

CHAPTER 4 Utilities and Community Facilities Element

Section 4.1 Introduction

Adequate infrastructure, utilities, community facilities and services are important in meeting existing and future community needs. As the framework of a community's life, these characteristics define present day standards of living. Decisions made for the Town of Plover regarding the utilities and community facilities will impact all present and future residents.

This chapter will describe the existing utility and community facilities serving the community, and outline future desires and needs for the Town of Plover residents.

Section 4.2 Public Utilities Inventory

A. Sanitary Sewer Service

The majority of the residents in the Town utilize private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS), otherwise known as private septic systems, as allowed by Wisconsin Department of Commerce Code 83 and the Portage County Private Sewage System Ordinance. An outcome of a prior boundary agreement with the Village of Plover makes sewer service available to portions of the Town without annexation; this agreement is subject to review in five (5) year increments. Extension of water and sewer service into some areas of the township will be limited due to economic viability. More information regarding this agreement can be found in the Intergovernmental Cooperation element (Chapter 7).

Food processors have their own onsite wastewater treatment systems.

B. Water Supply

Groundwater pumped from private wells is the sole source of water for residents of the Town of Plover. The County has records of approximately 1100 wells in the Town, including 160 high capacity wells. The sand and gravel aquifer beneath the Town ranges from 50 to 100 feet to the granite bedrock. Most private wells draw water from the aquifer above the bedrock. Wells in the Town that are drilled into the bedrock range in depth from 75 to 310 feet deep.

The aquifer potential throughout most of the Town is estimated at more than 1,000 gallons per minute. Many of the high capacity wells are capable of pumping at this rate for many hours at a time. Large volumes of groundwater are utilized by area farmers for irrigated vegetable crop production. Pumping from an individual high capacity well will result in a localized temporary drawdown of the groundwater level. Pumping from many high capacity wells in close proximity results in a drop in groundwater levels of up to a foot per month during the irrigation season. Precipitation replenishes the groundwater to some extent each year. "Normal" groundwater levels fluctuate up to 5 feet per year in the Town of Plover, and up to ten feet in a multiyear cycle.

Approximately 45 percent of the Town of Plover is subject to high groundwater levels, within five feet of the ground surface, particularly in the southwestern and central portions. High groundwater conditions also occur periodically along a narrow zone which originates in the upper basin of the Little Plover River. This zone extends in a southwesterly direction, finally broadening out into the large high groundwater area of the Buena Vista Marsh.

Groundwater quality has been a major concern in the Town of Plover for the past thirty years. Groundwater contaminant sources include pesticides and fertilizers from agriculture, and to a lesser extent from landscaping practices in subdivisions, and from septic systems. Contaminants affecting individual wells are dictated by upgradient land uses. Highly permeable soils and subsurface geological materials allow contaminants to easily enter the shallow groundwater and to be moved to areas of groundwater discharge in wells, wetlands and streams. The groundwater flow intersects wells in the process.

The most common contaminant in the Town of Plover groundwater is nitrate nitrogen. Approximately one third of the wells are contaminated above the health advisory level of ten parts per million (milligrams per liter). This standard only requires that public water supplies meet the ten parts per million maximum level, and water from private wells can be consumed by property owners at any level. While it was long believed that the nitrate nitrogen health standard was only critically important for infants less than six months of age, the Wisconsin Division of Health has recently published an advisory that high nitrate water (above ten ppm) should not be consumed by anyone of any age for an extended period of time.

Levels of nitrate nitrogen throughout the Town of Plover have commonly ranged up to 40 ppm. Property owners in residential areas of the Town, especially in the areas of Love Creek, Prainwood Estates, Royal Oaks, and Bluebird Subdivisions, have sampled their drinking water more regularly than the general populace, and those areas show many wells with high nitrate nitrogen. The percentage of contaminated wells in residential areas is not significantly different than throughout the Town. Nitrate nitrogen varies with well depths, but deeper or shallower is not predictably better or worse.

