

CHAPTER 7

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND UTILITIES

Introduction

Chapter 7 inventories community facilities and utilities available in the Town of Barnes (see Map 7-1). It is intended to identify future needs and allow the Town to prioritize and plan for them.

Facilities such as parks and trails serve residents and visitors and can have a positive economic benefit. Other facilities add to the quality of resident’s lives. The availability of utilities can attract new development and businesses to the area. Because of its rural nature, the types of facilities and utilities are limited.

Survey Results

The Town of Barnes Community Survey asked renters and property owners which facilities will the Town need to construct or expand in the next 10 to 20 years. The top three responses were emergency services, fire department, and a medical facility or clinic. Respondents indicated there would not be a need for a swimming pool, school, or recreational center.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
1. Medical Facility/Clinic	19.9%	33.2%	22.5%	5.1%	12.7%
2. Library	8.7%	31.0%	29.1%	6.8%	16.4%
3. Fire Department	18.1%	50.9%	11.3%	1.3%	12.5%
4. Emergency Services	19.8%	52.6%	8.6%	1.4%	11.2%
5. Parks	5.8%	28.7%	35.1%	5.4%	17.8%
6. Schools	4.2%	18.3%	35.1%	10.4%	24.4%
7. Recreational Center	6.4%	26.1%	34.5%	10.0%	16.0%
8. Swimming Pool	4.0%	10.3%	43.9%	18.6%	16.3%
9. Day Care	3.8%	23.1%	29.7%	9.1%	26.5%
10. Van service	6.8%	29.5%	23.3%	7.7%	25.2%
11. Other (Please Specify)	3.0%	1.5%	2.4%	1.0%	9.7%

When asked if the Town of Barnes needs to explore developing a sanitary sewer district, almost 50% indicated “no” while approximately 27% said “yes”.

- 1. I strongly agree. **6.9%**
- 2. I agree. **19.7%**
- 3. I disagree. **30.1%**
- 4. I strongly disagree. **17.1%**
- 5. Not sure. **24.2%**

When asked if the Town of Barnes should allow ATV use on Town Roads, almost 43% agreed while almost 50% disagreed.

- 1. I strongly agree. **19.3%**
- 2. I agree. **23.3%**
- 3. I disagree. **21.1%**
- 4. I strongly disagree. **28.2%**
- 5. Not sure. **7.2%**

When asked if they would support or oppose the increased development of these forms of recreation, a majority of respondents supported the development of all forms of trails. The largest opposition was for ATV trails (30.4%), Snowmobile trails (21.8%), and then horseback riding trails (14.3%).

	Support	Oppose	No Opinion
1. Biking Trails	78.7%	9.2%	9.0%
2. Hiking Trails	82.6%	7.5%	7.7%
3. Snowmobile Trails	66.4%	21.8%	8.9%
4. ATV Trails	58.4%	30.4%	8.3%
5. Cross Country Skiing Trails	81.4%	7.1%	9.2%
6. Horseback Riding Trails	60.1%	14.3%	22.3%

Cemeteries

The Barnes Cemetery is located on Ellison Lake Road and was first used as a cemetery in 1924. The cemetery is managed by a six person committee. The committee addresses cemetery related issues that arise and presents solutions to the Town Board. The committee is assisted by a few grounds and maintenance staff. Funding for the cemetery comes from the sale of burial plots and Town property taxes. Currently, the cemetery uses about eight acres of a 40 acre parcel that is owned by the Town of Barnes.

Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities located in the Town of Barnes. The Town holds a Health Fair every year in the Fall and medical personnel come to the Town Hall to give flu shots, take blood pressure, examine eyes, and perform other basic care.

The St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic Health System has a clinic located in Hayward that offers family practice, general surgery, and internal medicine services. The Hayward Area Memorial Hospital is a 25 bed Critical Access Hospital that has two medical clinics and a long term care center. There are 20 full-time physicians on the medical staff. Other health care options can be found in Ashland, Duluth/Superior, and the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

The Town may want to arrange more frequent visits of area medical staff to assist residents.

See Map 7-1

Child Care Facilities

There are no licensed child care facilities in the Town of Barnes. Future demands will likely be met by local residents offering child care in their home.

