

UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Utilities and community facilities that serve the public’s needs are often critical elements that local residents, property owners, and the traveling public desire. Community facilities include parks, schools, police and fire protection, health care facilities, solid waste and recycling facilities, and libraries. Utilities may include sewer and water, electricity, and telecommunication services. This element identifies, inventories, and evaluates existing utility and community facilities serving the town.

The lack of adequate facilities can impede future growth and development and compromise efforts to encourage economic development. Understanding the location, use, and capacity of community facilities and utilities is an important consideration when planning for the future.

4.2 EXISTING UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Sanitary Sewer Service

The disposal of domestic and commercial wastewater is handled through the use of private individual on-site wastewater disposal systems. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated that the Town of Wascott will develop a municipal wastewater collection and treatment facility. However, as development densities around critical natural resources grow, the potential for a small-scale sanitary district serving these higher-density areas may occur.

Storm Water Management

The town does not have a stormwater management plan or system and has no plans to add a storm sewer system in the town. The potential for additional runoff resulting from development may negatively impact local water resources as sediment and nutrient delivery increases. Managing storm water to reduce or eliminate direct delivery to surface waters is one of the most important steps that can be taken to protect surface water quality in the future.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, stormwater management may become an issue as continued development occurs. The Town of Wascott must work cooperatively with the WDNR and Douglas County to mitigate the adverse impacts of stormwater runoff and ensure that environmental resources are adequately protected.

Water Supply

All residents receive their water via private wells. It is important that the town’s water resources and aquifers be protected from contamination as individual home and business owners utilize this valuable natural resource. Over the 20-year planning horizon, the town does not anticipate developing a municipal water delivery system. Local property owners are encouraged to protect surface and ground waters from contamination.

Solid Waste

With the passage of stringent federal regulations in the 1980’s, many town landfills in Douglas County closed. Since that time, state and federal laws have become more restrictive and non-hazardous household wastes are land filled in licensed facilities. Many older abandoned landfills were located in sand and gravel pits or in low-lying areas. These landfill sites may pose a greater risk to local groundwater quality than modern landfills because of poor location and absence of liners or advanced leachate collection systems. Table 4.1 provides information regarding old landfills in the Town of Wascott.

Table 4.1: Town of Wascott Landfill Sites		
Facility Name	Legal Description	Status
TN Wascott-West Site	SE SWS25 43N 13W	Inactive
TN Wascott-East Site	SW NE S13 43N 11W	Inactive
TN Wascott	NW NE S31 43N 11W	Inactive
CTR	S04 43N 11W	Inactive
Town of Wascott - TIME Demo	SE SW S25 43N 13W	Inactive

Source: WDNR

Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc. (BFI) and George Booth Garbage Service provide contracted garbage disposal services to the area. Collection services are contracted between local property owners and private waste providers, as the town does not have a contract for waste services covering the entire town.

The Town of Wascott jointly owns and operates a transfer station for garbage disposal with the Town of Gordon. The Gordon/Wascott Transfer Station is located at the intersection of St. Croix Road and County Highway Y. Property owners in both towns can dispose of household garbage at the site. The facility is maintained and operated through the use of local property tax funds.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, the town does not anticipate providing curbside collection of garbage. The town encourages private garbage haulers to continue to provide curbside services, including the collection of recyclable materials.

Recycling Facilities

Residents can bring recyclables to the Gordon/Wascott Transfer Station. Recyclables accepted include glass, plastic, cardboard, batteries, and used oil. The recycling facility is maintained and operated through the use of local property tax funds. Demolition materials are accepted at the transfer station for an additional charge.

Over the next 20-year planning horizon, the town anticipates to continue providing a site for recycling and garbage collection. As future development occurs, the town may need to explore the potential development of a second transfer station.

Parks

The Wascott Ball Park located along Crystal Lake Road a half mile north of CTH T offers several recreational opportunities. Facilities at the park include a basketball court, softball field,

swings, merry-go-round, slide, non-motorized nature trail, restrooms, and a covered pavilion with picnic tables and barbeque grills.



The Douglas County Forestry Department owns several hundred acres of woodlands that are open to the public for recreational use. Potential park and recreational improvements at areas near the Empire Landing Road, Ounce River, and Eau Claire River could enhance the recreational opportunities in Wascott.



Adjacent to the community center/town hall, limited recreational facilities exist. Two covered picnic tables and grills exist. The town has also identified four sections located in the far northwestern corner of the town (Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8; T. 43N. – R. 13W) as an excellent park and recreation opportunities.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, the town may develop additional community parks or recreation facilities on- and off-water resources. Several actions related to community park development have been identified. Recreational facilities at or very near lake access points on both town and county-owned land has been suggested. These improvements could include picnic and fire pit amenities. Land near the abandoned copper mines has also been identified as a possible park/recreation area. These lands are privately owned and future discussion would be necessary to determine the viability for such recreational development.