Aside from the toxicity of nitrate nitrogen itself, nitrate nitrogen levels are also used as a predictable indicator of other contaminants in the groundwater. Higher levels of nitrate nitrogen correlate with higher likelihood that elevated levels of other chemicals are present. Since the groundwater flows at one to five feet per day in the highly permeable materials underlying the Town of Plover, drinking water should be sampled often by private well owners - every fifteen months is recommended - to assure that they are not consuming unhealthy amounts of contaminants. These contaminants, including nitrate nitrogen and pesticides are odorless and tasteless. The only way to know the water quality is to sample regularly.

Most water samples taken in the Town of Plover are submitted to a state certified laboratory such as the UW Stevens Point Water and Environmental Analysis Lab, Agsource, or the Wisconsin Rapids Water and Light Department.

If a well is sampled and the water is considered unsafe because it exceeds a health standard, the property owner can consider treating the water that is used for drinking and cooking. Reverse osmosis units are commonly used to remove nitrate nitrogen from water for human consumption, and even with high nitrate nitrogen levels, the water can be used for other household uses such as bathing and laundry and sanitation. Generally a reverse osmosis unit used in this way is placed under the kitchen sink, and the treated water is discharged from a designated tap. Other methods of treatment, including ion exchange water softeners for iron and hardness, and activated carbon for organic chemicals, objectionable odors and flavors, are also used on a case by case basis. A few wells that are susceptible to chronically recurring bacteriological unsafe conditions can be treated using chlorine disinfection which maintains a residual chlorine concentration to kill the

bacteria. These wells are rare, and all steps to properly seal and disinfect these wells should be employed before treatment is considered.

In addition, recent research has shown that pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCP) are not treated to any significant extent in septic systems. Many of these drugs and chemical constituents of common cleaners move through the septic systems into the groundwater and can be drawn out by drinking water wells. The health effects of these contaminants, alone or in combination, are only beginning to be understood.

Since most drinking water is obtained from groundwater, consideration should also be given to other possible sources of contamination.

One possible source is landfills. Landfills (formerly known as dumps) have been around as long as people lived in Portage County; however, the locations of many of the smaller, private dumps are unknown. As in nearly every agricultural area, farmsteads in the Town of Plover had small refuse dumps for household and farm waste that could not be recycled, burned, fed to animals, or composted. The amount of materials deposited in these was small, and the toxicities of the materials were likely fairly low as compared to current solid waste. All known public landfills in the Town have been closed. According to Department of Natural Resources Administrative Code, there must be 1,200 foot separation between a private well or reservoir and the nearest edge of an existing, proposed, or abandoned landfill. Landfills in the Town are shown on Map 4.2.

C. Storm Water Management

The Town of Plover has a limited storm water management system. Responsibility for storm water management is split between Portage County and the Town. The Town's management consists mainly of ditches along the local road network which vary in size ranging from 1 to 4 feet in width, while Portage County maintains ditches along County Roads within the Town of Plover. Portage County also considers issues related to storm water management in its development regulations. All projects located on land controlled by the Shore land Zoning Ordinance are reviewed to determine if further storm water management issues need to be addressed. This includes land within 1,000 feet of a lake and 300 feet of a river or stream. Projects disturbing more than 1,000 square feet of area anywhere in the County are subject to storm water management review through the County Zoning Ordinance. Depending on the amount of disturbance, proximity to wetlands, streams, rivers and lakes, topography and other elements of the location, a permit for storm water management from the County Planning and Zoning Department may be required.

