



## **CHAPTER 6**

# UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES



# CHAPTER 6: UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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## INTRODUCTION

A primary responsibility of a community is to maintain quality, cost effective government services. Municipalities must continuously maintain, upgrade, and expand existing facilities to serve existing taxpayers, as well as future businesses and residents.

Wisconsin Smart Growth Legislation requires the Utilities and Community Facilities Element to be a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of these facilities in the Town of Algoma. An inventory of the current facilities is required; more importantly, the Legislation requires this element to provide guidance as to how the Town can meet projected needs at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner. The following section offers a summary of the detailed inventory contained in Appendix C-6. This chapter includes framing concepts and strategies. Action steps are located in the Implementation chapter.

### GOAL

*Promote the provision of government services and facilities in an efficient, environmentally sound, sustainable, and socially responsible manner.*

## SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS AND NARRATIVE

Below are a summary of the key utilities and community facilities points and a brief narrative of what this means:

### PUBLIC UTILITIES

#### THE FACTS:

- The Algoma Sanitary District No. 1 provides sewer and water services to many of the homes and businesses in the Town of Algoma, Town of Omro and portions of the City of Oshkosh.
- 0.554 MGD is currently being sent to the Oshkosh Treatment plant today. A total of 0.838 MGD of capacity would be needed by 2040 based on residential projections, which is well under the 2.08 MGD under contract.
- Algoma currently uses a combination of underground stormwater, open ditch and basins to control stormwater runoff. Under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR216, the Town is required to have an MS4 general permit.
- In 2018, the Town of Algoma approved its Stormwater Quality Management Plan.
- The Algoma Sanitary District municipal water system is capable of serving the entire protected boundary area of the Town of Algoma. The water system has adequate source

## CHAPTER 6: UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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and volume of water production and storage to serve 2,000 homes and can expand as demand increases.

- Since the Town does not have a mandatory hook-up requirement for existing properties, not all properties within the sanitary district have access to public water. New development is required to use the hook-ups. The current policy states that if seventy percent (70%) of a street requests water, the sanitary district may install a watermain for those who desire to connect, and are within a reasonable proximity to the watermain.
- Algoma Sanitary District No. 1 has a Wellhead Protection Plan and Ordinance.
- The Town is a part of the Oshkosh Sewer Service Area.

### WHAT IT MEANS:

Essential public services such as sewer, water, stormwater management and waste disposal are critical to the quality of life and overall safety of Town residents. Careful planning and coordination with future growth, development and major land use or transportation changes is needed to ensure that proper investments are made at the right time in order to maximize benefits and ensure the efficiency of service provision. While these basic systems are generally adequate to accommodate new growth throughout the planning period, some investments in maintenance or expansion may be needed. Some important items to keep in mind which may affect or alter planning for these services/facilities include:

1. An update of the Oshkosh Sewer Service Area Plan will be initiated by the ECWRPC within the regularly scheduled updates and the Town should be involved in that plan update process.
2. With the implementation of the Lower Fox River TMDL by the WDNR, some aspects of stormwater management may change and should be monitored by the Town. Communities are looking at more actively managing stormwater and drainage. Periods of significant rainfall have shown that stormwater, when not properly managed, can cause significant property damage to property and residential structures. In addition, unmanaged stormwater can negatively impact the quality of the streams, rivers and lakes in the watershed. The Town of Algoma will need to continue implementing the strategies outlined in the 2018 Stormwater Management Plan to address both current and future stormwater issues.
3. A stormwater utility could potentially be used to fund projects to address present drainage issues; however, the Town has already examined this option and it did not result in a financially feasible outcome.

# CHAPTER 6: UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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## **ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

### **THE FACTS:**

- American Transmission Company (ATC) owns and maintains a number of transmission lines in the area. Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) provides power to the entire Town.
- ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) own TC Energy and maintains gas transmission lines that intersect the Town.
- Multiple phone companies, ranging from land-based to cellular service, provide telephone and data services for Algoma residents. There are 3 registered cellular towers/antennas in the Town.
- Due to the proliferation of internet service providers (ISP), area residents can choose from several national and local ISP's.
- Recently, a number of communities surrounding Lake Butte des Morts and Lake Poygan have engaged in preliminary discussions with private sector companies who may be able to extend broadband fiber to residents and businesses around the lake using micro-duct conduit technology.
- In July 2020, Governor Tony Evers created a Task Force on Broadband access.<sup>1</sup>

### **WHAT IT MEANS:**

The Town is well positioned with respect to energy and telecommunications services throughout the planning period. Although these services are provided by larger corporations and entities, the Town will need to address issues related to the siting of facilities within its municipal boundary.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

### **THE FACTS:**

- The Town of Algoma is presently served by three public parks: Jones Park, Kewaunee Park, and Town Hall Park, in addition to the Steinhilber Marsh Nature Area and Sheldon Nature Center, which is owned and maintained by the Oshkosh Area School District. The Public Landing with access to Lake Butte Des Morts and the Wooden Bridge that connects Rasmussen Road and Westbreeze Drive are also owned by the Town.
- The Town has a current deficiency of 20.6 acres of local community recreational space for its population base. Future projections based on the 10 acres per 1,000 capita standards and the population projections from the Wisconsin DOA, this deficit growing to 48.3 acres during the life of the plan.
- With the three public parks, there is a total of 14.9 acres of parkland. With the parks and other recreational facilities within the Town, there is a total of 75 acres available.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wpr.org/sites/default/files/eo080-broadbandtaskforce.pdf>.

# CHAPTER 6: UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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- The Town’s 2009 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan should be updated within the next planning period.
- Within this planning period, the Town should review the addition of a municipal park complex as part of a new Municipal Complex.
- There is a pedestrian nature trail on the western side of the Town Hall Park that loops through the woods.<sup>2</sup> There may be a trail developed in the Lake Vista development.

