

ELEMENT 4 - UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Community facilities are buildings, lands, services, and programs that serve the public, such as parks, schools, police and fire protection, health care facilities, solid waste and recycling facilities, and libraries. This element identifies and evaluates existing utilities and community facilities serving the Town of Sherman. Understanding the location, use, and capacity of community facilities and utilities is an important consideration when planning for the future.

Due to the rural nature of the town, significant large-scale, high-density development is not likely to occur. If it were to occur, it would likely occur in previously undeveloped lakeshore areas. The overall impact of large-scale development has both a positive side in that this type of development fosters an increased tax base, may provide additional services to residents of the town, and may warrant an upgrade or expansion of utility services to the area. However, it can also have negative effects with increased traffic and congestion, additional responsibilities by the town for maintenance of existing and new roads, and a loss of rural character.

Utilities & Community Facilities Vision – 20 Year Outlook

The Town of Sherman will coordinate with utility providers, Iron County, and the local school district to ensure that town residents have easy access to a full range of services and choices. The town strives to ensure that property taxes are minimized without jeopardizing public health and safety. The town also seeks to improve efficiencies in services at reduced costs by pursuing shared services with neighboring communities.

4.2 EXISTING FACILITIES INVENTORY – LOCATION, USE, AND CAPACITY

What follows is a description of existing utilities and community facilities within the Town of Sherman. Iron County and private companies provide many of the services available to town residents. Therefore, included in this element is information about utilities and community facilities provided by the Town of Sherman, Iron County, and private companies.

Sewer Services

The disposal of domestic and commercial wastewater in the Town of Sherman is handled through the use of individual on-site septic systems that gradually discharge the wastewater to underground drainage fields. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce regulates the siting, design, installation, and inspection of most private on-site sewage systems. In 2000, the state adopted a revised private system policy called COMM 83 that allows for conventional sewage systems and advanced pre-treatment sewage systems. There are five types of on-site disposal system designs authorized for use today: conventional (underground), mound, pressure distribution, at-grade holding tank, and sand filter systems. Development of new and upgraded on-site sanitary systems requires a permit from the Iron County Zoning Department.

Water Supply

The Town of Sherman does not provide municipal water service. All residents receive their water via private wells that are owned and maintained by the property owner. The town has no plans to develop a public water system.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater drains through a series of ditches and culverts along town roadways and dissipates to local lakes, rivers, streams, or filters through the ground. Stormwater runoff from development and roads may have negative impacts on lakes and streams as sediment and nutrient delivery increases resulting in water quality degradation. Managing storm water to increase infiltration and reduce or eliminate direct delivery to surface waters is one of the most important steps that can be taken to protect water quality in the future.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, stormwater management may become an issue in the Town of Sherman as development continues, especially in areas where that natural drainage flows directly to lakes, rivers, and streams. The potential for additional runoff resulting from development may negatively impact local lakes, rivers, and streams. The Town of Sherman should work cooperatively with the land conservation district, DNR, and Iron County to mitigate the adverse impacts of stormwater runoff and ensure that environmental resources are adequately protected.

Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities

Prior to 1970, solid waste management in Iron County consisted of individuals hauling to open municipal landfills. Since that time, state and federal codes regulating landfills have become more restrictive and non-hazardous household wastes are now landfilled only in licensed facilities. Abandoned landfills are potential sources of groundwater pollution, as most facilities were not designed to capture environmentally hazardous runoff to surface or ground water. Table 4.1 shows information regarding landfill sites in the Town of Sherman.

Table 4.1: Town of Sherman: Landfill Sites

Facility Name	Legal Description	Status
The Birch's Resort	S16 41N 03E	Inactive
Town of Sherman	NE NE S23 41N 03E	Inactive
Town of Sherman	NW NW S08 41N 04E	Inactive

Source: WDNR

Waste Management is the largest provider of both garbage and recycling pick-up services to residents and businesses in Iron County. Solid waste collection in the Town of Sherman is sent to either Timberline Trails Landfill in the Town of Stubbs Rusk County, WI or K & W Landfill located in Ontonagon, MI. Waste Management is one solid waste disposal company serving Iron County. Some town residents take their garbage to a waste disposal site in the City of Park Falls.