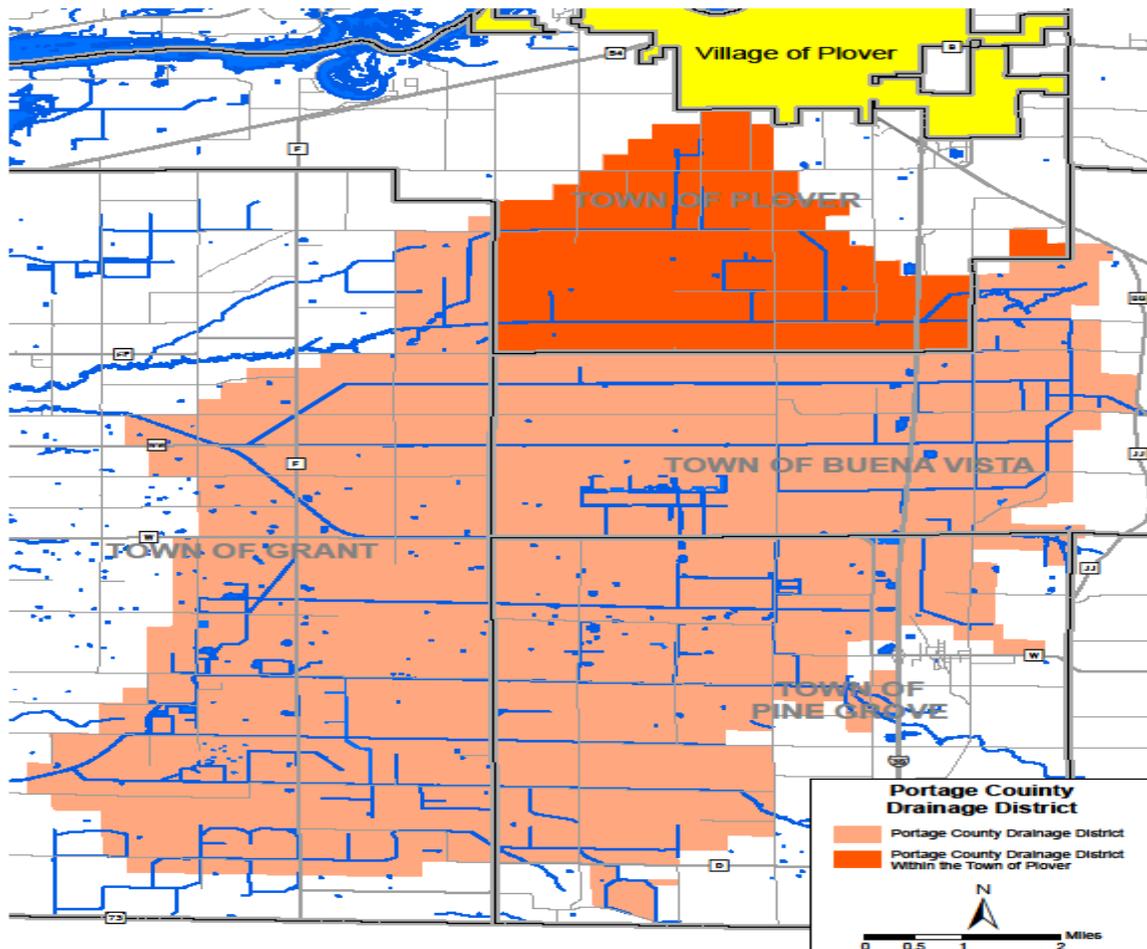
The soils in the Town of Plover are generally sandy and have a large capacity for infiltration of water. Flooding is generally not an issue in the Town. The sandy soils allow rapid infiltration into the groundwater except in spring when the ground is still frozen. Flood hazards in the Town may take place primarily in the spring when the ground is still frozen and thawing occurs on a spring day. In these events, snow melts and then water flows toward the road ditches. If the ditch does not have the capacity to store the melt water, it may top a road and continue to flow downhill. Roads are not built to withstand this condition and may wash out creating a traffic hazard and require expensive repairs.

Other flooding problems may occur when a major rain event takes place. Such an event occurred in September of 2010. A major rain event occurred over the entire Wisconsin River watershed for 5 days. Higher elevations away from the Wisconsin River had few issues; locations near rivers and streams or areas with high water tables were not so fortunate. In some instances, structures experienced water in basements and foundation issues due to the hydrostatic pressure on foundation walls.

Town residents should be aware of issues and conditions in their local area that occur due to storm events. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) states that there is no location completely free of a flooding hazard and include levee and dam failures as examples. Localized flooding events can occur due to blocked culverts by natural or man-made obstructions. Residents can help to limit some of these issues by maintaining private culverts and keeping them free of debris after storm events, understanding how groundwater levels could impact structures, and preparing for major storm events ahead of time.