Town Constable

The Town Constable currently operates out of his home and provides his own vehicle and boat. The Town Constable has the authority to give citations and enforce Town ordinances, and issue citations for violations of state statutes. The Town of Barnes is exploring the possibility of creating a police force.

Fire/Ambulance

The Barnes Volunteer Fire Department and Barnes Ambulance Service share a building with the Town garage. The building is located on County Highway N next to the Town Hall. The fire department is run with the help of 15 volunteers while the ambulance service has approximately 10 volunteers. The Barnes Volunteer Fire Department and Barnes Ambulance Service both need more volunteers.

The fire department and ambulance service share one half of the building. The fire department goes on approximately 25 to 30 calls per year while the ambulance service goes on approximately 50 calls per year. Because of increased equipment and operational standards, additional space may be needed in the next 10 years. Every two years, the facilities and equipment are evaluated for future needs. In the next year or two, it is anticipated that a new fire engine will be needed to replace an existing fire engine.

Town Garage

The Town Garage shares a building with the Barnes Volunteer Fire Department and Barnes Ambulance Service. The building is located on County Highway N next to the Town Hall. The current building provides sufficient room for the near future and there are no equipment needs at this time.

Libraries

The Town of Barnes does not have a public library. Residents who want library services use those in Solon Springs, Drummond, or Hayward. A Library Committee has been formed to study and evaluate the need and feasibility of library in the future.

Schools

The Town of Barnes is part of the Drummond School District. Enrollment is at 538 students for the 2005-06 school year. Approximately 267 students attend preschool through sixth grade, 87 students attend 7th and 8th grade, and 191 students attend grades 9-12. This number has been dropping approximately 2% to 4% annually and the decline is expected to continue. Attendance in 2000-01 was 575 students. The K-12 facility, located at 52440 Eastern Avenue, was built in 1992 and had further additions in 1994-96. In 2006, the Town of Barnes is represented by a regional member of the Board of Education.

Town Hall

The first Barnes Town Hall was built in 1905. The current Town Hall, located on County Highway N, was built in 1936 and has been remodeled several times. The Town Hall has a meeting room, restrooms, a kitchen, and offices. It is used for Town meetings, elections, and a meeting place for various local organizations.

The Town is planning a future expansion. This could provide space for a Senior Center, library, museum, and other community related needs being considered.

Currently, 35 acres of land behind the existing Town Park are being considered for a future Town complex. If a new Town Hall is built, the Town will have to determine if the old Town Hall should be moved or used for a different purpose.

Post Office

The U.S. Postal Service rents space from the State Bank of Drummond, and is staffed by bank employees. It is located at 50490 State Highway 27. All services, except Post Office Boxes, are provided on site. No increases in services are planned at this time.

Parks and Trails

Tomahawk Park and Barnes Town Park are managed by the Barnes Recreation Committee. The committee has eight members and their responsibilities include overseeing the park's needs and making recommendations to the Town Board. The committee also organizes swimming lessons at Tomahawk Park. The Town also has numerous boat landings (*see Map 7-2*).

The Barnes Town Park has the following amenities:

- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Court
- Ball Field
- Pavilion
- Ice Skating/Roller Rink
- Playground Equipment

Tomahawk Park has the following amenities:

- Public Beach
- Tomahawk Lake Skiing/Hiking/Biking Trails
- Sliding Hill

Each year, the Barnes Recreation Committee creates a list of improvements and presents them to the Town Board for budget consideration. Current suggested improvements are as follows:

- Walking and biking trail behind Barnes Town Park
- Volley ball area (Barnes Town Park)
- Horseshoe pits (Barnes Town Park)
- Skate Park (Barnes Town Park)
- Expand playground equipment (Barnes Town Park)

Tomahawk Park offers opportunities for biking and hiking on its ski trails. The trails are made of two loops. The loop marked blue is 1.7 miles in length. The loop marked yellow is about 4.5 miles in length with a short cut reducing it to 2.5 miles. Residents also enjoy walking along logging roads on land open to the public.

The Bayfield County Land Use Plan identifies State Trunk Highway 27 as having moderate conditions for bicycling. County Trunk Highways Y, N, and A are identified as best routes for bicycling. The Town may want to consider paved shoulders, appropriate signage, and pavement markings to indicate these as bike routes. An alternative would be a bike trail along these roads to improve safety.

