

Utilities and Community Facilities

State Comprehensive Planning Requirements for this Chapter

A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide future development of utilities and community facilities such as: sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment tech, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunications facilities, power plants/transmission lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities, police, fire, rescue, libraries, schools and other governmental facilities. The element shall also describe the existing and future public utility and community facilities and asses the future needs for government services related to such utilities and facilities. It will describe the approximate timetable that forecasts the need to expand or rehabilitate existing utilities and facilities or to create new utilities and facilities and asses future needs for government services in the local governmental unit that are related to such utilities and facilities.

Overview

This chapter provides basic information on the community-type services currently offered in the Town with the exception of transportation related facilities, which are addressed in the Transportation Chapter of the Plan. The location, use, capacity and extent of services are identified for both public- and private-sector utilities and services. This information was used to determine which public services should be expanded or rehabilitated and what if any new services could be provided to meet any unmet need.

Sewer, Water, and Stormwater Facilities

Wastewater

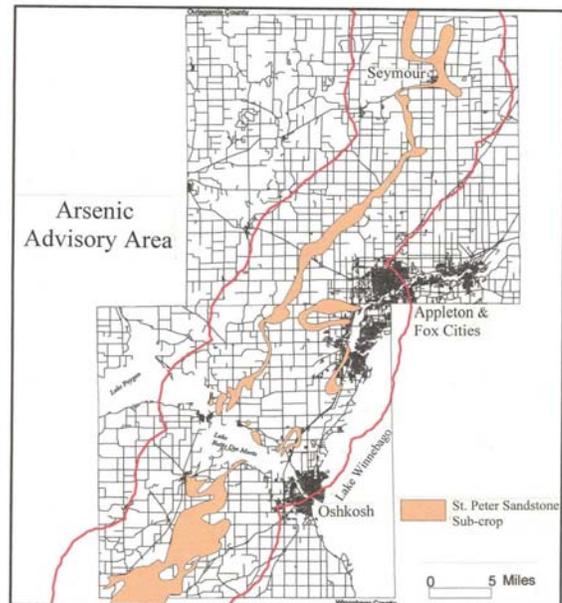
Private, on-site wastewater treatment systems are used throughout the Town of Nepeuskun. Typically, individual systems are designed for each households or business based on the site's soil characteristics and capabilities. On-site systems, depending on the type and maintenance frequency, can function for 15 to 30 years and can cost-effectively treat wastes in rural areas not served by public sewers.

The Wisconsin Administrative Code Comm 83, was revised during the 1990's to add provisions for new system technologies and land suitability criteria and came into affect on July 1, 2000. Unlike the previous code, it regulates the purity of groundwater discharged from the system instead of the specific characteristics of the installation.

Water Supply

Residents in the Town of Nepeuskun rely on groundwater tapped through private wells for their drinking water. Based on a study conducted by the Wisconsin DNR, the Town of Nepeuskun is located in an area that is highly susceptible to groundwater contamination (based on depth to bedrock, bedrock type, soil characteristics, surficial deposits, and depth-to-water table). The figure below depicts an area five miles either side of the sub-crop of the St Peter Sandstone. Since the St. Peter Sandstone is one of the primary sulfide minerals bearing zones (and thus arsenic bearing) and is shallow, lying just below the glacial sediments, the area has a higher potential for the development of water quality problems.

Figure 5.1. WI-DNR Arsenic Advisory Areas



Nitrate-nitrogen is the most widespread groundwater contaminant in the state, and this problem is increasing in extent and severity. The EPA- established maximum contaminate level (MCL) for nitrates is 10 parts per million (ppm). Based on private well sampling conducted between 1985 and 1994, an estimated 20 percent of the wells in the Town of Nepeuskun are at or above this threshold. Wells with elevated nitrate levels were found near the Crossroads of Rush Lake and in the northeastern corner of the town. Nitrate inputs originate from manure spreading, agricultural fertilizers, and legume cropping systems. On-site wastewater systems (septic tanks) can also be a significant nitrate source.

In addition, a 2002 study estimated that 33% of private drinking water wells in the region of Wisconsin that includes the Town of Nepeuskun contained a detectable level of an herbicide or herbicide metabolite. Pesticides occur in groundwater more commonly in agricultural regions.

Residents should have their water tested to ensure safe potable water. Testing should be a collective town effort, potentially collaborating with the WI-DNR, so a central collection of testing results can be maintained and water quality can be monitored over time.

The Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Chapter of this Plan provides additional information on groundwater contamination and protection.