D. Portage County Drainage District:

MAP 4.1A: PORTAGE COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT



Map 4.1A, above, identifies the roughly one-third of the Town of Plover which lies within the Portage County Drainage District. The District was established in 1905 to oversee the

development and maintenance of a drainage system for a large portion of the Buena Vista Marsh area in southwestern Portage County. The District is funded by special assessments on those parcels of land which enjoy benefits from the Drainage District. Drainage and reclamation has allowed undeveloped land in this area to convert-to productive agricultural use.

For more than 100 years since the original dredging, the Drainage District, which is governed by a commission of 3 court-appointedees, has maintained an active status, supported by the special assessments levied against landowners which cover the cost of maintaining the ditches. The entire network of drainage ditches in the County involves 87 miles of drainage ditching plus 73 miles of private ditches – a total of 160 miles of dredged drainage ditching just in Portage County. The Drainage District covers 55,270 acres of which 15% (8,400 acres) lie in the Town of Plover, or - in comparison, the approximately 12 miles of drainage ditches plus 3.25 miles of private ditches in the Town of Plover represents less than 10% of the total district.

E. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

The Town of Plover currently contracts with a disposal company for curb-side pick-up of solid waste and recyclables and, similar to other Portage County towns, contracts with the county for solid waste disposal.

F. Corporate Utilities (Map 4.1):

1. Telecommunication Facilities – There are numerous cell towers located within the Town.
2. Power and Gas Utilities Town of Plover property owners currently receive electricity from two sources: western portions of the Town are served by Wisconsin Rapids Water Works and Lighting, while eastern portions are served by Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. Natural gas service is provided to some residents west of County Rd F by Wisconsin Gas Company; east of County Road F by Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. Other sources provide gas to the rest of the town residents.
3. Telephone and Internet Services – There are multiple providers providing voice or internet services for Town residents whether by land lines or cell, cable or satellite - Solarus and Charter are franchised to offer service in the township and AT&T, Sprint, FiberNet Communications, Direct TV, Dish and others are available.
4. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) – Conversion of CNG, as an emerging technology, will have a presence in the Town of Plover – specifically in the I39/54 Business District.

Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory and Analysis

A. Municipal Buildings

The Town of Plover Town Hall and Garage are located adjacent to each other, on Hoover Avenue, equipped with emergency back-up power are designated as an emergency center when determined to be needed by the County or the State. The Town Hall contains office space for the Town Chairman and the Town Office as well as meeting space for public meetings and elections. The Town garage provides storage for road maintenance and other Town owned equipment –

two snow plows, a grader, mowers and two utility trucks. The parking lot between the two buildings provides for two large commercial dumpsters which are available for residential purposes.

B. Police, Fire, Rescue, Emergency Response

Portage County Sheriff: The Town of Plover is currently served by the Portage County Sheriff's Office which provides protective services through random patrols and on a "call-out" basis. For control purposes, Portage County is divided into three districts:

- the first district - bounded by STH 66 to the north and by the Wisconsin River to the west,
- the second, lies between STH 66 and STH 54, and
- the third district covers from STH 54 to the southern county line.

The Town of Plover is located in the second and third districts. During the day shift, one officer is assigned to each district, plus an additional officer and one supervisor "floats" throughout the County. During the night shift, two officers are assigned to each district, plus an additional officer and one supervisor float throughout the County. Officers may drive through the Town any number of times during each shift to check on businesses and residences.

