrowhead region of Minnesota and Weston, Wisconsin. It is part of the American Transmission Company system.

Solid Waste Disposal

Local municipalities contract with private refuse haulers to handle waste disposal. The exception being the City of Ladysmith which operates its own waste collection and disposal. The refuse contracts are awarded periodically by the municipalities on a bid basis.

There is one active landfill in the County, Timberline Trail Landfill operated by Waste Management is located on Hutchinson Road north of Hwy. 8 between Bruce and Weyerhaeuser. The facility receives waste from around Wisconsin and surrounding states. At the present time the landfill has additional room for growth in already permitted areas. There is also additional room for expansion beyond already permitted areas, should expansion be necessary in the future the State landfill siting and expansion rules would govern the process.

Recycling Facilities

Curbside pick-up for recycling is available in Ladysmith, Bruce, Conrath, Hawkins, and Sheldon through private contractors. The County also operates a recycling program with 11 drop off sites throughout the County. Residents and property owners from the participating municipalities can utilize these drop off sites, which are open during specific hours, for disposing of recyclable items. Rusk County has a Recycling Ordinance which applies to the County with the exceptions of those not participating; Weyerhaeuser, Tony, Big Falls, Dewey, and Grow. The Rusk County Recycling office maintains a list of what items can be recycled,

and also periodically coordinates a hazardous waste CleanSweep program.

4.2 Existing Community Facilities

Schools

Schools don't only serve just as a place for education, but also provide recreational areas and opportunities for use by communities and other groups and a place for employment. Rusk County is served primarily by four public school districts (with primary facilities in County-Weyerhaeuser, Bruce, Ladysmith, and Flambeau) and one private/parochial schools (Our Lady of Sorrows-Ladysmith). All of the enrollment figures were found at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website. Decrease in enrollment have been seen in all school districts within Rusk County over the past few years. Families having fewer children than in the past are one of the main factors.

Bruce School District – consists of Bruce Elementary School, Bruce Middle School, and Bruce High School. The school district is located at 104 W Washington Ave. in Bruce, Wisconsin. There were 559 students in 2008. Since the 2000-2001 school year, enrollment has dropped from 632 to 559, a 11.6% decrease.

Flambeau School District – consists of the Flambeau Charter School, Flambeau Elementary, Middle School, and High School are all located in one facility at N4540 CTH I in Tony, Wisconsin. There were 661 students in 2008. Since the 2000-2001 school year, enrollment has dropped from 692 to 661, a 4.5% decrease.

Ladysmith School District – consists of Ladysmith Elementary School, Ladysmith Middle School, and Ladysmith High School. There were 970 students in 2008. Since the 2000-2001 school year, enrollment has dropped from 1,181 to 970, a 17.7% decrease.

Prior to the start of the 2009 School year, Hawkins area residents petitioned the State to detach the eastern block of the Ladysmith-Hawkins School District and attach it to the Flambeau School District. A state panel agreed and the Village of Hawkins and surrounding townships became part of the Flambeau School District.

Weyerhauser School District – Weyerhauser's elementary, middle, and high school is located in one building at 402 North 2nd Street, Weyerhauser, Wisconsin. There were 190 students in 2008. Since the 2000-2001 school year, enrollment has dropped from 250 to 190, a 24.0% decrease. (At the time of Comprehensive Planning writing, the Weyerhaeuser School District was considering combining with the Chetek School District.)

Our Lady of Sorrows School – is a private catholic school in Ladysmith. The address for the school is 105 E Washington Avenue, Ladysmith, Wisconsin. There were 98 students in 2008. Since the 2000-2001 school year, enrollment has dropped from 105 to 98, a 6.6% decrease.

Colleges

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) is a postsecondary educational institution serving northwestern Wisconsin. The four main campuses for WITC are in Superior, Ashland, New Richmond, and Rice Lake but has a branch right in the City of Ladysmith. WITC Ladysmith allows students to earn degrees in Supervisory management Associate, Accounting Associate and Accounting Assistance Technical Diploma. Students at WITC Ladysmith can also take courses towards a degree in areas like Administrative Assistance, Finance, Marketing and other areas, as well as earn certificates in several areas like Computerized Accounting, Supervisory Leadership and Supervisory Management Systems.

University of Wisconsin-Extension

The Rusk County UW-Extension office includes professional staff that cover Family Living, 4-H, and Agriculture/Natural Resources.

Libraries

There are three public libraries in Rusk County. The library names and locations are listed below.

- **Rusk County Community Library** - 418 Corbett Ave W., Ladysmith
- **Hawkins Area Library** – 709 Main Street P.O. Box 17, Hawkins
- **Bruce Area Library** – 102 W. River Street P.O. Box 277, Bruce

Parks, Recreation & Trail Facilities

Rusk County has made a commitment to continue to provide and maintain an excellent county wide park system that provides a wide variety of recreational activities and facilities. The following list shows the parks in Rusk County.

Audie Flowage-Perch Lake Campground

Bruce Village Park

Conrath Community Park

Greenwood Park

Haley Park

Hawkins Community Park

Josie Creek Park

Murphy Flowage County Park

Lake Flambeau Community Park

Memorial Park

O.J. Falge Park

Riverside Park

Thut Park

Weyerhaeuser Community Park

Other Recreational Resources

Rusk County provides a variety of recreational opportunities such as hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, sightseeing, wild life observation, and swimming.

