
UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Community facilities include buildings, lands, services, and programs that serve the public. Examples of community facilities are parks, schools, police and fire protection, health care facilities, solid waste and recycling facilities, and libraries. Utilities such as sewer and water, electricity, and telecommunication services are some of the common utilities found in many communities. This chapter identifies and evaluates existing utilities and community facilities serving the town. Understanding the location, use, and capacity of community facilities and utilities is an important consideration when planning for the future.

Throughout the town, Burnett County and private companies provide many of the services available to local residents. Therefore, included in this chapter is information about utilities and community facilities provided by the town, Burnett County, and private providers.

4.2 UTILITIES

Sewer and Water Services

The Town of Blaine does not provide municipal sewer and water services. All residents receive their water via private wells that are owned and maintained by the property owner. There is no existing plan to develop a public water system. 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.

The Wisconsin Department of Commerce regulates the siting, design, installation, and inspection of most private on-site sewage systems. The disposal of domestic wastewater in the Town of Blaine is handled through the use of individual on-site wastewater disposal systems, which gradually discharge the wastewater to underground drainage fields. Over the 20-year planning period, it is not anticipated that the Town of Blaine will develop a municipal water or sewer system.

Stormwater Management

The town does not have a stormwater management plan in place and has no plans to add a storm sewer system in the town. However, over the 20-year planning period, the potential for additional runoff resulting from development may negatively impact local water resources as sediment and nutrient delivery increases due to runoff. 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 surface water quality in the future.

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

Power Plants, Substations, and Transmission Lines

There are no power plants, substations or transmission lines located in the town. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is the branch of the State of Wisconsin with the overall responsibility of regulating electric utilities. It is not likely the Town of Blaine will engage in the development of power plants, substations, or transmission line over the next 20 years.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Northwestern Electric Company and East Central Energy provide electricity to the town's residences and businesses (Map 4.1). There is no natural gas availability in the Town of Blaine at this time. In the next 20-years, it is not expected the town will engage in the development of utilities such as electricity or 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.

Communication Services

CenturyTel serves the Town of Blaine 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 phone towers located in the town. While the Town of Blaine does not have a cellular tower at this time, as technology advances and demand for such services increase, particularly in rural areas, it is likely 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 Burnett 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.

4.3 FACILITIES

Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities

Prior to 1969, solid waste management in Burnett County consisted primarily of individuals hauling to unsupervised open municipal landfills. Since that time, state and federal laws have become more restrictive and non-hazardous household wastes are land filled only in licensed facilities. Table 4.1 provides information regarding old landfills in the Town of Blaine.

Facility Name	Legal Description	Status
Town of Blaine	NW NW S17 42N 14W	Inactive 7/92

Source: WDNR

Curbside collection of garbage and recyclables is available to all town residents through either BFI or Waste Management of Northern Wisconsin. Residents can also haul their garbage and recyclables to the Blaine Transfer Station located on State Highway 35 in the Town of Blaine, or to the Midtown Transfer Station located on Midtown Road in Siren.

Law Enforcement

The Town of Blaine does not have its own law enforcement department. The Burnett County Sheriff's Department serves as the town's primary law enforcement agency. The department's administrative functions and jail facility are located in the Burnett County Government Center, located at 7410 Co. Rd. K, Siren.

Over the 20-year planning period, it is not likely the Town of Blaine will develop a law enforcement department. Coordination and cooperation between the Town of Blaine and the Burnett 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 Blaine contracts with the Town of Dairyland, Douglas County for fire and rescue services.

North Ambulance provides emergency service care in Burnett County with ambulances garaged at A & H, Danbury, Webster, and Spooner. Burnett County also has a network of first responders who can be sent to accidents or emergency situations to provide assistance while ambulances are in route.

Cemeteries

Two cemeteries, Hillcrest and Evergreen are located in the Town of Blaine (Map 8.1). Inquiry is presently underway regarding the siting/location of the Dogtown Cemetery in the town. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not expected the town will engage in the development of a cemetery.

Medical/Health Care and Other Facilities

Residents of the Town of Blaine can receive full medical services at Burnett Medical Center located at 257 W. St. George Avenue in the Village of Grantsburg. Burnett Medical Center is a rural medical center offering inpatient, outpatient, emergency, visiting specialty, and long-term care services. The core services include emergency care, transports by helicopter to the Twin Cities area, radiology, physical therapy, lab work, hospice care, nursing home, and swing bed services. The Burnett Medical Center also runs and operates the Burnett Medical Center Clinic located at 513 S. Parkview Drive in the Village of Grantsburg. This is a family practice clinic offering services which include OB/GYN, physicals, treatment of acute and chronic health conditions, diabetic education, routine laboratory, Holter monitoring, cardiology assessments, and pacemaker checks. Local medical clinics also exist at various locations in Burnett County.