Village of Plover Fire Department: The Town currently contracts with the Village of Plover for fire, rescue and emergency medical services. The fire station is located at 2400 Post Road in the Village of Plover. The department employs a full-time Fire Chief and full-time Assistant Fire Chief and a total of forty-two (42) paid-on-call firefighters and emergency medical technicians. The department provides EMT-Basic level service averaging 700 calls per/year. The department fire apparatus includes;

- 2005 HME Class A Engine 1500 GPM, 1000 gallons of water
- 1994 HME Class A Engine 1500 GPM, 1000 gallons of water, Jaws of Life
- 1984 Pierce 100' Aerial 2000 GPM, 300 gallons of water
- 2007 Ford F-550 Brush 250 GPM, 300 gallons of water/foam
- 2010 Kenworth Tender 2000 gallons of water
- 1979 GMC Tender 2200 gallons of water
- 1994 GMC Utility Command Center/SCBA Refill Station
- 1993 GMC Rescue Ice/Water, Confined Space, Special Rescue
- 2005 Chevy Impala Fire Chief Command Vehicle
- 2007 Ford F-150 Assistant Fire Chief Command Vehicle

Village of Plover Fire/EMS Department - primary service area includes; Village of Plover, Town of Plover and Town of Buena Vista. The Metro Fire District was developed in 2005 between the Village of Whiting and Village of Plover to provide automatic mutual aid between the two municipalities. In 2009, the City of Stevens Point joined the Metro Fire District. Additionally, in 2009 the City of Stevens Point and Village of Plover purchased jointly a new 100' aerial platform truck for the City of Stevens Point. This aerial truck responds automatically as part of the Metro response agreement and is available to the Village of Plover as needed in the townships we service. The agreement calls for the Village of Plover 100' aerial platform truck to be jointly replaced in ten (10) years or less as needed.

The Metro concept provided the proper number of firefighters and apparatus required by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards automatically at all times of the day. As departments continue to struggle with the recruitment and retention of volunteer and paid-on-call firefighters throughout the country, the Metro joint response concept assists each municipality in meeting the NFPA standard.

1. Emergency Response: The department additionally is a member of Portage County, Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 110. MABAS is the state wide mutual aid system where participating departments in each division agree to render mutual aid throughout their division and the State of Wisconsin if called upon. Division 110 includes all eleven departments within Portage County.
2. Ambulance Services are coordinated by Portage County. The City of Stevens Point Fire Department (SPFD) and Amherst Fire District (AFD) provide ambulance service under contract with Portage County. Four (4) EMT-Paramedic ambulances are operated by SPFD, with one (1) EMT-Intermediate ambulance operated by AFD. 1st Responder units staffed throughout the county provide initial patient contact and care until the ambulance arrives. The Plover 1st Responder unit is staffed 24/7 by twenty (20) EMT-Basic members.

Other agreements include First Responder services shared with the Village of Plover. Responders are local residents who volunteer to be the first to respond to accidents and medical emergencies within the area. First Responders are dispatched by the Portage County 911 system, respond in their personal vehicles and attempt to stabilize patients before EMTs and/or Ambulances arrive. Supplies and equipment used by local First Responders are kept at the Plover Fire Station. The First Responder program is supported financially by the municipalities involved in the Plover Fire District.

The Town participates in Mutual Aid Agreements with surrounding communities. The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) is the system used to implement this program. MABAS is a system through which the Village of Plover Fire Department can request assistance from participating area fire departments in the form of additional equipment and fire fighters. Requests are made according to predetermined lists, called “Box cards”; each box covers a specific set of needs and equipment. Currently there are five boxes (1-5) that can be utilized at any time. These “boxes” allow fire departments to quickly request additional help when needed.

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C. Schools

The Town of Plover is served by the Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids School Districts for primary and secondary education (Map 4.2). Post-Secondary educational facilities near to the Town of Plover are located in Stevens Point, Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids, and Marshfield.

1. Stevens Point Area Public School District – The Stevens Point School District has nine elementary schools that serve approximately 3,672 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Two junior high schools serve approximately 1,565 students in a seventh through ninth grade alignment. This district has one high school, SPASH (Stevens Point Area Senior High), a tenth through twelfth grade high school which serves approximately 1,765 students. The district also provides services for students thru the Alternative High School.

