

Chapter 5, Utilities and Community Facilities

Introduction

As part of the comprehensive planning program, the Town of Liberty Grove utilities and community facilities are periodically reviewed and evaluated as to their current condition and adequacy to meet the present and future needs of the community.

To maintain a high level of public services, the community must continually monitor and upgrade their existing facilities as population needs dictate. The recommendations contained in this section are based on general long-range planning considerations and should not be substituted for detailed architectural or engineering studies required before expending substantial community resources and undertaking specific public works projects.

Utility and Community Facility Strategy

Goal

To balance the need for Town growth with the cost of providing public and private utilities and community facilities, the goal of this chapter is to preserve clean water, to establish programs to monitor private on-site wastewater treatment systems [POWTS], and to plan for cost-effective treatment of waste as necessary.

Objectives:

1. Provide for orderly development of safe water and sanitary sewer systems.

Policies and Practices:

- a. Survey all private on-site wastewater treatment systems;
- b. Support the Door County Sanitarian office inspection and maintenance program of all private on-site wastewater treatment systems;

- c. Explore, if necessary, the expansion of existing and the creation of new utility districts as needed to accommodate future growth in the Town;
 - d. Participate in the Well Head Protection and Well Abandonment programs pursuant to applicable Wisconsin Statutes Utilities Code;
 - e. Encourage citizens to have their well water tested on an annual basis to protect the health and safety of the citizens and visitors of the Town.
2. Consider redundant power transmission facilities to accommodate future needs in the Town and explore alternative energy sources.
- a. Encourage better communication between the power provider and the Town to increase redundancy in public areas while also encouraging the power provider to approach the extension of power lines in a planned, efficient manner.
 - b. Whenever possible and when necessary promote even more reliable power supply by restructuring the power lines in adjacent properties as well as in the immediate problem area.
 - c. Encourage the redundancy of power supply to decrease the impact of emergency power outages.
 - d. Encourage property owners to monitor evolving technology and to consider alternative energy sources.
3. Establish a solid waste disposal plan for future growth that will be cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally sound.
- a. When practicable, support permit requests for local solid waste disposal transfer stations and recycling centers.
 - b. Encourage the County to establish more frequent hazardous waste collection.
 - c. Educate and encourage citizen participation in hazardous waste collection programs to protect the environment and

the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors to the Town.

- d. Encourage the establishment of an organic waste composting operation within the Town.

4. Encourage future growth with the highest available capacity data transmission, including efficient redundancy of telecommunications.

Goal

Continue to supply accessible and adequate Town facilities that will meet the needs of a growing community.

Policies and Practices

1. Continue to operate a park system that provides recreational and open space with safe, passive and active opportunities for residents and visitors.
 - a. Consider the purchase of properties for future expansion and development of parks, water access points, and scenic vistas when they become available.
 - b. When necessary, evaluate parks, water access points, and scenic vistas to maximize safe and proper use and/or development.
 - c. Promote reclamation and adequately mark all rights-of-way at road ends for access to water.
 - d. Promote public awareness of all public recreational lands, especially underused areas.
2. Prioritize and support the maintenance and possible expansion of existing waterfront recreational facilities, including, but not limited to: marinas, boat ramps, beaches,

and parking, sensitive to environmental and budgetary concerns.

3. Promote adequate fire and emergency medical protection for all citizens of and visitors to the Town:
 - a. By providing adequate budgetary dollars to the various services when feasible;
 - b. By participating in intergovernmental cooperative efforts when feasible;
 - c. By educating the citizens of the Town of the services available to them and how best to utilize such services;
 - d. By exploring and encouraging firefighter recruitment;
 - e. By continually evaluating, updating, and improving firefighting facilities and equipment as demand requires and within budgetary constraints;
 - f. And by encouraging the maintenance of ambulance and medical services at the highest level practicable with service expansion (or contraction) to match population trends.

At the time of the writing of this Comprehensive Plan, The County of Door, the State Patrol, and various enforcement arms of state agencies, e.g., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, provide law enforcement protection.

4. Provide adequate burial locations for Liberty Grove residents and property owners by acquiring land, when available and contiguous to existing cemeteries and/or develop a new cemetery as necessary and as financially feasible.

Inventory of Municipal Boards, Commissions, and Committees

In addition to the Town Board and the Plan Commission, the Town utilizes the services of a number of committees and sub-committees, a listing of which may be found on the Town's website as well as in any archival materials available through the Town's administrative offices.

