

# 4 Utilities & Community Facilities

## 4.1 Utilities & Community Facilities Chapter Purpose and Contents

This element includes a brief summary of utilities or community facilities that exist within the Town of Hancock followed by a series of goals, objectives, and recommendations to guide the future development or expansion of these utilities or community facilities. The element also provides a timeframe for expansion or rehabilitation of utilities and public facilities.

Recommendations were developed through the public participation process, and through review of the *Town of Hancock Community Management Plan (2005)*. Many of the goals and objectives that were developed as part of the community management plan have also been included in this comprehensive plan. New goals, objectives, and recommendations were added where identified through the public participation process or in areas necessary for compliance with Wisconsin's comprehensive planning law.

## 4.2 Summary of Existing Conditions for Utilities & Community Facilities

The following section identifies key utilities and community facilities for the Town of Hancock identified by East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC). A complete listing of this information can be located in the *Town of Hancock Comprehensive Plan Volume Two: Existing Conditions Report*.

### Wastewater Collection and Treatment

- Private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTs) serve all of Hancock.

### Stormwater Management

- Eight drainage districts have been established within Waushara County. The only active district is the Marion-Warren district.
- Due to the rural nature of the town, curb and gutter is limited.
- A series of open ditches, culverts and drainage channels collect storm water in the Town of Hancock.

### Water Supply

- The Town of Hancock is served by private wells.

### Solid Waste and Recycling

- The County operates nine waste collection sites and contracts with Waste Management of Wisconsin, Inc. and Onyx Waste Services to haul waste and recyclables, respectively that are collected at the sites.
- Residents of the Town of Hancock are able to utilize any drop-off site within the county, but they most likely utilize the Village of Hancock site.
- All waste management sites in Waushara County accept recyclable materials.

### Electricity

- Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op and Alliant-Wisconsin Power & Light provides electric power to the Town of Hancock.

### Natural Gas

- Wisconsin Gas Company provides natural gas service to the Town of Hancock and is a subsidiary of Wisconsin Energy Corporation.

**Power Generation Plants and Transmission Lines**

- American Transmission Company (ATC) owns and maintains a number of transmission lines in the area.

**Telecommunications Facilities**

- According to information obtained from Waushara County there is one tower located in the Town of Hancock off of Buttercup Avenue.
- Union Telephone provides service to the Town of Hancock.
- Union Telephone and Wisconsin Rural Internet are among some of the providers who supply internet service to the area.

**Cemeteries**

- There is one cemetery located in the Town of Hancock; the Hancock Cemetery.

**Childcare Facilities**

- Mid-Wisconsin ChildCare Resource & Referral, Inc. works with Waushara County.
- Residents of the Town of Hancock most likely use childcare facilities in Plainfield or Coloma. These facilities have a combined capacity of 92 children.
- UMOs operates a housing complex, Head Start program, and childcare facilities in Plainfield. The licensed facility provided childcare for 60 children in 2008.

**Elderly Services**

- The Waushara County Coordinated Transportation System offers rides to not only senior citizens but also to veterans, and human service clientele on Medical Assistance.
- Meals along with activities and fellowship are provided to seniors at seven locations throughout Waushara County. The closest site is located at the Hancock Community Building (420 Jefferson Street) in the Village of Hancock.
- The Aging & Disability Resource Center of Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara Counties provides information and assistance on aging, long term care, disabilities, and other related topics.
- The Wautoma-Waushara Senior Center (in the Town of Dakota) offers a wide range of social and educational activities for seniors including bingo, card tournaments, crafts, and others.
- There are no adult day care facilities listed with the Department of Health and Family Services in Waushara, Green Lake, or Waupaca counties. However, Cooperative Care, based out of Wautoma, provides in-home personal and home care services to elderly and disabled residents.
- The overall capacity for adult care facilities serving Waushara County is 258 persons.

**Police Service**

- The Waushara County Sheriff's Department provides around the clock law enforcement services to the Town of Hancock, as needed.
- Response time in the Town of Hancock is about 10 minutes.
- During the summer months and holidays, a boat patrol financed through the towns of Deerfield and Hancock and manned by part-time off duty police officers patrols Fish Lake, Marl Lake, and the White River Millpond.
- The Waushara County Sheriff's Office is located on Division Street in Wautoma. The Hancock and Poy Sippi fire departments serve as satellite headquarters each Saturday afternoon.
- For a sheriff's office (includes most jail personnel), the state average was 1.77 sworn employees per 1,000 residents served. The Waushara County Sheriff's Office employs 1.1 officers per 1,000 population. This is below the state average.

- There are three correction facilities in Waushara County: the Waushara Huber Facility, the Waushara County Jail, and the Redgranite Correctional Facility.

#### **Fire Protection**

- The Town of Hancock is served solely by the Hancock Volunteer Fire Department.
- The Hancock Volunteer Fire Department has an ISO rating of 7 within the Village of Hancock and 9 within the towns of Hancock and Deerfield.

#### **Health Care Facilities/Emergency Medical Services**

- There are no hospitals located within the Town of Hancock; however there are six hospitals located within approximately 50 miles.
- Emergency medical services for the Town of Hancock are provided by the Waushara County EMS.
- The First Responders through the Hancock Area Volunteer Fire Department serve the Town and Village of Hancock.

#### **Libraries**

- Residents within the Town of Hancock have access to a good selection of libraries, but will most likely use the library in Hancock.
- Service targets for libraries are based on quantitative standards contained in the Wisconsin Library Standards. Reported for each standard is the effort required to achieve basic, moderate, enhanced or excellent levels of service. The Hancock Public Library provides a less than basic service for volumes held in print and material expenditures. However, service levels for fulltime equivalent staff, periodicals titles received, audio and video recording held are considered excellent to enhanced.