The Boston School Forest is located on Lincoln Avenue in the Town of Plover; 20 acres belong to UWSP, 45 to the Stevens Point Public School District and 15 acres to the Stevens Point Catholic Schools. The mission of the Boston School Forest program is to provide the youth of Stevens Point area schools educational opportunities that foster personal growth as well as awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the natural world leading to sound stewardship of the earth. The Stevens Point Area School District also has 80 acres called the F. S. Halliday School Forest located on Forest Avenue in Plover.

2. Wisconsin Rapids School District - The Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools encompass the city of Wisconsin Rapids, the villages of Biron, Rudolph, Vesper and all or portions of 11 surrounding townships. The school district has a student population of approximately 5,400. Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools offers half-day 4K programming and has five K-5 elementary schools, three elementary charter schools, one middle school (grades 6-7), one junior high school (grades 8-9), one senior high school (grades 10-12), one alternative high school (grades 9-12) and operates a virtual school program with an enrollment of over 200 students. The school system has earned a solid reputation as a progressive, professional organization, which has high student achievement and a low drop-out rate. Programs are continuously reviewed and modified to ensure they best meet the needs of our students. Staff members are regularly recognized by both state and national organizations and agencies for their professionalism and expertise.
3. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) - UW-Stevens Point has approximately 9,475 students within four academic colleges: College of Natural Resources, College of Letters and Sciences, College of Fine Arts, and the College of Professional Studies. The College of Natural Resources is the largest undergraduate college of its kind in the nation. There are 100 program choices within 58 majors and 13 graduate programs. The university employs 571 instructional staff members, 367 administrative and professional staff members and 314 classified support staff members with the school, with 76 percent of undergraduate courses taught by regular faculty, the highest percentage in the UW System. UW-Stevens Point is consistently named one of the top Public Midwestern Universities-Master's in *U.S. News and World Report's* college rankings. Locally, the university has a total economic impact of \$407.8 million annually and generates \$16.7 million in state and local tax revenue. Find out more at www.uwsp.edu.

4. Mid-State Technical College – Offering more than 100 associate degrees, technical diplomas and certificates, Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) has led the development of central Wisconsin’s workforce for close to 100 years. Student-focused and community-based, MSTC serves a resident population of approximately 165,000 in central Wisconsin. Smaller classes, flexible scheduling and instructor involvement contribute to the fact that 86% of MSTC students have jobs within six months of graduation.

Both high school graduates and individuals seeking to enhance skills in their current job or retrain for a new career will find career programs ranging from healthcare, services and business to technical, industrial and renewable energy. Instructors are industry experts who are passionate about sharing their skills and insights through a variety of delivery methods and technology. The College has campuses in Marshfield, Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids, and a learning center in Adams. For more information about any of MSTC’s programs, call 888-575-MSTC or visit www.mstc.edu.

5. University of Wisconsin-Marathon County – UW-Marathon County (UWMC) is a two-year UW System campus ~~and is~~ located near downtown Wausau. It borders a 78-acre park and includes art studios, an academic building, field house with fitness center and pool, 160-bed residence hall, planetarium, greenhouses and a 365-seat state-of-the-art theater that opened in 2011. Average enrollment is 1,300 per year. There are 24 departments with more than 70 teaching staff, with an average of 25 students per class. UWMC offers both associates and some bachelor’s degrees in partnership with other UW System universities.
6. Northcentral Technical College – The Northcentral Technical College central campus in Wausau is supported by regional campuses in Antigo, Medford, Phillips, Spencer and Wittenberg, as well as a Public Safety Center of Excellence in Merrill, a Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo, an Apprenticeship Center of Excellence in Wausau and an Agriculture Center of Excellence just north of the Wausau Campus in the Town of Maine. The Wausau campus also features a Center for Health Sciences, a Center for Business & Industry and an Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Center of Excellence. The college currently offers over 150 associate degree programs, technical diploma programs and short-term certificate options, and annually serves over 27,000 learners.
7. Globe University – Globe University-Wausau is nationally credited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) to award Diplomas, Associate Degrees, Bachelor’s Degrees, Master’s Degrees, and Doctoral Degrees. The programs available range from careers in the Health Sciences to those in Business, Information Technology, and Legal fields. The census of the Wausau campus is approximately 300 students who have access to flexibility in their schedule for residential, day, evening and online classes.
8. Rasmussen College – Rasmussen College was founded in 1900 in St. Paul, Minnesota and, today, it includes 22 campuses and more than 40 diverse online degree programs which are available to students around the globe.

