

CHAPTER 8: UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

One responsibility of a community is to maintain a certain level of community services. To achieve it, they must continuously maintain, upgrade, and expand existing facilities in a cost effective manner based on future growth projections and the desires of the community. 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 North Fond du Lac. An inventory of the current situation is required; more importantly, the Legislation requires this element to provide guidance as to how North Fond du Lac can meet projected needs at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner. This chapter, along with Chapter 2, “Framework Plan” addresses these requirements. The following section offers a summary of the detailed inventory contained in Appendix C-8.

Public Utilities

THE FACTS:

- ***The Village of North Fond du Lac is part of the Fond du Lac Sewer Service Area (SSA).***
- ***In general, the Fond du Lac SSA Planning Area contains about 82 square miles and surrounds the southern one-third of Lake Winnebago, encompassing portions of three counties, 10 individual municipalities and 14 active sanitary districts. All homes and businesses in the Village are connected to the system.***
- ***The Village of North Fond du Lac is required to have a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit under NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code.***
- ***In 1995, the Village adopted a stormwater management ordinance (Chapter 19) that requires all new development to manage its stormwater on site.***
- ***Potable water in North Fond du Lac is provided through the Village of North Fond du Lac Utilities Department.***
- ***The Village of North Fond du Lac provides weekly collection for solid waste and every other week collection for recyclables.***

WHAT IT MEANS:

Essential public services such as sewer, water, stormwater management and waste disposal are critical to the quality of life of North Fond du Lac’s residents. Careful planning and coordination with future growth, development and major land use or transportation changes is needed to ensure proper investments are made at the right time in order to maximize benefits and ensure the efficiency of service provision. While these basic systems can generally accommodate new growth throughout the planning period, some investments in maintenance or expansion may be needed.

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PLAN COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

- *Do public services limit a community's ability to grow?*
- *Are upcoming investments needed for public services?*

Energy & Telecommunications

THE FACTS:

- ***American Transmission Company (ATC) owns and maintains a number of electrical transmission lines in the area.***
- ***ANR Pipeline Company (ANR), formerly the Michigan-Wisconsin Pipe Line Company owns and operates a natural gas transmission line that intersects the Village of North Fond du Lac.***
- ***Multiple phone companies, ranging from land-based to cellular service, provide telephone service for Village of North Fond du Lac residents.***
- ***Broadband or high-speed internet is available in North Fond du Lac in either Fixed or Wireline services.***

WHAT IT MEANS:

North Fond du Lac should be well positioned with respect to energy and telecommunications services throughout the planning period. Although these services are provided by larger corporations and entities, North Fond du Lac may still need to address localized issues related to the siting of facilities. New regulations governing 'small cell' facilities will need to be complied with in the future. Additionally, North Fond du Lac may wish to more deeply consider the impacts of cellular and broadband technologies on its own operations as well as in relation to economic development.

PLAN COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

- *Are you aware of any concerns regarding energy and/or telecommunications?*

Parks & Recreation Facilities

THE FACTS:

- ***Looking at WDOA population estimates, in 2040, North Fond du Lac will need 59.3 acres of park and open space acreage. Therefore, in 2040, North Fond du Lac will have a deficit of about 27.6 acres. Therefore, based on estimated community increases, park and open space acreage is not sufficient through 2040.***
- ***It is desirable that recreational opportunities be within convenient walking distance of each of a community's residents.***

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- *There are no Fond du Lac County Park and Recreational Facilities in the Village of North Fond du Lac.*

WHAT IT MEANS:

North Fond du Lac will need to plan for additional park lands to keep pace with current population and expected growth. Additionally, recent public sentiments for new trails and trail connections should be considered not just from a transportation (walkability) perspective, but from a recreational one as well. Trail facilities are vital components to fostering healthy lifestyles and are becoming increasingly important as an amenity to attract young talent into the community.

PLAN COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

- *Do you think there are adequate recreational opportunities in the village?*

Other Facilities

THE FACTS:

- *There are no cemeteries in the Village of North Fond du Lac, though cemeteries are found in adjacent communities.*
- *North Fond du Lac currently has two healthcare clinics.*
- *Currently, there are no nursing homes within North Fond du Lac.*
- *A total of 5 licensed, certified or regulated childcare facilities are located within North Fond du Lac.*
- *Residents in the Village of North Fond du Lac typically use the Spillman Public Library located at 719 Wisconsin Avenue in the Village.*

WHAT IT MEANS:

Beyond basic services, a number of other public and private facilities exist within North Fond du Lac which provides direct services and assistance to support daily life. As the population ages, additional capacity may need to be developed for nursing home and assisted living accommodations. With the increased prevalence of dual-income households, the importance of reliable and affordable childcare will also play a critical role in maintaining the economy.

PLAN COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

- *Do you think there are adequate services (healthcare, childcare, etc.) in the village?*
- *With no nursing homes, will people be able to live in the village as they age?*

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Public Safety & Emergency Services

THE FACTS:

- *Police Department staff consists of 11 full-time officers and 1.5 civilian personnel. The staff operates on three primary shifts and provides 24-hour coverage.*
- *The Village of North Fond du Lac Fire Department provides fire and EMS protection to the residents and businesses of North Fond du Lac.*
- *Average response time for the fire department is about 4 minutes and the fire department arrives on the scene within 10 minutes of a call.*

WHAT IT MEANS:

Adequate fire protection and emergency response services 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.

PLAN COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

- *Do you have any concerns regarding public safety?*
- *Are public safety facilities and equipment adequate?*

Public Education & School Facilities

THE FACTS:

- *North Fond du Lac is served by the North Fond du Lac School District.*
- *The district is now serving over 1,500 early childhood to 12th grade students.*
- *One private school is located within the North Fond du Lac School District.*
- *Two & Four year Post-Secondary Education is available in nearby communities.*

WHAT IT MEANS:

Education of North Fond du Lac's residents is critical for quality of life and economic development. Good schools and good school districts continue to be a major factor for attracting growth and talent. As growth continues, having a good workforce will be somewhat dependent on the availability of education and training.

PLAN COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

- *The North Fond du Lac School District is a very important educational partner and attracts new residents to the village. How does the village communicate with the school district?*

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GOALS, FRAMING CONCEPTS, POLICIES, STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

The goals, framing concepts, policies, strategies and actions are provided in Chapter 2 - Framework Plan. A single goal was developed for each plan element, along with a series of Framing Concepts which outline specific policies, strategies and action items pertaining to the implementation of this Chapter.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

A comprehensive listing of federal, state, county and local policies and programs which may apply to topics discussed in this chapter (where known about) are contained in Appendix G.