Based on the survey results, the Town may want to look into the expansion of a variety of trails and promote silent sports. The development of these trails could have a positive economic impact by drawing people to the Town. Developed trail systems could be used to hold competitive events that would draw competitors and observers to the Town of Barnes.

Trails can have multiple functions. Biking/Hiking Trails can be used for cross country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. Any future trail system should look

at existing area trails or sites of importance so that they may be connected to over time.

Expanding the existing trail system and planning new trails can help make the Town of Barnes a destination place and have a positive effect on the local economy.

ATV and Snowmobile Trails

The Lake Country ATV Club maintains ATV trails in the Town of Barnes. The club has been in existence for seven to eight years. The trail network was originally established to connect local businesses. Leases were obtained from land owners as well as State and County government in order to create the trail network.

Membership fees are used to maintain the trail. State fees are collected from out of state users and dispersed to clubs based on the length of trails. The Lake Country ATV Club is responsible for signage. Trails are posted at 25 miles per hour. There are also noise limitations set for ATVs. Many of the ATV trails run along the shoulders of local roads, which have caused some erosion problems. The Lake Country ATV Club is willing to work with the Town of Barnes Highway Department to make any needed repairs. There are no current plans to expand the trail system at this time.

The Barnestormers Snowmobile Club is responsible for trail development and maintenance in the Town of Barnes. The Club has approximately 60 members. Club members brush trails, obtain easements, and take care of signage. Trails that are properly maintained are groomed by the Snowmobile Alliance of Bayfield County. There are some conflicts with roads being used for trails. When these roads are plowed, the earth is exposed creating a poor surface for snowmobiling. The Barnestormers Snowmobile Club would prefer to have trails on the sides of roads and this is an issue they are addressing where possible.

The Barnestormers Snowmobile Club has minimal equipment such as saws and posthole diggers for trail maintenance. A trail groomer is stored in the Town of Barnes. The Town Garage offers space one day a week for groomer maintenance. In the future, the club would like to have its own building to store the groomer.

The club raises money for expenses through membership fees and a large raffle. There are no plans for trail expansion in the future.

See Map 7-2

Rifle Range

The rifle range is located on Rifle Range Road, north of County Highway N. It is owned by the Town of Barnes but maintained by the Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club. Annual maintenance costs for the rifle range are met by private donations. The rifle range is open year round and is open to the public. The rifle range has six targets for rifle, hand gun, and black powder target shooting. Two archery targets were added two years ago. No future improvements are anticipated at this time.

Water Supply

All water in the Town of Barnes is supplied by private wells. It is anticipated that the available water supply is adequate to meet the future needs of the Town. A community well may be needed if the groundwater contamination ever occurs or if a proposed Conservation Subdivision Ordinance requires it.

Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS)

All wastewater treatment needs in the Town of Barnes are served by Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS). POWTS are commonly referred to as septic systems or holding tanks. Failing systems can have a negative impact on groundwater and surface water quality. Beginning in 2006, Bayfield County enacted stricter controls over POWTS to ensure they are inspected and pumped. Compliance will ensure the systems will work properly and not harm the Town's water resources.

Groundwater contamination or lake degradation due to failing systems can be addressed two main ways. The failing systems could be replaced or a sanitary district could be created. A sanitary district would result in the creation of a wastewater treatment plant. A sanitary district can be created by residents who petition the Town to create the district. If 51% of the residents or owners of 51% of the land within the proposed district sign the petition, the Town Board must conduct a public hearing to determine if the district will be created. The Wisconsin DNR can also require a sanitary district to be formed if local government is unresponsive to the decline of water resources due to failing system.

If the Town develops a Conservation Subdivision Ordinance, the use of smaller "common" systems may be required.

Stormwater Management

The Town of Barnes does not have a stormwater system. Stormwater is generally handled by ditches and culverts. In the Town of Barnes, stormwater runoff creates problems with road maintenance. Many roads were not designed

with ditches or crowned surfaces. The roads hold water after a storm event. The Town Road and Property Foreman is currently developing design standards for future road construction to avoid this problem.