Stormwater

Stormwater runoff and management have recently gained more attention as an environmental concern due to surface water quality issues. According to studies conducted by the Center for Watershed Protections, as little as 10 percent impervious cover (streets, roofs, parking lots, driveways etc.) within a watershed can negatively impact fish habitat. Managing and controlling storm water runoff is imperative for a healthy environment. It is also a matter of health, safety, and welfare for a community in that surface water runoff can lead to erosion and flooding problems.

10 Things Residents Can Do about Stormwater

Residents play an important role in helping to manage and control stormwater runoff and associated pollution. Suggestions for what residents can do, including:

1. Be a watershed watchdog. If you see a potential stormwater problem contact the Town.
2. Pick up after your pets. Dog waste is a major source of water contamination.
3. Properly Apply Lawn and Garden Fertilizer to avoid over-fertilizing.
4. Properly dispose of yard waste
5. Properly dispose of household chemicals.
6. Regularly maintain your car and fix any oil, radiator or transmission leak as soon as you see them.
7. Maximize infiltration in your yard by directing rainwater away from paved areas.
8. Use a proper container for trash and recyclables.
9. Keep soil in your yard, and out of waterways.
10. Join a local watershed association.

Winnebago County has adopted a comprehensive Stormwater Management Ordinance, as of September 1, 2003, to address the issues of stormwater and erosion control. The County is currently in the process of updating these regulations. The ordinance provides for management of stormwater and erosion control on both a larger scale level and smaller scale (single lot) development level. Although the Town of Nepeuskun is not required to regulate stormwater runoff, doing so is critical for the long-term protection of water resources and personal property in the town. The Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation Department has strongly encouraged the Town to consider adoption of an ordinance, and is available to provide technical assistance to the town.

Solid Waste and Recycling

Garbage pickup is provided on a subscription basis by a private company. Only 30 or so households subscribe to this service. Many households use a small dumpster, often times shared with several households. Some households take garbage directly to one of the three facilities discussed below—residents have expressed concern regarding this process.

The Sunnyview Landfill Facility (remaining life of 11 years) and the Winnebago County Sunnyview Recycling Facility, located in the Town of Oshkosh, are the closest public waste disposal facilities. The County also runs a Household Hazardous Material Facility, Industrial Waste and Yard Waste Beneficial Utilization Program. Winnebago, Outagamie, and Brown County recently entered into a 25-year agreement to handle the disposal of solid waste recycling within their respective counties. Consolidation of the recycling efforts began in 2002, and landfill resources in 2003.

Recycling drop-off of paper and co-mingled glass, plastic, steel and aluminum containers is provided at the Town Hall on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Private waste disposal facilities near the Town of Nepeuskun include Veolia Environmental Services located in Omro and Waste Management of WI located in Berlin. The Town also has agreed to provide curb garbage service town wide, including weekly recycling pick-up. This exemplifies the need to provide such services in the near future in order to address the residents' issues with the subscription and/or drop-off process. Currently, this program is not yet funded or implemented.

Backyard burning and dumping is common and has raised concerns about air quality, contamination of soil and water resources, and unsightliness.

Electrical, Gas, Power, and Telecommunication Facilities

Electrical Service

Alliant Energy serves the southwestern area of the county for electrical services, including the entire Town of Nepeuskun. Their infrastructure is well-maintained, and there is no anticipated change in service.

Natural Gas

The residents of Nepeuskun use propane as their sole energy source. Although, a major natural gas pipeline does run along the west side of Lake Winnebago and has the potential to provide services to the town if there were ever a demand.

Power Generation Plants

There are three existing power generating sites in Winnebago County: Menasha-coal fuel type; Alliant—gas fuel type; and Minergy LLC—biomass fuel type.

Telecommunication Facilities

There are three service groups providing telecommunication service (telephone and internet) within the county: Centry Tel, Ameritech, and GTE. Both internet and telephone services are regarded as inadequate throughout the town. There are some areas where service is unreliable or completely lacking. There is a strong need for better telecommunication service in Nepeuskun.

Cemeteries

There are two cemeteries located in the Town of Nepeuskun, the Krebs Cemetery and the Nepeuskun Cemetery. No additional cemeteries are projected to be needed throughout the life of this Plan.

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Police Service

There is one county law enforcement agency in Winnebago County, which covers the jurisdiction of the Town of Nepeuskun. In 1999, Winnebago County had a ratio of 1.9 full time officers per 1,000 population. In addition to the county sheriff departments, the State

Patrol also provides law enforcement in the region. Winnebago County is part of District 3 of the Wisconsin Division of State Patrol (Winnebago County Comprehensive Plan).

Fire Protection

The Town is split into a north half (sections 1-20), which is covered by the Berlin Fire Department, and a south half (sections 21-36), which is covered by the Ripon Area Fire District. The Omro Fire Department assists in time of need.

