
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 town 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 Grantsburg 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. Although there is no existing plan to develop a public water system, the potential extension of water from the Village of Grantsburg could be explored over the 20-year planning horizon. 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. 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. The disposal of domestic wastewater in the Town of Grantsburg 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 Grantsburg will develop a municipal 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 in the Town of Grantsburg as continued development occurs. The Town of Grantsburg 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 located in the town. One substation is located at the corner of STH 48 and Skog Road in the Town of Grantsburg. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is the branch of the State of Wisconsin with the overall responsibility of regulating electric utilities. One transmission line runs from the substation north to STH 70 and follows STH 70 into Minnesota. It is not likely the Town of Grantsburg will engage in the development of power plants, substations, or transmission line over the next 20 years. Map 4.1 depicts the transmission line and substation located in the Town of Grantsburg.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Co. provides electricity to the town's residences and businesses. Natural gas utilities are limited to the Village of Grantsburg. 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

Farmers Independent Telephone Co. serves the Town of Grantsburg 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; however, one is located by the water tower off STH 70 in the Village of Grantsburg. While the Town of Grantsburg 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 Grantsburg.

Table 4.1: Town of Grantsburg Landfill Sites

Facility Name	Legal Description	Status
Demolition Site	SW SE S15 38N 19W	Inactive
Village of Grantsburg (Demo)	SW SE N15 38N 19W	Inactive
Village of Grantsburg	SW SE N15 38N 19W	Inactive

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 to one of two transfer stations, the Midtown Transfer Station located on Midtown Road in Siren and the Grantsburg Transfer Station, located in the Village of Grantsburg. Recyclables may be brought to one of three locations including the Grantsburg Transfer Station, Midtown Transfer Station, and the Town of Trade Lake, next to the town maintenance building.

Law Enforcement

The Town of Grantsburg does not have its own law enforcement department. The Burnett County Sheriff’s Department serves as the primary law enforcement agency to the Town of Grantsburg. The department’s administrative functions and jail facility are located in the Burnett County Government Center, located at 7410 Co. Rd. K, Siren. The Town of Grantsburg and the Village of Grantsburg Police Department work cooperatively on law enforcement activities that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

The Town of Grantsburg employs one town constable. 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 dealing with stray dogs.

Over the 20-year planning period, it is not likely the Town of Grantsburg will develop a law enforcement department. Coordination and cooperation between the Town of Grantsburg, the Grantsburg Police Department, 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 Grantsburg Volunteer Fire Association serves the Village of Grantsburg and the Towns of Anderson, Grantsburg, West Marshland, Wood River and part of Trade Lake Township for fire protection. The Grantsburg Fire Association operates two pumpers, two tanker trucks, a rescue truck, a wild-land brush truck, and a rural water supply pumper. The department is located at 306 South Oak Street in the Village of Grantsburg. According to the fire chief, the department has an ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating of 6 and is staffed by approximately 26 volunteer firefighters. An ISO rating of 1 is best and 10 means no fire protection is offered.

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

Cemeteries

Often overlooked, cemeteries are also considered community facilities. Currently, one cemetery is located in the Town of Grantsburg. One cemetery, Wood River Norwegian Cemetery, is located along Skog Road (Map 4.1). 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 Grantsburg 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.

Child/Daycare Services

The Burnett County Health and Human Services Department maintains a list of certified and licensed day care providers in the county. In the Town of Grantsburg, Kid Connection, located at 23456 Johnson Road and another private individual have been identified as being either certified or licensed to provide day care.

Libraries

The Grantsburg Public Library, Mary Ann Erickson Memorial, is located at 415 S. Robert Street in the Village of Grantsburg. The Grantsburg Historical Society is also located in the library. Residents of the Town of Grantsburg can also utilize the services provided by Burnett Community Library located at 7451 Main Street West in the Village of Webster.