Rasmussen College is regionally accredited. The Wausau campus offers Bachelor's and Associate degrees, Certificates and Diplomas in the Schools of Business, Health Sciences, Early Childhood Education, Justice Studies, Nursing and Technology & Design. The Wausau campus opened in 2010 and now services upwards of 600 students who value the flexibility of online and residential course options. For more information, visit www.Rasmussen.edu or call the Wausau Campus at 715-841-8000.

D. Parks

Developed:

Bluebird Park, a neighborhood park located in the Bluebird Subdivision: football/soccer field with goal posts, swing set, picnic tables, sandlot softball field with backstop and a five-station disc golf course.

Galecke Park, a county park located off Park Drive in the Town of Plover: it is 34 acres in size and includes 1,600 feet of Wisconsin River frontage. Amenities include picnic and restroom facilities, a public shelter, and a boat ramp. The Town of Plover shares in some of its maintenance

Undeveloped:

Bluebird Lake, a county park, unimproved and undeveloped at this time.

Forest Lake Park, located between Forest Lake Drive and State Highway 54: unimproved and undeveloped at this time.

Natural Area Walking Park: Beginning in 2011, the Village of Plover purchased approximately 140 acres of Town of Plover land immediately south of the Little Plover River between Kennedy Avenue and County High R. The intent is to develop a natural area with walking trails and educational areas depicting efforts to restore healthy flows to the Little Plover River while, at the same time - taking land adjacent to the Little Plover River out of agricultural production.

Prainwood Estate Subdivision, located on County Road R: this .35 acre lot dedicated to the public for recreational use through the development process remains undeveloped at this time.

River Heights Subdivision and Michael Court: this 1.57 acre lot dedicated to the public for recreational use through the development process remains undeveloped at this time.

E. Other Recreational Facilities:

- Golden Sands Race Track: The Race Track bills itself as the “fastest paved 3rd mile high bank track in the Midwest”. There is top-notch late-model racing every Friday night from mid-May to late August. This draws in some of the best drivers in the Midwest for three of the race track's premium races each year.

Golden Sands Race Track is located half-way between the Village of Plover and Wisconsin Rapids – across from McCain Foods (the largest employer in the Town of Plover) along the 4-lane State Highway 54-West.

- Wisconsin River: A seven-mile long recreational haven for water enthusiasts.
- Galecke Park: is one of the finest water ski areas in the State of Wisconsin with miles of Wisconsin River to ski between Plover and Biron. This park provides two unloading ramps for boating convenience, a small sand beach with picnic area, and a pavilion with space for cook-outs and gatherings.
- Lake Pacawa: The Korean War Memorial is showcased on this man-made lake with a large white sand gently-sloped swimming beach. This park also has many amenities for families and provides shallow pan fishing, swimming and a walking trail area.

F. Cemeteries

- Maine Cemetery - located on Hoover Avenue, just south of STH 54.
- Meehan Cemetery - located on Club Forest Drive and Pierce Avenue.
- McDill Cemetery - located on County Road HH.

In addition, an agreement between the Town of Plover and the Village of Plover, at the time of the last incorporation by the Village, committed the Town of Plover to support 30% of the maintenance needs for the Plover Cemetery – located on River Drive in the Village of Plover. Today, while continuing that arrangement, the Village administers the needs of the Plover Cemetery which is located on River Drive in the Village and then bills the Town of Plover for its portion of the expenses.

G. Health Care Facilities:

Like most small municipalities in Portage County, Town of Plover residents utilize services at Ministry Health Care, St. Michael's Hospital, Rice Medical Center, Klasinski Clinic, Aspirus and the Marshfield Clinic. In addition, there are three Urgent Care Centers in the county – one in the Village of Plover and two in the City of Stevens Point. Other health care services located in the Stevens Point/Plover urban area available to Town of Plover residents include dental, ophthalmology, chiropractic, sports medicine, and podiatry.