Emergency Medical Services

The Town of Nepeuskun is primarily covered by two outside municipality's emergency medical services. The southern portion of the Town is covered by Ripon and the northern portion is covered by Berlin. Since all hospitals in the region provide emergency medical care, most residents in the region are within 30 minutes of an emergency room.

Health Care Facilities

The closest medical centers to the Town are Ripon Medical Center (within about 7 miles) and the Berlin Memorial Hospital (within about 6 miles). There are also two general hospitals located in the City of Oshkosh, Mercy Medical Center with 172 beds and an occupancy rate of 54 percent and Aurora Medical Center with 84 beds and an occupancy rate of 42 percent (Winnebago County Comprehensive Plan).

There are five licensed nursing homes in Oshkosh, and one located in all of the following communities, Omro, Neenah, Menasha, and Appleton for a total of 1,154 beds and an occupancy rate of 90 percent. There are also two nursing homes located in Ripon: Fountain View and Sheltered Village, Berlin is also home to Julliete Manor nursing home. There is also one county owned psychiatric hospital, Fond du Lac County Health Center, located in the City of Fond du Lac. In addition, there is one state owned mental health hospital, Winnebago County Healthy Institute, located in the county.

Community Based Retirement Facilities can be found in Berlin: Brow Wilcox Retirement Home, Creative Community Living Services Inc, and Cumberland House Group Home; and Ripon: Tri Manor LTD, Diverse Options Inc, and American House of Ripon.

Libraries, Schools, Childcare and Senior Facilities

Libraries

The Winnefox Library system serves Winnebago County with nineteen libraries—6 Public Libraries, 2 academic libraries, and 11 special libraries. The six public libraries are located, one each in the Cities of Neenah, Menasha, and Omro and the Village of Winneconne, and 2 in the City of Oshkosh. There is also one located in the City of Ripon and Berlin as part of the Winnefox Library system.

Schools

The Town of Nepeuskun is located in three school districts. The northern portion of Town is located within the Berlin and Omro School Districts the southern portion is located within the Ripon School District (see Map 3.).

The Berlin School District is comprised of one high school (Berlin High School), a middle school (Berlin Middle School) and two elementary schools (Clay Lamberton and Poy Sippi Elementary) (see Table X.1).

The Ripon School District has one high school (Ripon High School), a middle school (Ripon Middle School), and two elementary schools (Murray Park and Barlow Park Elementary). Ripon is also home to four preschools: Advocap/Headstart (AHSC), Barlow Park Elementary School (BPES), Pickett Community Center (PCC), and Ripon Children's Learning Center (RCLC) (see Table X.1).

The Omro School District consists of one high school, one middle school and an elementary school grades 2 through 5. The HB Patch Home is the pre-kindergarten through first grade.

There are three charter schools--public nonsectarian schools that are created through a contract or "charter"

Table 5.1. Nepeuskun Area School Enrollment

between operators and the sponsoring school board or other chartering authority—in Winnebago County:

- School On The Lake focusing on the environment located in Menasha;
- Enterprise Charter School focusing on at-risk located in Omro; and
- EAA/Oshkosh 3rd Grade Aviation focusing on aviation located in the Oshkosh area.

There are also two institutions of higher education located in Winnebago County. The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh has an enrollment of 10,777 and the UW-Fox Valley in Menasha has an enrollment of 1,678. The southwest corner of the county, where Nepeuskun is located, is served by the Moraine Park District State Vocational System with a school facility located in Fond du Lac.

Childcare Facilities

Safe and affordable childcare is a significant consideration for families and employers alike. As more families become dual income and more households are headed by a single parent, the number of children needing day care is increasing despite only a slight projected increase in children under the age of five over the next five years. Ripon has five childcare facilities: Kinderd Heart, Small World Day Care, Wisconsin Childcare Improvement, Grace Lutheran Church and Wood Led & Pat. Markesan and Wautoma have one licensed childcare facility each. Oshkosh has a significant number of child care facilities, including a YMCA, as well as Fond du Lac. The Boys and Girls Club and the St. Slanislaus School in Berlin also hosts community day care along with approximately 10 other day care facilities. These are the closest in proximity to the Town of Nepeuskun.