The recycling program in Iron County consists of drop-off recycling sites. Drop-off sites are aimed at residents that do not have curbside garbage collection. There are currently four drop-off recycling centers in Iron County. These facilities are located in the communities of Hurley, Mercer, Saxon, and Sherman. The Sherman facility is located at the town garage. Items

accepted at this sites include: plastics, glass, cardboard, newspaper, tin, aluminum, magazines and catalogs. These items are separated from other solid waste materials.

Over the 20 year planning horizon there are no major changes anticipated in above description of solid waste disposal and recycling facilities.

Communication Facilities

CenturyTel, Inc. serves the Town of Sherman for local telephone communications. Multiple companies are available to provide long distance and Internet services.

Access to wireless communication facilities is becoming more and more important. Currently there are no cellular, radio or television towers located in the Town of Sherman. The Federal Communications Act of 1996 increased the need for many local governments to examine their zoning ordinances to make sure they do not discriminate against cellular communications in land use and zoning decisions. Currently, the Iron County Zoning Ordinance does not regulate cellular towers or their locations, but the Town of Sherman has adopted an ordinance governing wireless communications facilities in the Town (see Appendix E). While the Town of Sherman has a tower ordinance, there are no cellular towers in Sherman now. As technology changes and as demand for services increases, particularly in rural areas away from USH 51, tower demand will soon follow. See Map 4.1 for cell tower locations.

Over the 20 year planning horizon we are hoping to improve cellular service and enhance other communication services for both residents and visitors to Sherman.

Power Plants, Substations, and Transmission Lines

Currently, there are no power plants, substations, or major transmission lines located in the Town of Sherman. Map 4.1, Utilities depicts transmission lines and substations located in Iron County. Over the 20 year planning horizon we do not anticipate any major changes in this area.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Price Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Phillips, WI provides electricity needs to town residences and businesses. Since Natural gas is not offered in the Town of Sherman, most residents and businesses use propane or electricity for heating. Map 4.1 depicts electric utility territories in Iron County. Over the 20-year planning horizon service upgrades are planned by Price Electric Cooperative.

Law Enforcement

The Iron County Sheriff's Department provides primary local law enforcement in the Town of Sherman. The department's administrative functions and jail facility are located at 300 Taconite Street in the City of Hurley.

The department currently consists of 21 full-time staff including one sheriff, one under sheriff, one lieutenant, two sergeants, eight patrol officers, three jailers, four dispatchers, and one secretary. At any given time, one to three patrol officers are on duty each with his/her own cruiser.

Law Enforcement services are also provided by the Wisconsin State Patrol and by surrounding jurisdictions as needed.

Over the 20 year planning horizon the Town does not plan to institute its own law enforcement agency.

Fire & Rescue

The Sherman Volunteer Fire Department serves the Town of Sherman for fire protection services. The fire hall is located at 3065W Hwy 182, Springstead. Major pieces of fire apparatus include a year 1998 pumper, a 2000 tanker, and a 2004 water supply/brush truck. The department has mutual aid agreements with other surrounding fire departments. Map 4.2 depicts Iron County Fire Districts.

The Sherman First Responders group provides basic emergency medical services to the area. Volunteer members of the group live in Sherman and respond directly to an emergency scene, in their own vehicle, to bridge the time gap until an ambulance can arrive from Park Falls or Mercer. Each Responder carries medial supplies including an airway supply kit, oxygen, stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, etc. In addition, 5 AED's (defibrillators) have been strategically placed with Responders in various areas of the Town. The First Responders work cooperatively with the ambulance services from both Park Falls and Mercer.

The Mercer EMS provides rescue services to the eastern one-third of the Town of Sherman. Mercer EMS has facilities located alongside the Fire Hall in Mercer. Facilities include two ambulances and a snowmobile w/rescue sled. The Park Falls EMS provides rescue services to the western 2/3 of the Town. The Park Falls EMS has three ambulances. Emergencies are dispatched from the Hurley Sheriff's Department through the 911 emergency hotline to both EMS units.

Over the 20 year planning horizon the Town will review the need for both facility and service upgrades.

Cemeteries

There are no known cemeteries in the Town of Sherman. The need for a local cemetery was reviewed and rejected by the Town Board in the late 1980's.