Recreational Trails

Rusk County offers a variety of trails for recreational use. One of the most popular biking, skiing, and hiking trails in the area is **Sister's Farm Mountain Biking Trail System**. These trails were one of the first trail systems used in the Wisconsin Off Road Series (WORS). Bikers will find single and multi-track biking with a little over 10 miles of trails. There are other recreational trails within Rusk County. The former Flambeau Mine site was transformed into 32-acres of biking and hiking trails. The City of Ladysmith has developed the **Riverview Trail** along the south bank of the Flambeau River. The **Blue Hills Trail System** in the Bruce area has over 10 miles of biking and logging roads. North of Hawkins there is the **Flambeau River State Forest Mountain Biking Trail** with 14 miles. In northwestern Rusk County another great place to go would have to be the **Ice Age National Scenic Trails** with 27 miles of trails.

Snowmobiling

There is more than 300 miles of groomed trails in Rusk County. The trails spread all over Rusk County. The trails connect to every neighboring county and continue from there.

Fire Departments

Rusk County is covered by five fire departments located in Ladysmith, Hawkins, Sheldon, Bruce, and Weyerhaeuser.

Police Departments

The only police department in Rusk County is located in Ladysmith. The County Sheriff's Department serves the remainder of the County and operates out of the Law Enforcement Center in Ladysmith. The LEC includes the jail, dispatch, and Court System.

Health Care Facilities

Rusk County Memorial Hospital is a well-equipped 25-bed hospital with a 50-bed attached nursing home. The hospital is located in Ladysmith and serves the Rusk County area. The Marshfield Clinic is a 18,500-square-foot facility adjacent to the Rusk County Memorial Hospital. Marshfield Clinic also serves the Rusk County area with their current staff of 17 physicians or allied health professionals plus 16 consulting specialists that provide care there. Ladysmith Dental Center was established November 1, 2002 to help address the growing need for dental care in underserved areas. In less than one year, Ladysmith Dental Center has seen patients from 42 Wisconsin counties and 6 states.

Child Care Facilities

Rusk County Human Services Department keeps record of certified and licensed childcare providers in Rusk County. Currently there are five licensed family providers, six licensed group providers, seven provisional certified providers, and twenty-four certified providers in Rusk County.

Rescue

The Rusk County Ambulance Services provides rescue services for Rusk County. The Rusk County Ambulance service is operated through the County government. Rescue services are provided all around Rusk County with ambulance's being stationed in Ladysmith, Bruce, Hawkins, and Sheldon.

Cemeteries

Cemeteries are an important historic resource for any community. Management of cemeteries throughout Rusk County ensures that existing and future cemeteries will be maintained and made available for future memorials. There are currently thirty-six known cemeteries spread throughout Rusk County. The next table lists all the current cemeteries in Rusk County.

Table 4.1: Rusk County Cemeteries

Townships	Name of Cemeteries
Town of Atlanta	Blue Hills (Nathaniel Lutheran Church)
	Bruce Catholic Cemetery
	Maple Valley Cemetery (Nathaniel Lutheran)
Town of Big Bend	Island Lake
	Mud Lake Indian Cemetery
	McCracken Burial
Town of Dewey	Tony Protestant Cemetery
	Tony Catholic Cemetery
Town of Flambeau	St. Francis Mission
	Riverside (Catholic Section) Cemetery
	Riverside Cemetery
Town of Grant	Old Ladysmith City Cemetery (single grave)
	Servants of Mary Convent Cemetery
Town of Grow	Holy Trinity Catholic Cemetery
Town of Hawkins	Hillcrest Cemetery
Town of Lawrence	Ingram Cemetery
	South Lawrence Mennonite Cemetery
Town of Marshall	Woodlawn Cemetery
Town of Murry	St. Ann's Catholic Church

Table 4.1: Rusk County Cemeteries	
Town of Richland	Ingram Cemetery
	Ingram Catholic Cemetery
Town of South Fork	South Fork Cemetery
Town of Strickland	Bass Lake Cemetery and Polish Cemetary
	Strickland/Assumption Catholic Cemetery
	Old Weyerhaeuser Catholic Cemetery
Town of Stubbs	Appollonia Catholic Cemetery
	Appollonia Protestant Cemetery
	Bruce Protestant Cemetery
	Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery
	Verona Junction (Apollonia) Cemetery
	Weyerhaeuser Protestant Cemetery
Town of True	Glen Flora Lutheran Cemetery
	Glen View Cemetery
Town of Washington	Flambeau Mission/St. Francis
Town of Wilson	Holy Hill Cemetery

4.3 Survey Data Summary

Of the survey items listed respondents gave high importance rankings (very important or important) to most items. Items seeming to have less importance (greater than 25% unimportant or very unimportant) included child care, motorized recreation, non-motorized recreation.

In terms of satisfaction levels those items with unsatisfactory grades (greater than 25% unsatisfied or very unsatisfied) included medical facilities, post high school education, retail/service businesses, and industry.

4.4 Summary – Goals & Objectives

At the present time all community facilities appear adequate to meet the needs of the current and projected population. In addition utilities and infrastructure are adequate in size and condition to meet current and anticipated needs. However, the facilities and utilities will need to be upgraded and maintained as needed. It will also be necessary to continually monitor growth and needs of the community to ensure that community facilities and utilities continue to meet community needs.

Goal: Support the maintenance ad development of area utilities and community facilities that serve residents and property owners of Rusk County.

Objectives:

1. Work with utility and telecommunication companies to plan for future development and expansion.
2. Encourage the utilization of existing community facilities.
3. Promote the adoption and utilization of new technologies and green/energy efficient methods by utilities, and implementation in community facilities.
4. Monitor the needs of the County, to ensure timely compliance with future expansion or rehabilitation of utilities and community facilities.

Actions:

A. Support the development and utilization of alternative energy production.
B. Encourage municipalities to maintain up-to-date utility mapping, including water/sewer, fiber optics, electric, telephone, etc.
C. Promote recycling and appropriate disposal of refuse and hazardous materials.
D. Encourage utilization of community facilities and collaboration/joint efforts by government bodies to avoid duplication of services