## **WHAT IT MEANS:**

Even with the recently constructed 10 acre Jones Park, the Town is still limited in its park and recreation amenities based on state recommended guidelines based on current and future population projections. Additionally, recent public sentiments for new trails and trail connections should be considered not just from a transportation (walkability) perspective, but from a recreational standpoint as well. Trail facilities are vital components to fostering healthy lifestyles and are becoming increasingly important as an amenity to attract residents of all ages to a community.

## **OTHER FACILITIES**

### **THE FACTS:**

- There are no cemeteries within the Town of Algoma.
- The Town of Algoma does not have a hospital. However, the Aurora Medical Center – and Mercy Medical Center are located nearby in the City of Oshkosh.
- Currently, there is one licensed nursing home within the Town with a capacity of 50 beds called Eden Rehabilitation Suites and Green House Home Inc.
- Two childcare facilities are located within the Town.
- Algoma residents are served by the Oshkosh Public Library in the City of Oshkosh and by the Carter Memorial Library in the City of Omro.
- The Algoma Town Hall, located at 15 North Oakwood Road, was originally built by the Town as a school facility in 1947. The Town Hall may not meet current needs of the Town.
- The Town Hall is equipped with a natural gas fueled generator and serves as the area’s Emergency Operations Center.

## **WHAT IT MEANS:**

Beyond basic services, a number of other public and private facilities exist within the Town that provide direct services essential for performing activities of daily living. As the population ages, additional nursing homes and assisted living facilities will need to be built to address the needs of older residents. On the contrary, as households with dual-incomes start or continue to have

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<sup>2</sup> <https://townofalgoma.org/our-town/parks-and-recreation/>.

# CHAPTER 6: UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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children, the importance of reliable and affordable childcare will also play a critical role in maintaining the economy. Lastly, it is important that a Municipal Complex be evaluated that will include the Fire Department and a wide range of recreational amenities.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

### **THE FACTS:**

- The Town of Algoma does not have a Police Department. Policing is provided through a contract with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.
- The Town of Algoma does not have a jail. Situations involving incarceration are handled at the Winnebago County Jail.
- Algoma residents are served by the Winnebago County Court System.
- The Town-owned Fire Department is completely staffed by 28 active volunteers who serve as firefighters and first responders.
- The Town of Algoma has an ISO fire rating of 6, where 1 is the best fire protection rating and 10 is the worst rating.
- Mutual aid agreements are in place with neighboring communities, such as the City of Oshkosh and the Town of Omro for those events that exceed the capacity of the Algoma Fire Department.
- The Chief of the Algoma Fire Department serves as the Deputy Emergency Management Director for the Town and reports to the Winnebago County Emergency Management Director in the event of a man-made or natural disaster.
- Ambulance service is provided through a contract with the City of Oshkosh.

### **WHAT IT MEANS:**

Adequate fire protection and emergency response services are important not only for keeping communities safe, but for providing prospective residents and businesses with lower insurance rates and the peace of mind that, in the event of a fire, they will be protected. In general, the Town's emergency response services provide good service and are expected to have adequate capacity to accommodate growth. However, since the Algoma Fire Department is staffed by volunteers, there are concerns regarding the ability to recruit and retain individuals during this planning period.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SCHOOL FACILITIES**

### **THE FACTS:**

- Two public school districts serve the Town of Algoma (Oshkosh Area School District and Omro School District). The Oshkosh Area School District covers the majority of the Town of Algoma. The Oshkosh Area School District is currently working on a master plan for the

# CHAPTER 6: UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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school system and a draft report was being completed at the time of this element's preparation and hence, future facility needs are not available at this time.

- Oakwood Elementary School is the only public school located in the Town and is slated for improvements within the next several years.
- One private school is located in the Town of Algoma. It is the Wyldewood Christian School.
- There are no institutions of higher education in the Town of Algoma, however; UW-Oshkosh and Fox Valley Technical College have facilities nearby in the City of Oshkosh.

## WHAT IT MEANS:

Education of the Town's residents is critical for quality of life and economic development. Good local schools and school districts are key factors to sustain population growth and attract new employers to the Town. The quality of the Oshkosh Area School District's facilities and programs are of particular importance in terms of the Town's continued ability to attract young families and support businesses. The Town has ample access to post-secondary education opportunities that are located throughout the region.

## FRAMING CONCEPTS AND STRATEGIES

### **6a: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COSTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

Aside from the local road system, many other services are provided by the Town of Algoma and are of high importance to residents. Early in this planning period, the Town would like to construct a new municipal complex to accommodate for the growing population and necessary facilities. The overall examination of the community's infrastructure conditions, as well as its costs to build and maintain are critical to meeting the demands of the community, residents, and businesses alike.

**Strategy 6a-1:** Plan for the eventual expansion of municipal facilities such as sanitary, fire, police, local government, and parks as new growth occurs during the planning period.

**Strategy 6a-2:** Utilize appropriate tools and mechanisms like PASER Ratings, to monitor infrastructure conditions and needs.

**Strategy 6a-3:** Encourage developers to include recreational amenities such as parks, trails, and greenspace within their proposed developments.

**Strategy 6a-4:** Research, assess and consider the creation of a Town of Algoma Stormwater Utility or Transportation Utility.

**Strategy 6a-5:** Maintain and expand public services and utilities as needed during the planning period in a cost effective and balanced way.

# CHAPTER 6: UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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**Strategy 6a-6:** Maintain existing infrastructure and when necessary, expand infrastructure to accommodate planned growth and development.

# CHAPTER 6: UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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