Medical/Health Care and Other Facilities

Residents can receive full hospital medical services at the Howard Young Medical Center located in Woodruff or the Flambeau Hospital located in Park Falls. Both hospitals operate facilities that are staffed 24 hours a day to respond to medical emergencies in Iron County, the Town of Sherman, and its surrounding area. Residents can receive clinical services in Park Falls, Minocqua/Woodruff, Mercer and Ironwood. Outpatient veterans care is available in Rhineland. Over the 20 year planning horizon the Town expects to continue the above arrangements.

Child Care Facilities

The Iron County Human Services Department maintains a listing of all licensed and certified childcare providers. Currently, with the small number of children in Sherman, there are no known child care providers in the Town. Over the 20 year planning horizon, the number of local children should be reviewed to see if a local child care facility is warranted.

Public Library

The Town of Sherman participates in the Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS). This service has access to approximately 30 libraries for inter-library book loans. The closest NWLS member is the Mercer Public Library, which has eight computers with Internet access for public use. Residents of the Town of Sherman also use the Park Falls Public Library in Park Falls. Over the 20 year planning horizon the Town hopes to survey Town residents to see if there is a need to develop a local library.

Educational Facilities

The Town of Sherman is served by the Park Falls School District. The district consists of a connected elementary school, a middle school and high school in the City of Park Falls. The district reported a 2004 student enrollment of 827. District boundaries cover all or portions of the towns of Eisenstein, Fifield, Lake, Sherman, and the City of Park Falls. Over the 20-year planning horizon there are no plans for major improvements to Park Falls School District facilities. Several students from Sherman also attend St. Anthony's Catholic Elementary School located in Park Falls. See Map 4.3 for Iron County School Districts.

In addition, Sherman residents make use of Nicolet Technical College for both adult education and post-secondary classes. Nicolet's main campus is in Rhinelander with classes offered in several other northwoods locations.

Sherman Town Hall and Garage

The Sherman Town Hall is located at 4094 Hwy 182. Town meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The town hall is also used by community groups and organizations, and it is available be rented for other events and gatherings.

The town garage is located at 3061W Hwy 182. In addition to the garage, road equipment includes three plow trucks, end-loader, backhoe, mowing tractor, chipper, and a pick-up truck. The town employs two part-time people for road maintenance purposes and one custodian to maintain the town hall and recycling center.

Currently the Town is looking at the need to upgrade to a new Town Hall/Community Room building and potential upgrades to the Town Garage.

Recreational Facilities

There are several recreational facilities owned and managed by the town, county, and state that are available to residents and visitors of Sherman. In addition to the maintained recreational facilities, county forests and area lakes also provide persons with countless other recreational opportunities.

Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area: This state owned area, mostly in Sherman, totals over 23,000 acres. It includes the 14,000-acre Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and approximately 9,000 acres of surrounding land.

Often referred to as the "Crown Jewel of Wisconsin", the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage has more than 220 miles of shoreline (95% state owned) and 195 islands. The TFSWA is managed by the DNR to perpetuate the areas natural character and scenic beauty. The TFSWA has vast recreational opportunities including 60 rustic campsites on islands, fishing, boating, swimming, snowmobiling, and wildlife watching. A brochure and map of the TFSWA is available at the Mercer DNR station, and at boat landing kiosks.

Sandy Beach State Campground: This campground is located at the end of Sandy Beach Road, off Powell Road, in the northeastern corner of the Town of Sherman. Facilities include rustic campsites, toilets, tables, picnic area, fire rings, drinking water, swimming, and a boat launch.

Public Access Points

Public access points are points of entry for the public to make use of public lakes, forests, and parks. Public access points would include boat landings, carry-in sites, waysides, or road crossings. In the Town of Sherman, there are 11 public access points, which are scattered throughout the town. Boat landings are often one of the most prevalent public access points, and there are eight boat landings in the town for the public to access lakes and rivers. Three are considered Boat Carry-In Access points. See Table 4.2 and 4.3 below for more details.