Other medical facilities located in Superior, Village of Minong, Spooner, and Shell Lake provide services to local residents. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated the town will develop medical or health care facilities.

Child/Daycare Services

The Burnett County Health and Human Services Department maintains a list of certified and licensed day care providers in the county. One registered daycare business is located in the Town of Blaine.

Libraries

There are no libraries in the Town of Blaine. Residents of the Town of Blaine may utilize the services provided by Burnett Community Library located at 7451 Main Street West in the Village of Webster. The town intends to research the possibility of establishing permanent or mobile library services for the town over the 20-year planning horizon.

Schools

The Town of Blaine is primarily within the Webster School District with a very small corner in the far eastern section in the Northwood School District (Map 4.2).

The Webster School District enrolls approximately 726 students. Two facilities comprise the district with the grades K-4 facility located at 7364 Alder Street East and the grades 5-12 facility located at 7564 Alder Street West.

A new school has been recently constructed and as such, there are no plans at this time for new school construction. However, over the 20-year planning horizon, the town wishes to work cooperatively with the school board on developing and siting of any additional facilities. An elementary school previously operated by the Webster School District in the unincorporated Town of Danbury was closed in 1994.

According to Northwood School District officials in September 2003, 447 students were attending school within the district. Based on a 1999 survey conducted on a school-by-school basis by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the Northwood School District was not rated as being overcrowded. This survey is the result of Section 115.33(4), Wis. Stats. Enacted into law in 1998 that requires the state superintendent to conduct a study of the physical condition and capacity of the public schools and their suitability for use as public schools.

Among the colleges and technical schools within close proximity to Burnett County and Town of Blaine are: WITC, Rice Lake and Superior; Siren WITC Learning Center, Siren; UW-Barron County, Rice Lake; UW-Superior, Superior; Lake Superior College and St. Scholastica College in Duluth, and the University of Minnesota, Duluth campus.

Blaine Town Hall

The Blaine Town Hall, located on State Highway 35, is actually located in the Town of Dairyland, Douglas County, just north of the Town of Blaine border. The facility is a former school with more than adequate facilities to operate as a town hall. The facility is also used extensively for community events and various programs such as providing meals for seniors. There have been discussions on relocating to a location within the Town of Blaine. One of the objectives of the comprehensive plan is to research the feasibility of such a move.

Parks & Wildlife Areas

The Town of Blaine does not operate or maintain any park and recreation areas, with the exception of the boat landings at Big and Little McGraw Lakes. The majority of the land owned in the town is under county, state, or federal ownership. This ownership level provides many recreational opportunities from motorized to quiet sport activities

Designation of the St. Croix River and Namekagon River as a “Scenic and Wild” Riverway is an important resource for the town. This special designation preserves the waterways from future development pressures along the landward portion of the river.

Over the 20-year planning horizon, the town may look at the development of other park and recreation areas, but due to the large amount of county, state, and federal lands available for recreational activities, town development is not anticipated.

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

The local infrastructure, services, and amenities associated with utility and community facilities are important to local residents, seasonal residents, and visitors to the town. Many of the services and functions associated with utilities and community facilities impact the overall quality of life and the future development of the town.

A set of recommended goals, objectives, and action-plans has been developed to assist the Town of Blaine in addressing utility and community facilities. Actions identified with each objective are intended to assist the town with meeting the overall goal of maintaining and enhancing community facilities and services, thus contributing to the overall improvement of the town.

Goal: Support facilities and services that contribute to the well being of the town.

Objective and Action Statements:

- 1: Have input into the location of cell towers and power lines.
 - a. Contact cell tower providers for information on new sites.
- 2: Research feasibility of requiring all power lines to be laid underground.
 - a. Contact utilities regarding underground line technologies.
- 3: Investigate future gas and water line development as they become available.
 - a. Contact gas or water line development companies for future plans.
- 4: Expansion and improvement to town cemeteries.
 - a. Expand Hillcrest Cemetery site as space is needed.
 - b. Maintain and preserve other cemeteries in the town.

- 5: Maintain and expand recycling and waste disposal services.
 - a. Expand list of materials accepted.
- 6: Investigate possibilities of generator construction.
 - a. Investigate funding for future generator construction.
- 7: Research new town hall construction with appropriate facilities.
 - a. Consolidate town facilities (garages, utility buildings, etc.).
 - b. Construct a secure office for the town.