As local requests for recreational services are identified, the town will investigate the future improvement or development of park and recreational facilities.

Telecommunication Facilities

CenturyTel provides Wascott residents with local telephone communications, while a number of national companies are available to provide long distance and Internet services to town residents and businesses.

Access to wireless communication facilities is becoming more and more important. Currently, no cellular phone towers are located in the town. While the Town of Wascott does not have a cellular tower at this time, as technology advances and demand for such services increase, particularly in rural areas, it is possible towers will follow.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not expected the town will engage in the development of communication facilities. However, it is expected the town will actively participate in discussions and planning with local communication providers and Douglas County to ensure that area residents have access to the latest technology; and any future siting of these facilities is done so in the best interest of the town.

Power Plants, Substations, and Transmission Lines

No power plants or hydroelectric generation facilities are located in the town. Two substations, one located along Red Lake Drive approximately one mile east of STH 53 and a second on Crystal Lake Road north of the intersection of CTH T and Crystal Lake Road. Each substation is owned and maintained by East Central Energy.

Electrical transmission lines cross the town. A transmission line improvement is proposed in the town. The proposed Arrowhead-Weston power transmission line being developed by the American Transmission Corporation (ATC) will cross the Town of Wascott for approximately 5.5 miles. Based on information provided to local governments in December 2003, ATC had proposed to provide the Town of Wascott with a one-time environmental impact fee of \$211,844 and an annual impact fee of \$12,710.55. The proposed annual impact fee would be on a sliding scale where in some out-year the annual impact fee would reach \$0. The impact fees are estimated figures and would be open to negotiations between the town and ATC. Based on the ATC proposal of December 2003, Douglas County would receive an environmental impact fee of \$1,791,045 and an annual impact fee of \$107,463.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, the town does not anticipate the development of their own power plants, substations, or transmission lines. The town does however, wish to coordinate and discuss future development of power plants, substations, or transmission lines with entities proposing such facilities to ensure the local quality of life and environmental integrity is not harmed due to poor design or siting of facilities.

Electricity and Natural Gas

East Central Energy (ECE) and Dahlberg Light & Power Co. provide electricity service to town residents and businesses (Map 4.2). No natural gas services are available in the town. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not expected the town will engage in the development of utilities such as electricity or natural gas. However, it is expected the town will actively participate in discussions and planning with companies providing or proposing such facilities to ensure siting of these facilities is done so in the best interest of the community.





Cemeteries

One cemetery is located in the Town of Wascott. The Kreide Cemetery is located on Cemetery Road and is owned and maintained by the Town of Wascott. Plans are underway to expand the cemetery. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not expected the town will engage in the development of another cemetery.

Law Enforcement

The Douglas County Sheriff’s Department serves as the primary law enforcement agency to town residents. The sheriff’s department and jail are housed in the Douglas County Government Center located at 1316 North 14th Street in the City of Superior.

The Town of Wascott employs one town constable who is elected every two years. Under state statutes, the constable is given power to handle only those things the town board deems appropriate. Current duties of the town constable are limited to patrolling, dealing with stray dogs, and other general duties.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated that the town will develop a law enforcement department. Coordination and cooperation between the Town of Wascott and the Douglas County Sheriff’s Department regarding local crime must continue to be monitored in an effort to address local concerns regarding public health, safety, and welfare.

Fire & Rescue

The Town of Wascott supports the Wascott Volunteer Fire Department. The fire hall is located at the corner of County Highway T and Apple Lake Road. The department has mutual aid agreements with all surrounding towns.



The Town of Wascott runs a joint rescue service with the Town of Gordon. Two ambulances are housed in a facility located one mile east of Gordon on County Highway Y. This Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate (EMTI) service includes EMT’s and first responders. The town contracts with Gold Cross Ambulance for additional emergency medical services when needed.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, the town will continue to need fire and ambulance services to protect local structures and persons. Continued coordination between the town and the fire department is necessary to ensure facilities and equipment is available to provide adequate service. Additionally, efforts to more centrally locate the ambulance service are expected to occur in the future.

Health Care Facilities

There are no hospitals or clinics located in the town. Residents can receive medical assistance from the following regional hospital facilities: Spooner Health System – City of Spooner or Hayward Memorial Hospital - City of Hayward. Local clinics include Northwoods Community Health Center – Village of Minong and Duluth Clinic – City of Spooner and City of Hayward. Other regional medical facilities can be found in the Cities of Eau Claire, Superior, and Duluth.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated the town will develop health care facilities. The town would be interested in working with a clinic or practitioner interested in providing health care services to local residents.

Daycare Services

The Douglas County Health and Human Services Department maintains a list of certified and licensed day care providers in the area. Currently there are none located in the Town of Wascott. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated the town will provide child or adult day care services.

