

CHAPTER 5

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Introduction

This chapter is an inventory of existing utilities and community facilities and is an important step when planning for the future. This plan will evaluate the capacities and capabilities of the various facilities within the Town.

Local Utilities

All municipalities have utilities in place to service the local community. In rural areas, some of those utilities are provided on site such as wells, and septic systems and some are provided by the Town. This section discusses what utilities are available and who provides them.

Water Supply

Currently, the entire water supply is provided through private wells as the Town does not have a municipal water supply. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, two-thirds of Wisconsin's drinking water comes from approximately 750,000 private wells. Wells are safe and dependable as long as they are properly sited and built correctly. Private wells must be constructed and reconstructed in accordance with NR 812.

Wastewater Treatment

With development comes the issue of waste water removal. Because the Town of Troy is not part of a sanitary district, all buildings must have private, on-site sanitary wastewater treatment systems. These systems must comply with the state plumbing code (COMM 25.02). All septic systems must be designed to ensure that systems do not threaten groundwater resources. Moreover, these systems must be properly permitted by St. Croix County and maintained as required by County Ordinance. Soils in the Town vary in terms of their suitability for septic systems.

Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste is managed through the Town's Household Waste Disposal and Recycling Center. The Center is located next to the Town storage garage at the intersection of Townsvalley Road and Chinnock Lane. Residents pay a fee when they drop off their household waste and recyclables. Household waste and recyclables are then transported and disposed of by a private hauler.

Troy has made a number of improvements in the waste disposal and recycling center operations, including increasing the number of available hours, providing supervision of operations and expanding services for recycling and major household items. Troy has supported St. Croix County as the responsible unit for recycling. In return for the Town collecting recyclables, the County will provide recycling information, education, technical assistance, marketing and necessary ordinances.

The Town residents are also serviced by private commercial waste management companies as well as recycling services. Most of the Town residents use these private services.

Power/Transmission Lines/Utility Gas

Power is provided to the Town of Troy by Xcel Energy of St. Paul, MN via a feeder line in Hudson, by St. Croix Electric, and by Pierce-Pepin Cooperative Services in Ellsworth.

Xcel also provides gas utility to some of the residents in Troy. However, St. Croix Valley Natural Gas in River Falls provides this utility for most of the residents that use natural gas.

According to the U.S. Census, the number of homes in the Town of Troy using natural gas has increased from 98 in 1990 to 506 in 2000. Utility gas is the most widely used type of heating fuel in the Town. Other types of heating fuel used in the Town of Troy include: LP, fuel oil, kerosene, and wood.

Communication Facilities

Communication facilities become an important factor when people are considering moving to a rural location. People are becoming more dependent on the need to communicate for both business and personal matters.

Cable and Satellite Television

Most Town of Troy residents do not have access to cable. The cable infrastructure has not expanded throughout the Town. Satellite service is available for residents who want to improve the picture reception and receive additional channels. The two major satellite service providers are Dish Network and DirecTV.

Cellular Towers

Mobile communication is becoming more and more popular everyday throughout the world. The demand for this form of communication is only going to grow and with that comes the need to expand infrastructure.

Currently, a number of existing cellular towers are located in the Town. Troy follows the St. Croix County Tower Ordinance. However, any company interested in constructing a new tower in the Town must seek a recommendation from the Town Board prior to seeking approval from St. Croix County.

Radio

The Town of Troy is within listening distance of a wide variety of radio stations.

Internet

Currently, in the Town of Troy, there is a variety of ways to access the internet within the Town, mainly dial-up, satellite, and DSL.

Dial-up is still the most prevalent system for internet connectivity by Town residents. This is due to cost and hardware availability. Dial-up is extremely slow and is not capable of providing the speed and service required for most current, and certainly future, internet functionality.

Satellite systems are available to most Town residents. This is a fairly expensive option for the speed and services offered. The service can be intermittent in bad weather, which is not a good solution for home-based business. It appears that most residents are generally dissatisfied with their satellite service but have opted for the satellite as a temporary solution, until better options are available.

DSL through existing phone lines currently is the best and most economical solution for Town residents, however, this is available to less than 20% of Town residents. The local phone provider (AT&T) has a goal of providing DSL to close to 100% of the Town in five years (2013), but there are no guarantees. Disadvantages of DSL are the lack of video capabilities and questionable speed for higher resolution internet requirements.

Some communities are moving to wireless internet solutions primarily because of the cost compared to putting in higher capacity copper wire, cable or fiber optic lines. However, close proximity to a tower or relay station is needed and those systems seem to work better where homes are grouped much closer together.