#### **Education**

- The Town of Hancock is served entirely the Tri-County Area School District.
- The Tri-County Area School District is experiencing a declining enrollment at all levels. Therefore, it is anticipated that the schools will be able to continue to serve the enrollment of the area's population for the near future.
- The Town of Hancock does not have any institutions of higher education.
- The Town of Hancock is part of the Mid State Vocational Technical College District.

#### **Other Municipal Buildings**

- The towns of Hancock and Deerfield share the area community center, located at 420 N. Jefferson Street, with the Village of Hancock.

#### **Parks and Recreation**

- Waushara County's park system is comprised of 15 sites containing a total of 761 acres.
- There are no county park facilities found within the Town of Hancock.
- There are no local park facilities in the Town of Hancock.
- Village Park and Whistler Mounds Park occupy a 43-acre site a mile east of Hancock on Fish Lake.
- Many significant lakes can be found within the area, including Pine, Fish, Deer, Goose, Reeder and Bullhead lakes.

#### **Post Office**

- Residents within the Town of Hancock utilize the Village of Hancock Post Office.
- At the present time there are no plans for expansion of these facilities.

### 4.3 Utilities & Community Facilities Issues and Opportunities

A number of issues and opportunities were identified during the planning process that were not a result of statistical analyses. These challenges may or may not have been captured through the existing conditions information collected in Volume Two of this report. The following utilities and community facilities topics were discussed by the Town of Hancock.

#### Septic Systems

There is some desire to more regularly inspect septic systems within the Town. This is especially true around lake properties where septage can contaminate surface waters. To meet 2008 changes in state legislation, the Town will have to complete an inventory of every septic system by 2011. By 2013, all septic systems will need to be a part of the same inspection program.

#### Public Park Facilities

There are no county parks within the Town of Hancock. As a result, many residents of the Town utilize Village Park and Whistler Mounds Park, operated by the Village of Hancock, for recreation. There is a desire to increase the amount of linear trails throughout the parks and to link them to the Village of Hancock. The beach facilities in Village Park are in need of restoration as invasive species continue to populate the shoreline.

#### Fire Protection

While fire protection is adequate, and facilities and equipment are updated and replaced on an as needed basis, the operation of the department overall is not transparent. There is a Fire Board that elects a Fire Chief which places control of the department in few hands. Funding for the department is through a flat fee for member communities. There has been some interest in assessing fees based on equalized values.

### 4.4 Utilities & Community Facilities Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations

The following section identifies goals, objectives, and recommendations concerning public utilities and facilities in the Town of Hancock. The goals and objectives identify what should be accomplished, whereas the recommendations focus on identifying the action necessary to achieve the goals and objectives. In many cases, existing prerogatives were carried over from the *Town of Hancock Community Management Plan (2005)*.

#### Goal 4.1 Provide an appropriate level of municipal services and facilities to maintain the public health and welfare and to sustain a viable economy.

##### Objectives:

- a. Provide adequate services and facilities in a fiscally responsible manner.
- b. Encourage compact development in the Town to improve economic efficiencies.
- c. Share services to achieve greater efficiencies in service provision.

##### Recommendations:

4.1.1 Coordinate with the Village of Hancock to create a lake district on Pine Lake and Fish Lake. The purpose of this district will be to look after the welfare of the lake by establishing consistent management policies, working to prevent erosion and nutrient pollution of the lake by filtering run off, acting to control the spread of invasive species, managing populations of sport fish, monitoring water quality, and applying for grant fund resources.

4.1.2 Coordinate with the Village to ensure water and sewer services and facilities are adequate in quality and quantity to address the needs of the Town's lakefront residents. Strategies may include:

- i. Work with the Village to expand the service lines of the sanitary district to serve development around the entirety of Pine Lake.
- ii. Discuss extension of service lines to Fish Lake at such time as a majority of lake residents request the utility.

4.1.3 Address site-specific drainage and storm water issues as they arise in cooperation with regulatory authorities including Waushara County and Wisconsin DNR.

New 4.1.4 Coordinate with members of the Hancock Volunteer Fire Department to discuss alternate funding approaches based on actual calls, number of residents, or equalized value.

New 4.1.5 Work with Waushara County to enforce septic requirements and inspections.

New 4.1.6 Work with the Village of Hancock to develop a strategy for restoration of facilities and features at Village Park. This includes working on a strategy for increased development of linear trail facilities and possible grant programs, such as DNR Stewardship funds, to implement the strategies.

New 4.1.7 Continue to financially support the Hancock Public Library.

**4.5 Timetable for Expansion of Utilities & Community Facilities**

Wisconsin’s comprehensive planning law requires communities to describe the existing and future public utility and community facilities and assess the future needs for government services related to these utilities and facilities. Upgrades and expansions to public utilities and facilities may be warranted for a variety of reasons. In Hancock, incremental upgrades in fire safety equipment may be necessary. The Town may also wish to help the Village of Hancock upgrade facilities at Village Park and Whistler Mounds Park. See Table 4.5.

**Table 4.5: Forecasted Utilities and Community Facilities Needs**

Facility/Utility	Need	Approximate Timeframe	Comments
Fire and Emergency Services	Upgrade	Mid-Term	New fire equipment.
Parks	Renovation	Short-Term	Village Park beach should be restored. If the Town is financially capable, coordination with the Village of Hancock should be arranged.
Parks	Facilities	Long-Term	Enhance linear trail system near and around Village Park and Whistler Mounds Park.

Immediate: as soon as possible  
 Short-Term: approximately 1-4 years in the future  
 Mid-Term: approximately 5-9 years  
 Long-Term: 10 or more years