Table 4.2: Boat Ramps			
<i>Water Body</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Notes:</i>
Upper Flambeau River	T.41N.-R.2E. Sec. 3	WI-DNR	Near TFF Dam
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage	T.42N.-R.3E. Sec. 31	WI-DNR	Springstead Landing
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage	T.42N.-R.3E. Sec. 35	WI-DNR	Murray's Landing
McDermott Lake	T.41N.-R.3E. Sec. 30	WI-DNR	End of McDermott Road
Bearskull Lake	T.41N.-R.3E. Sec. 25	WI-DNR	Off Bearskull Road
Randall Lakes	T.41N.-R.4E. Sec. 17	WI-DNR	End of Randall Lake Road
Sandy Beach Lake	T.42N.-R.4E Sec. 23	WI-DNR	End of Sandy Beach Road

Table 4.3: Boat Carry-In Access			
<i>Water Body</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Notes:</i>
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage	T.41N.-R.3E. Sec 5	WI-DNR	Fawn Lake Road Access
Sherman Lake	T.42N.-R.4E. Sec 36	WI-DNR	Hwy. 47 @ County Line
Bear River	T.42N.-R.4E Sec. 32	WI-DNR	Borgi Canoe Landing
Mud Lake	T.42N.-R.4E Sec. 23	WI-DNR	Near Sandy Beach Lake

Recreational Trails

- ♦ **Cross Country Skiing** – Located just off Powell Road, near Powell Marsh, this is a DNR maintained cross-country ski trail.
- ♦ **Snowmobile Trails** – The Town of Sherman has many miles of snowmobile trails that crisscross the town. These trails provide connections to adjoining trail systems and are maintained by the Springstead Sno-Birds and Mercer Snow-Goer snowmobile clubs.
- ♦ **ATV Trails** – There are no official ATV trails in the Town of Sherman. All Town of Sherman roads are open to ATV traffic except Fawn Lake Road.

4.3 FUTURE NEEDS

The Town of Sherman has identified existing utilities and community facilities serving the town. To assess future needs for services related to such utilities and community facilities, Table 4.4 below forecasts the need to expand, rehabilitate, or provide new utilities and facilities and to assess future needs for government services in the Town of Sherman that are related to such utilities and facilities over the next 20 years.

Table 4.4: Future Utilities and Community Facilities Timetable

	Future Needs	Over the 20-year planning horizon...			Comment
		Expand	Rehab	New	
Sanitary Sewer Service	None				Private Systems Only
Storm Water Management	None				Not a Problem
Water Supply	None				Private Systems Only
Solid Waste Disposal	None				Contracted Out
Recycling Facilities	Yes	X			Upgrade as Needed
Communication Facilities	Yes	X			Improve Cell Service
Power Plants and Transmission Lines	Yes	X			Price Electric Upgrade
Cemeteries	None				
Health Care Facilities	N/A				
Child Care Facilities	N/A				
Law Enforcement	N/A				
Fire	Yes	X	X		Ongoing Upgrades
Rescue	Yes			X	Consider as needed
Libraries	None				Member of NWLS
Schools	Yes				
Parks	N/A				
Trails	Yes		X		
Town Hall/Garage	Yes	X	X		Evaluate
Other Govt. Facilities	Yes				Evaluate

Source: Town of Sherman

4.4 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

A set of recommended goals, objectives, and actions steps has been developed to assist the Town of Sherman in the area of utilities and community facilities. Implementation of the identified actions will assist in achieving the overall goal.

GOAL: PROMOTE ADEQUATE UTILITY SERVICE, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND TOWN SERVICES, WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF THE TOWN

Objective 1: Work with utility providers (telephone and electric) to ensure adequate and consistent service for Town residents.

Action: Establish contact with CenturyTel. Ask them to lay out plan for increased availability of high speed internet connection for Town residents/visitors.

Action: Continue attempts for better cell phone coverage with cell providers.

Objective 2: Promote increased emergency medical services through local participation.

Action: Continue/increase support for the newly formed First Responder group.

Objective 3: Promote publicly based long term planning process for future community buildings and/or facilities.

Action: Use experience gained from Fire Department Advisory Committee process to develop a long-term plan for Town facilities.

Objective 4: Promote publicly based planning process for consideration of possible future community recreation facilities.

Action: Determine if park, playground and or walking trails are needed. If so, determine siting, funding and other appropriate details.