Fiber optic cable is seen as the best long-term solution for solving all multi-media issues (internet, cable TV, phone). However, getting companies to lay or string new cable in a rural area is a problem as the cost is very high, requiring a high percentage of customer sign-ups.

The Town Board and Planning Commission have recently endorsed a High Speed Communications Task Force list of recommendations to explore options for obtaining fiber optic cable throughout the Town. Actions to be taken are:

- Complete more research on potential costs for installation of fiber optic cable
- Research funding sources to help alleviate the expense of the fiber optic installation
- Conduct a comprehensive survey of Town residents to determine the demand and willingness to pay for the options that fiber optic cable provides
- Conduct public meetings to provide information to Town residents.

Website

The Town of Troy also has a website that can either be accessed through the St. Croix County website, or at the following URL: <http://www.townoftroy.org>. This website provides valuable information regarding Town Board and Plan Commission agendas and meeting notes. Important information for current and potential residents of the Town is listed such as contact information for members of the Town Board, Plan Commission, and Park Board, a FAQ section regarding permits and other various information.

Newspaper

Several local and regional newspapers are in circulation in the Town of Troy. The following is a list of those newspapers:

- Hudson Observer (weekly), Hudson, Wisconsin
- River Falls Journal (weekly), River Falls, Wisconsin
- Pioneer Press (daily), St. Paul, Minnesota
- Star Tribune (daily), Minneapolis, Minnesota

The River Falls Journal is the official newspaper for the Town where legal notices are posted.

While the Town of Troy does not have its own newspaper, it periodically sends out a newsletter for the local citizens that provides information related to the Town from the Town Board, Park Board, and the Planning Commission.

Postal Service

The Town of Troy is divided into two Postal Districts. One is 54016 which is the City of Hudson Post Office located in Downtown Hudson on Heggen Street. The other zip code for the Town is 54022 which is River Falls and is located in Downtown River Falls on North 2nd Street. Both Post Offices offer full mailing services and are approximately ten miles from each other.

Telephone

AT&T provides the Town of Troy area with local phone, and long distance service and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Cellular Phones

The Town of Troy is within the service area of most major and local area cell phone companies.

Community Facilities and Services Plan

Basic community facilities and services are necessary to the well being of Town residents. The Town cooperates with St. Croix County and the Cities of Hudson and River Falls to provide all residents with the essential services of fire protection, police protection, ambulance and solid waste disposal.

Police Protection

The County Sheriff patrols the area providing police protection to the residents of the Town of Troy. The Town does have a permissive contract in place with the County giving the County the authority to enforce the Town of Troy Ordinances.

As new households and residents have been added to Troy, concerns about adequate police protection have increased. The Town has a contract for additional police protection from the County Sheriff, especially during weekends and evenings.

Two constables also offer civil law enforcement support, primarily for the parks, to help keep order in Troy. The Town also contracts with a humane officer for animal control related issues.

Fire Protection

The residents of Troy are provided fire protection through the Hudson and River Falls Fire Departments. District boundaries are determined by mutual agreement between the Town and those communities that provide fire protection in the area. The Town continues to contribute leadership related to the policies and operations of the providing agencies.

The Cities of River Falls and Hudson are actively looking at adding new fire halls on the north and south boundaries of the Town of Troy. These proposed stations would improve the response rate for many Troy homeowners.

Ambulance Service

Paramedic level ambulance service is available to Troy residents through Hudson and River Falls. The Town is assessed a fixed cost per year and the user pays a fee for each call. User fees are reduced because of the Town's contribution. Ambulance service is generally good throughout Troy.

Town Hall

The Town Hall is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Glover Road and STH 35 and was constructed in 2003. The Town Hall is typically used for most governmental functions including Town Board meetings, Planning Commission meetings, Park Board meetings, and elections.

Health Care Facilities

The Town of Troy does not have any medical facilities. However, both Hudson and River Falls each have a Hospital. Both facilities are within a few miles of the border of the Town of Troy.

Hudson Hospital in Hudson is located on Stageline Road just off the intersection of Carmichael Road and Interstate 94. The Hudson Campus offers a complete array of primary, specialty and hospital services including inpatient and outpatient care, obstetrics, emergency care and rehabilitation

services. Patients receive exceptional hospital and specialty physician care at Hudson Hospital.