The addition of impervious surfaces and pre- and post-construction practices have an impact on the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff and its impact on the Town's water resources. Stormwater and its relation to water quality and quality are discussed in Chapter 2.

Solid Waste Disposal/ Recycling

The Town of Barnes Transfer Site is located east of Lake Road on County Highway N. The site is open for limited hours on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday.

Residents can bring their garbage, recyclables, brush/leaves, and appliances/tires/scrap to this site. Garbage and household items are charged a fee. Residents can contract individually with Waste Management for home pickup. Hazardous materials are collected during Bayfield County's Clean Sweep program during the summer. Currently, the Transfer Site is meeting the needs of the residents.

Telecommunication Facilities

Chequamegon Communications of Cable, Wisconsin provides telephone service to the Town of Barnes. In 2005, cable TV and DSL online services were extended to some areas of the Town. The area of service will gradually increase over time. Residents have indicated that a cell tower is needed in the area to improve cellular phone service.

Transmission Lines

There are no transmission lines within the Town of Barnes. Electricity is provided by Bayfield Electric Cooperative of Iron River and Dahlberg Light and Power Company of Solon Springs. It is anticipated that these companies will continue to meet the needs of the Town residents and businesses.

Community Facilities and Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Policies, Programs, and Actions

Goal 1: Continue to acquire land for future Town facilities needs.

Objectives

1. Provide room for Town facility expansion at present sites.
2. Ensure room for potential new Town parks and existing parks to grow.

Programs, Policies, and Actions

1. Monitor development of Town lands to anticipate future land needs.
2. Obtain large parcels of land adjacent to existing Town lands.
3. Research and apply for grants that help purchase land for passive park uses.
4. Explore alternative ways to acquire land through easements or donations.

Goal 2: Support continued regulation of private onsite wastewater treatment systems and stormwater management.

Objectives

1. Protect the Town's water resources.
2. Protect the health and safety of Town residents and visitors.

Programs, Policies, and Actions

1. Support the enforcement of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources/Bayfield County stormwater runoff regulations.
2. Review Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources/Bayfield County stormwater runoff regulations to identify areas that could be made more effective and consider creating ordinances at the County or Town level.
3. Support Bayfield County's efforts to create a database to track septic system pumping and inspection.

Goal 3: Support the expansion of telecommunication infrastructure in the Town of Barnes.

Objectives

1. Provide modern infrastructure that allows people to work at home or start businesses.

Programs, Policies, and Actions

1. Support a cellular phone tower in the area that is not visually intrusive.
2. Support the continued expansion of cable TV and DSL internet services throughout the Town.

Goal 4: Provide community facilities at a reasonable cost to property owners in the Town of Barnes.

Objectives

1. Reduce the financial burden of taxpayers for providing community services.

Programs, Policies, and Actions

1. Research and apply for grants and explore other creative ways that allow for the purchase of equipment, land, and upgrading of Town facilities.
2. Encourage Town groups and organizations to volunteer for park maintenance and installation of new equipment.
3. Create a 5-Year Capital Improvements Plan that helps budget and plan for future parks, emergency services and equipment, Town buildings, and road needs.
4. Create an Ad-Hoc Committee to study need for future locations and financial issues related to future Town facility needs.

Goal 5: Support the development and preservation of biking and hiking trails.

Objectives

1. Promote silent sports such as hiking and biking.
2. Provide opportunities for residents and visitors to exercise and enjoy the Town's natural resources and wildlife through silent sports.

Programs, Policies, and Actions:

1. Support the expansion of trails at Tomahawk Park.
2. Organize volunteer groups to maintain trails and reduce costs to the Town of Barnes.
3. Coordinate with Bayfield County, neighboring Counties, and neighboring Towns in planning and implementing a regional bicycle/pedestrian path system.
4. Insure safety of hikers and bicyclists through trail improvements, properly marked paths, and promoting safety education programs.
5. Encourage enrollment in managed forest programs that leave property open to the public to use it for hiking and biking.
6. Provide hiking and biking opportunities located off Town roads.
7. Explore ways to create or expand a hiking/biking system that connects to other trails.
8. Develop a plan for extending opportunities for recreation that is in line with the environmental goals of the Town.
9. Research and submit grants to expand opportunities for quiet sports (land purchases, design, and development).