School	Location	Grades	Public/ Private	Enrollment
Berlin High	222 Memorial Dr.	9 th - 12 th	Public	613
Berlin Middle	289 E. Huron St.	6 th - 8 th	Public	337
Poy Sippi	1122 Liberty St.	K - 5 th	Public	69
Clay Lamberton	259 E. Marquette St., Berlin	K - 5 th	Public	630
Ripon High	850 Tiger Dr.	9 th - 12 th	Public	476
Ripon Middle	651 Metomen St.	6 th - 8 th	Public	440
Murray Park	64 Sunset Ave.	3 rd - 5 th	Public	401
Barlow Park	100 Ringstad Dr.	K - 2 nd	Public	346
Omro High	455 Fox Trail	9 th - 12 th	Public	406
Omro Middle	455 Fox Trail	6 th - 8 th	Public	311
Omro Elementary	1000 N Webster Ave	2 nd - 5 th	Public	391
HB Patch Home	607 Tyler Ave	Pre-K - 1 st	Public	187
Advocap/Head start	W911 Hwy 44, Ripon	Pre-K	Public	17
Pickett Community Center	6687 State Rd. 44, Ripon	Pre-K	Public	13
Ripon Children's Learning Center	400 W. Oshkosh St.	Pre-K	Public	33
Barlow Park PreSchool	100 Ringstad Dr., Ripon	Pre-K	Public	15
Discover	220 Ransom St, Ripon	Pre-K		
REACH Charter	850 Tiger Dr., Ripon	9 th - 12 th	Public	60
Crossroads Charter	850 Tiger Dr., Ripon	9 th - 12 th	Public	11
School of the Lake	1600 Midway Rd, Menasha	6 th - 8 th	Private	47
Enterprise Charter	8389 Liberty School Rd, Omro	6 th - 12 th	Private	2
EAA/Oshkosh Aviation	1225 N. Oakwood Rd., Oshkosh	3 rd	Vocational	38

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Public Recreation Land

There is only one park in the Town of Nepeuskun. Located at the intersection of Island Aire Road and Island Lane in the southeastern portion of the Town near Rush Lake, this piece of property is owned by the town and was established as public parkland in the mid 1970s when the Island Aire subdivision plat was approved. The site lacks easy access (driveway) or parking. It is not mowed or improved in any way for public use.

There are also two State Natural Areas located in the Town, the Koro Railroad Prairie State Natural Area and the Rush Lake Natural Area (discussed in the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Chapter of this Plan).

The Masoutain Valley State Trail has 5.3 miles of unpaved trail running through the southwest corner of Winnebago County then continues into both Green Lake and Fond du Lac Counties. There is parking and access point at Rush Lake Loop Road off of Highway # by Rush Lake.

**Utilities and Community Facilities
20-Year Vision**

In 2030, the Town of Nepeuskun has safe drinking water for all residents, and private septic systems are well maintained. Stormwater regulations have effectively limited the potential impact of new development on water quality and flooding. Local residents continue to enjoy the recreational opportunities provided by Rush Lake and unimproved public lands - in keeping with its rural character, there are no improved park facilities located in the Town.

Town residents continue to have access to and be served by high-quality, affordable utilities and community facilities.

The following goals, objectives, and policies are intended to provide a comprehensive approach for achieving this vision. The order in which these goals, objectives, and policies are listed does not necessarily denote their priority.

Goals

Goals are broad, advisory statements that express general public priorities about how the Town should approach preservation and development issues.

G4.1 Ensure that residents have access to water quality that meets EPA standards

G4.2 Ensure that private septic systems effectively treat wastewater and do not contribute to groundwater contamination.

G4.3 Limit the impact of stormwater on water quality, and mitigate potential flooding issues.

G4.4 Support the private provision of adequate cemeteries in and near the Town of Nepeuskun.

G4.5 Ensure that residents and businesses have access to affordable, reliable, and technologically advanced power and communication services.

G4.6 Ensure that residents have convenient access to state-of-the-art health care facilities and services.

- G4.7** Ensure that children and families have access to high-quality, affordable daycare facilities close to their home and places of employment.
- G4.8** Ensure that residents continue to have access to solid waste disposal and recycling facilities.
- G4.9** Ensure that police, fire, and rescue services continue to meet the public health and safety needs of the public.
- G4.10** Ensure that the public library and school systems continue to meet the educational needs of the public.

- P4.3** Establish a drinking water testing program, coordinating with WI-DNR or Winnebago County, to identify any harmful contaminants (such as arsenic).

Objectives

Objectives suggest future directions in a way that is more specific than goals. The accomplishments of an objective contribute to the fulfillment of a goal.

- O4.1** Limit to the greatest extent possible the runoff of water and pollutants from the site at which they are generated.
- O4.2** Work with local farms and the County Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation Department to reduce groundwater contamination from agriculture.
- O4.3** Encourage local residents to reduce potential sources of groundwater contamination.

Policies

Policies are rules, courses of action, or programs used to ensure Plan implementation and to accomplish the goals and objectives.

- P4.1** Manage water and water pollutants at the source by requiring/encouraging new development to incorporate on-site stormwater strategies, such as rain gardens and infiltration areas, into new development.
- P4.2** Reduce the overall amount of impervious cover associated with new development.