The River Falls Area Hospital is located on Division Street on the east side of the City of River Falls and is part of the Allina Hospitals and Clinics Health Care System. According to their website, the River Falls Area Hospital “provides easy access to hospital services, primary care and specialty clinics, a long-term care facility and a wellness and fitness center. Our hospital offers cardiovascular care, emergency and surgical services, birth center, home care and hospice services.”

Child Care Facilities

There are several licensed day care providers in the Town of Troy. Child care needs are met by local people who will watch and care for children in their homes.

Libraries

The Town of Troy does not have any libraries within the municipality. Both adjacent cities, Hudson and River Falls, offer a wide variety of services through their public libraries and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls has a library located on campus as well. The Hudson Joint Library and River Falls Public Library are linked to the MORE System which is a connected system of libraries in Western Wisconsin sharing resources totaling more than a million items. You can search the online catalog to find materials or find additional information at any of the 32 MORE member libraries. The website to access the MORE System is www.more.lib.wi.us.

Schools

There are no schools located in the Town of Troy. The Town is split between two school districts (*Map 5-1*). Roughly, the north half of the Town is in the Hudson School District and the south half is in the River Falls School District.

The City of Hudson has four elementary schools, E.P. Rock, Willow River, Hudson Prairie, and River Crest as well as a high school and a middle school. St. Patrick Elementary School and Trinity Lutheran School are two private schools in the City of Hudson.

The City of River Falls also has three elementary schools, Greenwood, Rocky Branch, and Westside, Meyer Middle School and the high school. There are also two charter schools, Montessori Academy and Renaissance Academy. In addition to public schools, St. Bridget Catholic School (K-8) and Good Shepherd Christian Academy (K-12) offer private parochial education.

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has a laboratory farm (Mann Valley Farm) on C.T.H. MM, four miles Northwest of River Falls located in the Town of Troy.

Although the University of Wisconsin-River Falls campus is not located in the Town itself, having the University close by is an added amenity for the residents of the Town.

Chippewa Valley Technical College is also located in the City of River Falls just off the S.T.H. 35 bypass.

Parks and Recreation

The Town of Troy has several recreational areas (*Map 5-2*), some of which provide public access to the St. Croix River, a National Scenic Riverway under the protection of the National Park Service.

Recreational areas owned and maintained by the Town include, Glover Park, a multi use park consisting of 40 acres of land accessed from Glover Road in the southwest corner of Section 9; Cove Boat Ramp, a boat ramp located at the end of South Cove Road where it meets the St. Croix River; and Pemble's Access, a beach on the St. Croix River less than an acre in size located off Glenmont Road at the end of Beach Road.

Other recreational and nature areas located in the Town but not owned & maintained by the Town include: Troy Park, a St. Croix County Park; the Carpenter Nature Center, a private non-profit; and, YMCA Camp St. Croix. Also, several developments have their own private parks maintained by local Home Owner's Associations.

In 2006, a long range plan for the Town of Troy Parks and Recreation was developed. The Town looked at demographic information, population projections, inventory and evaluation of existing parks and survey results to plan for the Town's future park & recreation needs. The Town of Troy Park and Recreation Plan makes recommendations for improvements to existing parks, suggestions for future park locations, and discusses additional biking and walking trails. The Plan is available at the Town Hall for more specific information.

The Town has a Park Board consisting of seven members of the community including one Town Board member. The Park Board is assigned responsibility for park development, maintenance, administration, and planning. The mission of the Park Board is to plan, acquire, develop and maintain parkland and to provide the citizens of Troy with a park system for the conservation, preservation, and enjoyment of their natural environment and recreational facilities.

Most utilities and community facilities are provided by private or adjacent entities. The Town of Troy does not have a current need for expansion of its Town Hall or recycling center. The Town does have a long range Park Plan that is the guidance document for future park needs.

Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1:

Protect the groundwater supply in the Town of Troy.

Objectives:

- Ensure safe drinking water for Troy residents.
- Provide routine testing services for local water.

Policies:

- Support continued inspection of private septic systems.
- Practice stormwater best management practices.

Goal 2:

Provide high quality community services and facilities at a reasonable cost.

Objectives:

- Seek cost effective solutions to community facility needs.
- Continue to seek cost effective fire protection, ambulance, and law enforcement services.

Policies:

- Continue to explore ways of sharing services with the Cities of Hudson and River Falls as well as St. Croix County.
- Pursue grants and volunteerism to offset costs of utilities and community facilities.
- Continue to look at ways to improve communication facilities.

Goal 3:

Provide, maintain, and improve the Town of Troy's recreational opportunities.

