

# 10. UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

*"We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive."*

*– albert einstein*



## Utilities and Community Facilities

This element contains a compilation of background information, goals, objectives, actions or policies, and recommended programs to guide the future maintenance and development of utilities and community facilities in Bayfield County.

### Existing Conditions

Bayfield County is served by a number of community services, government satellite offices, and facilities that include police and fire protection, health care facilities, seven libraries, public and private schools and county-wide services. Community facilities are public or quasi-public facilities that offer services to all residents and in some cases serve specific needs of a segment of the local population. Some community facilities such as health care and schools offer services to a population outside of the County boundary.

In addition to governmental services, wastewater and water plants are also located throughout Bayfield County. These areas include:

Washburn WWTP, Bayfield Regional WWTP, Red Cliff WWTP and the Cable WWTP.

### Utilities and Community Facilities Goals and Objectives

Local public facility systems often work in conjunction with other public service providers in the region to help ensure that the needs of current and future residents are being met. Local community facilities and services would include county offices, public works facilities, town halls, area schools, hospitals, emergency services, libraries, and health care facilities. The following set of goals and objectives reflect the County's vision to enhance the quality of life of residents.

#### *What is Greywater?*

Greywater is non-industrial wastewater generated from domestic processes such as dish washing, laundry and bathing. Greywater comprises 50-80 percent of residential wastewater. Greywater comprises wastewater generated from all of the house's sanitation equipment except for the septic tank (water from toilets is blackwater, or sewage).



**Goal: Provide residents with reliable county services in a cost-effective manner.**

- Objective: Determine if an expansion of any existing utilities is necessary.
  - Develop a comprehensive system for board-band and cellular coverage throughout the County.

**Goal: Ensure safe drinking water quality throughout the County.**

- Objective: Encourage municipalities to develop wellhead protection plans and/or ordinances.
- Objective: Support ongoing tracking and maintenance of private onsite wastewater treatment systems.
- Objective: Support town and county-wide efforts to educate the public on safe drinking water standards and implement additional development of greywater recycling and discharge standards.
- Objective: Work with Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation, Health Department and other agencies to encourage proper abandonment of unused wellheads.

**Goal: Maintain essential emergency services to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the community.**

- Objective: Ensure there are adequate emergency services of police, fire, rescue, hazardous event responders and emergency medical services.
- Objective: Development zoning regulations that discourage scattered-site developments in difficult to reach areas.

**Goal: Maintain and enhance community facilities and services, which contribute to the quality of life for area residents.**

- Objective: Continue to evaluate the Comprehensive Plan and develop needed utilities and community facilities as deemed necessary.
- Objective: Ensure County residents' library demands are being satisfied and determine ways to ensure the community library remains successful.
- Objective: Promote use of existing facilities and encourage development of public facilities, such as new parks, green space, and trails (e.g. walking, biking, ATVs , skiing and snowmobile trails).
- Objective: Communicate with area school districts to discuss issues associated with growth and development as it relates to potential changes in student enrollment.
- Objective: Continue to support having good health care and education facilities within the County.
  - Determine the need for new community facilities that will be needed in the future.

*Update utility standards to encourage co-location, stealth technologies, and other techniques to minimize the visual impact of tall telecommunication towers.*



*The County will continue to work with the state, national park and forest services to promote the vast amount of open and recreational space throughout the County.*

**Goal: Utility improvements shall be planned in a collaborative way with surrounding jurisdictions.**

- Objective: Become more involved with public utility companies in planning and development of services within Bayfield County and the surrounding area.
  - Meet with representatives of utility companies to seek system upgrades in a timely and cost-effective manner when they are necessary.
  - Ensure that the County standards related for telecommunication towers provide adequate protection and provisions for the County. If deemed necessary, update the standards to further encourage co-location, stealth technologies, and other techniques to minimize the visual impact of tall telecommunication towers.
- Objective: Utility improvements shall balance environmental factors with the need to rehabilitate and expand services and/or utility networks.

## Assessment of Future Needs

This section evaluates anticipated needs for utilities and community facilities serving the County. Based on an inventory and assessment of the existing conditions, the Plan recommends only minor improvements to ensure that services are adequate to meet local population demands over the next 20-year planning period. In most cases, existing services will continue to provide adequate serve to the community. However, as development patterns or other influences effect change, it may be necessary to recommend and/or implement improvements to such things as a municipal water supply, sewers, solid waste removal, recycling, parks, telecommunication facilities, power plants, cemeteries, health care facilities, fire and rescue services, libraries, schools, and other government facilities.

### Water Supply

It is important that the County's water resources continue to be protected from contamination. If needed the County should update the water system when necessary if and when demand warrants it. Below is a list of Bayfield County's water supply's and wastewater treatment plants.

#### Water Supply's

City of Bayfield  
Village of Drummond  
Village of Iron River  
Village of Port Wing  
Red Cliff Reservation  
City of Washburn

#### Wastewater Treatment Plants

Bayfield Sanitary District  
Bell Sanitary District  
Cable Sanitary District  
Clover Sanitary District  
Drummond Sanitary District  
Grand View Sanitary District  
Iron River Sanitary District  
Village of Mason Sanitary District  
Pikes Bay Sanitary District  
Port Wing Sanitary District  
Red Cliff Sanitary District  
Washburn Sanitary District



### **Parks and Open Space.**

Numerous recreational facilities exist in the County. Over the next 20 years, the County may develop additional parks or recreation facilities. As potential recreational facilities are identified, the County will investigate the future improvement or development of park and recreational facilities.

### **Telecommunication Facilities**

A number of companies are available to provide telecommunication and internet services to County residents and businesses. In addition, access to wireless communication facilities is becoming more and more important. The demand and construction of these facilities are expected to increase and the County should actively participate in discussions and planning with local communication providers and the 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 County and its residents.

### **Law Enforcement**

The Bayfield County Sheriff's Department serves as the primary law enforcement agency to County residents. Over a 20-year planning horizon, it is anticipated that the County expand these services if need be. Department and other law enforcement agencies regarding local crime must continue to be monitored in an effort to address local concerns regarding public health, safety, and welfare.

### **Fire and Rescue**

The Bayfield County is made up of a variety of volunteer and municipal fire and rescue services. A County-wide fire and rescue map is available at the County.

### **Medical Facilities**

Primary medical facilities serving the Bayfield County area those located in Washburn, Bayfield, Ashland, Cable, Iron River and Hayward.

### **Libraries**

Bayfield County is served by seven libraries located in Red Cliff, Washburn, Iron River, Grand View, Cable, Bayfield and Drummond.

## **Schools**

Over the 20-year planning horizon, the County wishes to work cooperatively with the school board on developing and siting any new facilities and education programs.

## **Bayfield County Offices**

The Bayfield County offices are located in Washburn. Over the next 20 years, the County should continue to maintain and update buildings and equipment necessary to provide cost-effective and efficient services to its residents and non-resident landowners. Bayfield County has satellite offices located in Cable (Planning and Zoning and Sheriff), Iron River (Planning and Zoning and Veterans), Herbster (Planning and Zoning) and Barnes (Planning and Zoning).