Schools

The Grantsburg School District enrolls approximately 1,050 students and covers roughly 278 square miles, with the majority of the District in Burnett County and a small portion in Polk County. The district consists of four schools all located in the Village of Grantsburg at:

- ◆ Nelson Primary School: 11486 State Road 70 (opened in 1962)
- ◆ Elementary School: 475 E. James Avenue (opened in 1968 with renovation in 1997)
- ◆ Middle School: 500 E. James Avenue (opened in 1995)
- ◆ Senior High: 480 E. James Avenue (opened in 1984 with new wing and renovation in 2000)

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 facilities.

Among the colleges and technical schools within close proximity to Burnett County and Town of Grantsburg are: Pine Technical College, Pine County Minnesota; WITC, Rice Lake; WITC, New

Richmond; Siren Learning Center, Siren; UW-Barron County, Rice Lake; UW-Superior, Superior; UW-Stout, Menomonie; UW-Eau Claire, Eau Claire; and University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Grantsburg Town Hall

The Grantsburg Town Hall is located at State Road 87 and Skog Road. Over the next 20 years, continued maintenance and improvements are expected.

Parks & Wildlife Areas

There are two public parks in the Town of Grantsburg, both on the St. Croix River and maintained by the National Park Service. One is located at the STH 70 entrance to Wisconsin from Minnesota and the other at the “Sand Cliffs” on Tennessee Road in Section 7.

Four wildlife areas in western Burnett County comprise the Glacial Lake Grantsburg Wildlife Complex: Crex Meadows, Fish Lake, Amsterdam Sloughs, and Danbury wildlife areas. Parts of both the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area and Fish Lake Wildlife Area are located in the Town of Grantsburg. Also located within the Town of Grantsburg, is part of Governor Knowles State Forest. A description of the wildlife areas located in the town follows.

- **Crex Meadows Wildlife Area** – This wildlife area is located in the far northeast corner of the Town of Grantsburg and covers approximately 1,500 acres in the town. It is the largest and best known of the four wildlife areas in the county. It contains acres of wetlands, prairies, and forests, a combination that offers habitat for a variety of wildlife. A recent addition to Crex is the new Wildlife Education and Visitor Center, which contains an auditorium, library, classrooms, and display areas. More than 40 miles of roads provide excellent access, and most wildlife can be observed from the roads.
- **Fish Lake Wildlife Area** – Fish Lake Wildlife Area located four miles south of the Village of Grantsburg contains more than 13,000 acres of forest, large sedge marshes, and old fields. Compared to Crex Meadows, Fish Lake is in the early stages of development. Eight flowages have been completed, with several more small flowages planned. The refuge is prime land for seeing wildlife during spring and fall migration.
- **Governor Knowles State Forest** – This is a narrow strip of forest that lies along more than 50 miles of the St. Croix River’s east bank, encompassing unique woodland geology and habitat. The State Forest offers parks, campgrounds, hiking trails, cross-county ski trails, and 32 miles of snowmobile trails between Grantsburg and Wolf Creek.

Over the next 20-year planning horizon, continued maintenance and improvements are expected.

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

GOAL: Maintain and enhance community facilities and services, which contribute to the overall well being and improvement of the community.

- Objective 1. Coordinate utility and community facility system planning with land use, housing, transportation, and natural resources.
 - a. Meet with representatives from local and regional utility companies in the spring or fall to coordinate project activities and to maximize delivery of services.
 - b. Meet with Village of Grantsburg and Burnett County representatives to discuss protective services.

- Objective 2. Monitor land use development near the Village of Grantsburg for the potential development of a sanitary district.
 - a. Meet with the Village of Grantsburg, when deemed applicable, to discuss the potential development of a sanitary district in the town.

- Objective 3. Ensure property owners acquire a driveway permit prior to being approved for a building permit.
 - a. Coordinate with the Burnett County Zoning Department regarding the requirements for driveway permits at the time of sanitary permit issuance.