Objective:

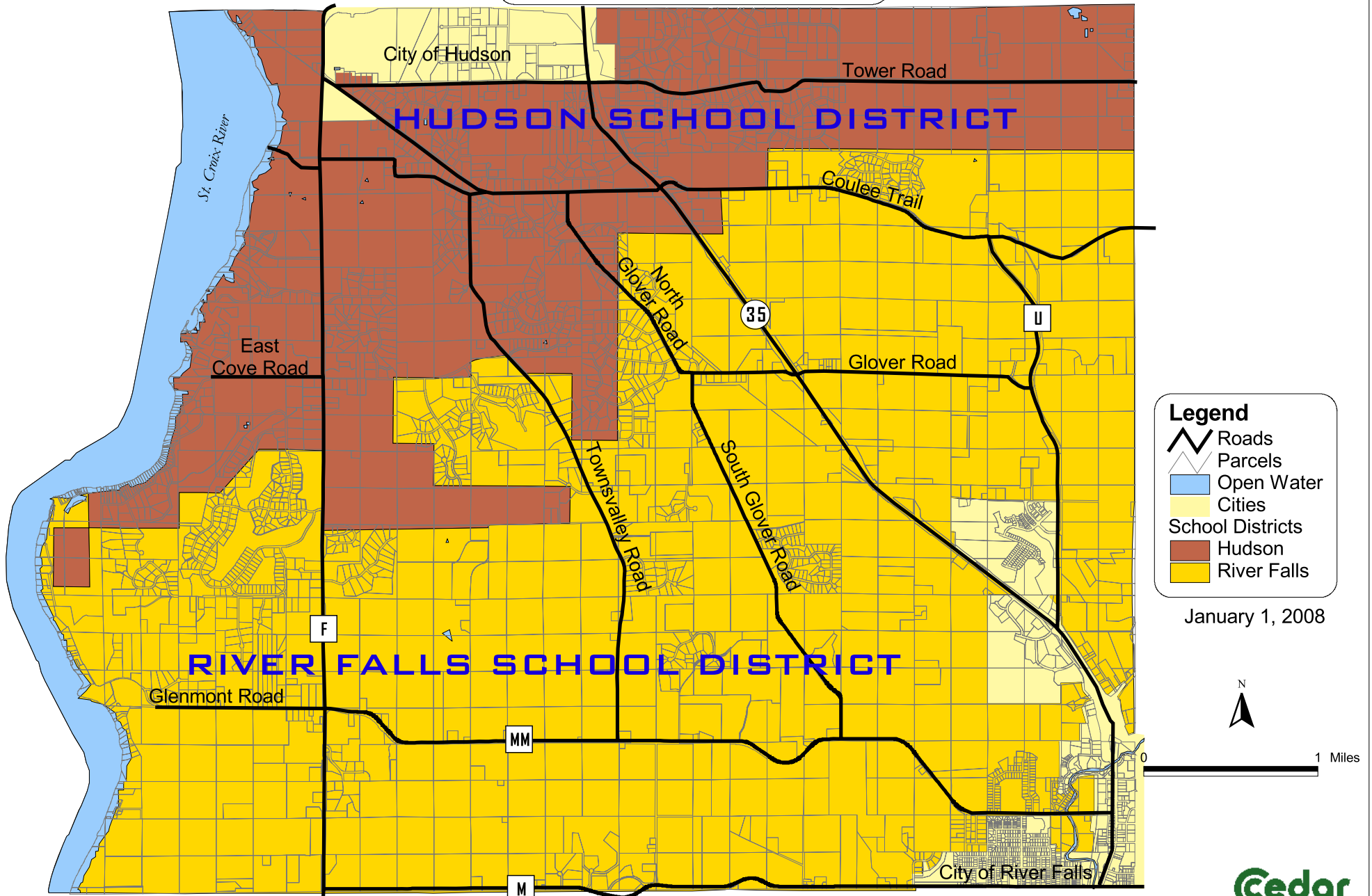
- Offer opportunities for residents to enjoy a higher quality of life.

Policies:

- Support Town of Troy Park Board, Parks and Recreation Plan, and guide long term implementation.
- Expand network of bike trails and walking paths.
- Utilize innovative funding mechanisms to expand park service to meet population growth requirements and coordinate the existing park system with parks in new and future developments.

TOWN OF TROY St. Croix County, Wisconsin SCHOOL DISTRICTS

MAP 5-1



Source: Tiger Data, St. Croix Planning Department, and Cedar Corporation



TOWN OF TROY

St. Croix County, Wisconsin

PARKS AND RECREATION

MAP 5-2

