

CHAPTER 4: UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

I. Existing Utilities and Community Facilities

Town Hall:

The town hall is located in the center of the town on County Highways P and S in the community of Pine Bluff. There is also a recreational park on the town Hall site.

Water Supply:

Residents in the town receive their water from private wells. Currently, the town does not offer municipal water service, and does not anticipate offering water service over the 20-year planning period. Municipal water service is available in the adjoining Village of Cross Plains.

On-Site Wastewater Treatment:

Disposal of residential and commercial wastewater is handled through on-site wastewater treatment techniques, which include conventional, mound, pressure distribution, at-grade, holding tank, and sand filter systems. The town's building suitability map (Map 4-1) delineates areas most and least suitable for on-site waste disposal systems. Because of the low population density in the town, there is no municipal sewer service. The town believes this will continue to be the case over the next twenty years. Municipal sewer service is available within the Village of Cross Plains, which adjoins the town on its northern boundary.

Solid Waste Disposal/Recycling Facilities:

The town contracts with Town and Country for residential refuse and recycling collection.

The Town of Cross Plains is served by the [Dane County Sanitary Landfill](#), operated by Dane County Public Works, Highways and Transportation Department. The [Dane County Clean Sweep program](#), housed at the landfill, provides for disposal of hazardous wastes.

Stormwater Management:

The town follows Dane County's Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Ordinance (Chapter 14 Dane County Code of Ordinances). The Ordinance sets standards for the quality and quantity of runoff from areas under construction in urban,

rural, and farm areas where alterations in the landscape may result in changes in the amount and quality of water running off a site.

Law Enforcement:

The town falls entirely within the West 3 Dane County Sheriff District.

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Service (EMS):

The Cross Plains - Berry Fire District and Cross Plains EMS primarily serve the northern half of the town, while the Mt. Horeb Fire Department and Mt. Horeb Volunteer Fire Department EMS serve the southern half (Map 4-3).

Cemeteries:

Saint Mary's cemetery at 3673 County Highway P in the hamlet of Pine Bluff is the only cemetery in the town.

Libraries:

As is typical in towns, no libraries exist in the Town of Cross Plains. However, town residents have access to the libraries in the villages of Cross Plains, Black Earth, and Mt. Horeb. All three of these village libraries participate in the South Central Library Service which provide shared collection access..

Schools:

The town is served by three school districts: Middleton-Cross Plains, Wisconsin Heights and Mount Horeb.

Parks and Recreational Facilities:

Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains

The National Park Service owns and manages the Cross Plains Interpretive Site at 8075 Old Sauk Pass Road. This 161-acre site includes a historic farmstead (now the National Park Service offices) and marked hiking trails leading to a panoramic view. Under the preferred alternative of adopted National Park Service master plans, this site would eventually serve (funding permitting) as the center for the proposed 1,700-acre Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains, which would incorporate nearby public and private lands, including:

- Cross Plains State Park and other Wisconsin DNR-owned lands (total 348 acres);
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Shoveler's Sink Waterfowl Production Area (171 acres);

- Existing National Park Service lands (161 acres)
- The Dane County-owned Ice-Age Reserve Wildlife Area (131 acres)
- Other private lands (914 acres).

Once complete, the Ice Age Complex would include hiking, bicycle and primitive camping opportunities, an interpretative center and the headquarters for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

The Regents of the University of Wisconsin also own land in the town. There is a small recreational park at the town hall in Pine Bluff. See Chapter 3: Transportation for a description of the bicycle, hiking and snowmobile trails, paths and routes that serve the Town of Cross Plains.

Health Care Facilities:

The town does not contain any health care facilities. The nearest hospital is located in the City of Madison. Nursing homes in the Town of Middleton, Village of Cross Plains, Village of Mount Horeb, Village of Black Earth and Madison metropolitan area all serve Town of Cross Plains residents.

Child Care Facilities:

At this time there are no childcare centers in the town. Small, in-home childcare services may exist from time to time.

Churches:

St. Mary's Catholic Church is on County Highway P, just south of Pine Bluff. Other religious institutions are in the Village of Cross Plains.

Senior Services:

[Northwest Dane Senior Services](#), located at 1837 Bourbon Road in the Village of Cross Plains, provides a variety of programs and services for senior adults. Their service area includes the Town of Cross Plains.

The [Aging and Disability Resource Center](#) (ADRC) of Dane County provides information about resources and support on all aspects of life related to aging or living with a disability and is a one-stop shop for older adults, people with disabilities and their families. The ADRC is also the access point for information about long-term care options and applying for public benefits. Services provided by the ADRC are free and available to all Dane County residents regardless of income or assets.

The [Area Agency on Aging of Dane County](#) serves individuals who are age 60 and over and/or their family members by providing information and assistance in accessing services that will help older adults stay in their own homes and communities.

Other Community Services:

[Wayforward Resources](#) provides food pantry services to the Cross Plains area.

Telecommunications Facilities:

There are five telecommunication towers located within the town lines.

Power Plants and Transmission Lines:

There are no power plants located in the town. Two 69kV single circuit transmission lines run through the town, one north-south and the other east-west. There are three electrical substations in the town, two located on County Highway P at Stagecoach Road, and the remaining one on Timber Lane. Although current and anticipated needs are met for town, needs for the county as a whole has resulted in major projects planned for Dane County between 2011 and 2015.

II. Forecasted needs for utilities and community facilities:

Due to the relatively low growth anticipated for the Town of Cross Plains, existing utilities and community facilities should be sufficient to meet expected demand for the next twenty years. With proximity to urban areas and transmission lines, large areas of open land in the town may, in the near future, become attractive to developers of medium- to large-scale commercial solar energy facilities.

III. Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goals:

1. Continue to cost effectively maintain the Town's infrastructure at a level of service desired by Town residents, farmers and businesses.
2. Continue to cost effectively maintain the Town's public services desired by Town residents and businesses.

Objectives:

1. Provide convenient solid waste and recycling services.
2. As feasible, accommodate recreational facilities of interest to town residents.
3. Cooperate with other municipalities and governmental agencies to maximize cost-efficient delivery of services.
4. Recognize objectives of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan for utilities and community facilities, including those for sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment technology, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunication facilities, power plants and transmission lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities, police, fire, rescue, libraries, schools and other governmental facilities.

Policies and Programs:

1. Limit development of residential and commercial/industrial uses to densities that are cost-effective to serve.
2. Recognize policies and programs of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan for utilities and community facilities, including those for sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment technology, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunication facilities, power plants and transmission lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities, police, fire, rescue, libraries, schools and other governmental facilities.
3. Work to improve uniformity and availability of telecommunication and high-speed internet services to town residents.

4. Encourage pre-planning of utility corridors by towns and the counties. Work with the state legislature to require utility companies to use pre-planned corridors identified in county comprehensive plan, or existing transportation corridors.
5. Make sure new renewable energy facilities in the town comply with town siting, design and decommission standards described in Chapter 8 of this plan.
6. Plan and explore future options to manage solid and liquid waste (manure) within the township.
7. Develop policies to manage placement of cell towers and to minimize impacts to rural character and the environment.