Inventory of Utility Services

Public electric service is provided through Wisconsin Public Service Corporation.

The Town is not serviced by any public natural gas supplier. Instead, liquid propane service is provided by a number of private vendors.

Public water services are provided to the Town only in the area known as Liberty Grove Utility District No. 1. Elsewhere in the Town, residents use individual or shared wells that are maintained by the individual property owners.

Aquifer recharge areas, i.e., the major source of groundwater in the Town, consist of the Silurian dolomite system containing the Niagaran and Alexandrain aquifers. Well yields are highly variable and the primary problems associated with well water are hardness, locally high iron concentrations, and contamination from surface sources.

While acknowledging the maintenance of rural character as an indicated priority, as well as retaining and encouraging agricultural land use where feasible, caution must be exercised to balance proposed agricultural uses with safe drinking water.

Due to our relatively unique Karst topography and its implications to our groundwater supply, the utmost “best practices” should be required for large scale operations.

See, for example, <https://doorcountypulse.com/groundwater-council-highlights-states-water-quality-struggles/>

Sanitary sewer service is provided only in Liberty Grove Utility District No. 1. Elsewhere in the Town, residents use private waste disposal systems.

Private on site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) throughout the Town consist of holding tanks, conventional septic systems, mound systems, as well as other systems permitted by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.

As for storm sewer systems, the Town allows storm water to drain through a series of ditches and culverts along a majority of the Town’s roads as well as into raingardens. In addition, a storm water system built in 2002 services the commercial district contiguous to the Village of Sister Bay to the south.

Refuse waste and recycling are provided by commercial vendors.

Telephone and telecommunication services are provided by private providers, including high-speed Internet and cable television.

Community Facilities Inventory

Liberty Grove has five cemeteries: Ellison Bay Cemetery, Rowleys Bay Cemetery, Little Sister Cemetery, and Trinity

Cemetery, all of which are public cemeteries. The fifth cemetery within the boundaries of the Town is the Sister Bay Moravian Cemetery, an entity owned and operated by the Moravian Church.

Child care facilities include Northern Door Child Care Center located in Sister Bay, YMCA located in the Town of Gibraltar, as well as private, in-home providers.

Emergency services, i.e., fire and health protection, is provided by the Sister Bay/Liberty Grove Fire Department, by other municipalities through mutual aid, and by the County's Emergency Medical Technicians.

The adequacy of fire protection within the Town is evaluated by the Insurance Service Office using the Grading Schedule for Municipal Fire Protection. www.isomitigation.com
Any new fire protection services in response to future growth can be based on the rule utilized by the National Board of Underwriters, i.e., a maximum four-mile radius for service to a fire district as found in American Planning Association, "The Small Town Planning Handbook", 3rd edition, by Thomas Daniels, et al., 2013. www.planning.org/publications/book/9026961.

Library services are provided by the Sister Bay/Liberty Grove Library, of which the title to the building is held jointly by the Village and the Town and is maintained by the Library Commission. The library is a branch of the Door County Library System and a member of the Nicolet Federated Library System.

As for health care facilities, the Town contains none. Hospitals, clinics, and residential housing and assisted living for the elderly are located in municipalities south of the Town.

The Town's administrative facilities and public works are housed in the Town Hall. This facility, originally constructed in 1984 was expanded to the current size of the facility and houses the Town's staff and employees, a meeting hall, offices, a kitchen, and several restrooms.

Municipal employees maintain Town property, including roads and parks for the Town using the Town's own equipment. A complete list of these services and equipment may be found by contacting the Town's administrative offices.

As needed, the Town sub-contracts for some services.

[See Chapter 2, Agricultural, Cultural, and Natural Resources, for an inventory of parks, municipal, county, and state].

School services—preschool, kindergarten, elementary, middle school, and high school are provided by the Gibraltar Area School District, to which the Town belongs.

Additional private educational services include The Clearing, the Niagara Escarpment Discovery Center, NWTC, the Peninsula Art School in the Town of Gibraltar, and Bjorklunden in the Town of Baileys Harbor, an extension of Lawrence University.

The Town owns and operates a quarry primarily to supply resources for the Town's road maintenance programs through non-metallic mining.

The United States Postal Service maintains an office in the Town.

Chapter 5, Maps, Tables and Charts