Libraries

There are no libraries located in the Town of Wascott. For library services, Town of Wascott residents may patronize the City of Superior Public Library. Residents may also utilize the Joan Salmen Memorial Library, a City of Superior branch library located in the Village of Solon Springs. The town and Northwood School District have had discussions regarding the town’s financial participation to support the school library. The library located in the Northwood School is open to citizens of the school district.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is anticipated that discussions between the town and school district will continue, and local residents and property owners of the district will have access to the school library. If during the planning horizon, the school district facilities are not available, the town will work with the City of Superior Library to explore other options available for local residents and property owners desiring library services.

Schools

There are no schools in the Town of Wascott. The Town of Wascott is served by the Northwood School District, located at N14463 Hwy 53 in the Town of Minong. The Northwood School District enrolls approximately 440 students and covers roughly 435 square miles in Washburn and Douglas Counties. In 2004, the district is finishing construction of a bus garage west of the football field on an 11-acre site. There are no plans at this time for new additions to the school. Over the 20-year planning horizon, the town wishes to work cooperatively with the school board on developing and siting of facilities.



Several colleges and technical schools are within driving distance to the Town of Wascott. These educational facilities include the Pine Technical College, Pine County, Minnesota; Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC), Rice Lake and Superior; WITC Hayward Community Education Center, Hayward; Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, LCO Reservation; UW-Barron County, Rice Lake; UW-Superior, Superior; University of Minnesota, Duluth; and St. Scholastica, Duluth.



Wascott Town Hall/Garage

The Wascott Town Hall is located at 16362S Town Hall Road. The town hall also serves as a community center. The town hall can be rented for personal or community gatherings and is used by the WDNR as a forest fire command center. The Wascott town garage is located adjacent to the town hall and is used to store and maintain town road equipment. The town has three full-time employees and one part-time employee for road maintenance purposes.

Over the 20-year planning horizon the town will continue to maintain and update buildings and equipment necessary to provide cost effective and efficient services to its residents and non-resident landowners.

Other Recreational Opportunities

Douglas County Forest

The Douglas County forest is the largest county forest in Wisconsin, with approximately 268,850 acres. These lands are managed to provide multi-use recreational opportunities. Activities include cross-country skiing, ATV/snowmobiling, hunting and fishing, sightseeing, hiking, and camping as well as providing timber production.

Wild Rivers Trail

The Wild Rivers Trail winds through the center of the Town of Wascott. Developed as a multi-use, four-season trail, the Wild Rivers Trail provides access to miles of county and club trails allowing users to travel deep within Douglas County.



Other Trails

Wascott Four Season's Recreation Club maintains Trail #3, a trail approximately 12 miles in length that connects to county corridor trail 41. Trail #3 links trail users to town businesses. A developed ATV road route connects the east and west sides of Wascott to the north/south running Wild Rivers Trail.

Although the town does not have responsibilities associated with the county forest and Wild Rivers Trail, during the 20-year planning horizon the town will provide the organizations with comments and input relating to further development of recreational opportunities.

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

A set of recommended goals, objectives, and action steps have been recommended to assist in addressing utility and community facilities. Actions identified within each objective are intended to assist the town in meeting the overall goal of supporting and providing community facilities and services that contribute to the overall improvement of the community while maintaining a rural atmosphere.

Goal: Support and provide community facilities and services, which contribute to the overall improvement of the community while maintaining a rural atmosphere.

Objective: Become more involved with public utility companies in planning and development of services impacting Wascott.

- A. Encourage underground placement of utility lines.
- B. Meet with representatives of local phone companies to seek local phone/internet upgrades.
- C. Meet with representatives of local utility companies to discuss future infrastructure development and replacement.

Objective: Promote use of existing facilities and encourage development of public facilities such as parks, public access/parking, green space, and trails.

- A. Inventory existing facilities and develop a five-year plan for facility improvement.
- B. Develop nature trails where feasible on town land, dedicated easements, and county forests.
- C. Meet with Northwood School to encourage the development of youth programs and activities.
- D. Encourage the development of a community area public library.

Objective: Seek local, state, and federal assistance in the development of public facilities.

- A. Apply for funding assistance in the development of rehabilitated, expanded, and new public facilities.

Objective: Anticipate and prepare the community for potential sanitary sewer/water district development.

- A. Meet with adjoining jurisdictions and community members to identify common concerns and needs.

As noted in previous elements, Wascott is geographically a large community with very low per-person and housing density levels. The result of this is often the desire of persons wanting to own or live on a relatively large tract of land away from other persons. While this does not seem a problem, it does lead to additional costs relating to potential road and snow maintenance and protection services including fire, police, and ambulance.

As exemplified in this plan and in the community survey, the community continues to encourage commercial development. In the future as commercial development occurs, lot designs that take advantage of shared roadways, such as frontage roads, should be examined. Development designs, especially along STH 53, should be planned that can provide for shared services, whenever possible.