H. Senior and Child Care Facilities

There are four types of residential care facilities in Portage County: Residential Care Apartment Complexes (RCAC), Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRF), and Nursing Homes and Adult Family Homes (AFH). Of these facilities 1 RCAC, 3 CBRFs and several ADH facilities are located in the Plover area.

Residential Care Apartment Complexes may offer up to 28 hours per week of supportive, personal and nursing services in an apartment with a minimum of 250 square feet that includes a kitchen, living area, bedroom and bathroom. Of the four RCACs in Portage County, one is located in the Plover area.

Community Based Residential Facilities, by definition, provide care, treatment or services in addition to room and board but they do not include nursing services. There are three CBRFs in the Plover area with many more located elsewhere throughout the county.

Adult Family Homes serve fewer people per home than a CBRF, may be either corporate or owner-occupied and are either certified as 1-2 bed facility or licensed as a 3-4 bed facility. The AFH may provide up to 7 hours of nursing care per week to its residents. There are more than 40 AFHs in Portage County with less than 20 of them serving the elderly population; however, four of the corporate AFHs serve the elderly located in the Plover area.

Portage County has two Skilled Nursing Homes. Hospice services are available to residents with terminal illness in Nursing Homes and many of the CBRFs as well. There is one Adult Day Care Facility and several Adult Day Services programs located within Portage County. The Adult Day Care Facility in the City of Stevens Point has a maximum capacity of forty persons.

The Wisconsin Department of Children & Families is responsible for child care certification and licensing and the Portage County Health. Licensing is based on the size of the child care facility – Licensed Family Child Care Centers, Licensed Group Child Care Centers and Licensed Day Camps. The Portage County Human Services Department coordinates programs related to Child Protective Services, Family and Employment Support and Foster Care.

I. Libraries

Town of Plover residents make use of the library in the Village of Plover - affiliated with the Portage County Public Library System, and the Charles M. White Public Library in Stevens Point. Public internet service is available at all Portage County library locations. A list of facilities and services can be obtained on the internet at: http://library.uwsp.edu/pcl/index_4.htm.

J. Historical Society

The Portage County Historical Society maintains a presence in the Village of Plover in the development of Heritage Park. Not only providing a walk down memory lane by refurbishing a school, post office, a railway depot – to name just a few, the Society has also created a vault area under a refurbished home to provide secure fire-proof storage for many records and pictures of the area. The Town of Plover has relocated Town records from the Town Hall to this facility.

Section 4.4 Utilities & Community Facilities Issues Identified by the Plan Commission

- Identify and map storm water management needs.
- Improve education and understanding of groundwater issues.

- Support additional telecommunication infrastructures.
- Support clean energy and Midwest Renewable Energy efforts.
- Support control of response time for all residents of township.

NEED DOCUMENTATION ON VILLAGE OF BIRON & WOOD COUNTY RELATIONSHIPS

Section 4.5 Utilities & Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies

A. GOAL: Continue to provide adequate services and utilities to Town residents.

B. OBJECTIVES:

1. Install towers and like structures in keeping with community character.
2. Site pipelines and transmission lines non-intrusively.
3. Support a strong First Responders program.

C. POLICIES:

1. Work with the Village of Plover to maintain the provision of municipal sewer within certain areas of the Town without annexation.
2. Allow non-sewer residential lots to be less than 1 acre in appropriate areas through the use of efficient planned development pattern, cluster septic systems, or shared wells.
3. Recommend co-located antennas whenever practicable.
4. Tower locations should not impede agricultural operations.
5. Work with the Sheriff's Department, Portage County Drainage Board, and DNR to enforce trespassing laws.
6. Recommend transmission lines follow road right of way to maintain the integrity of agricultural fields and operations.
7. Utility lines should be buried whenever possible.
8. Inventory all known private cabling which runs in Town right-of-ways as well as that cabling which crosses under town roads.
9. Encourage the use of cluster septic systems to allow for increased housing density.