

6.0 UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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Introduction

Utilities and community facilities provide the infrastructure required to offer all necessary and expected services to its citizens. The quality of the water and sanitation, protection, emergency services, library and schools that communities provide is one factor in determining the overall attraction to live there.

This chapter focuses on these elements to establish a baseline of current services and goals for the future.



Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law includes 14 goals for local comprehensive planning. The goals listed below specifically relate to planning for transportation:

- Encouragement of neighborhood designs that support a range of transportation choices;
- Encouragement of coordination and cooperation among nearby units of government; and;
- Providing an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that affords mobility, convenience and safety and that meets the needs of all citizens, including transit-dependent and disabled citizens.

Utilities and Community Facilities Vision

In 2030, the Town of Three Lakes has developed a long-range visionary posture toward the needs of its citizens through assessment, analysis and prioritization to ensure that town residents have access to efficient services and high-quality facilities. The town's property taxes have been maintained at a stable level by managing debt, maintaining town equipment and carefully planning expenditures. The Town has also been able to reduce costs and improve efficiencies in services by developing intergovernmental relationships and entering into shared service agreements with neighboring communities.

VISIONS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND GOALS

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law requires that the Utilities and Community Facilities element contains a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the local governmental unit such as sanitary sewer service, storm-water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment technologies, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunications facilities, power-generating plants and transmission lines, cemeteries, health-care facilities, child-care facilities and other public facilities, such as police, fire and rescue facilities, libraries, schools and other governmental facilities. The element shall describe the location, use and capacity of existing public utilities and community facilities that serve the local governmental unit, shall include an approximate timetable that forecasts the need in the local governmental unit to

expand or rehabilitate existing utilities and facilities or to create new utilities and facilities, and shall assess future needs for government services in the local governmental unit that are related to such utilities and facilities.

From the all of the community forums, surveys and public hearings, the following Utilities and Community Facilities issues concerned the citizens of Three Lakes. Goals were then developed to address these issues while reflecting the vision statement that guided the development of the comprehensive plan.

<u>ISSUES</u>	<u>GOALS</u>
LOCAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE	Continue to Provide High-quality Services and Infrastructure in a Fiscally Responsible Manner
PUBLIC SAFETY	Continue to Provide High-quality Public Safety Services in a Fiscally Responsible Manner
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY	Develop Alternative Sources of Power To Supplement The Grid and for Times of Energy Shortage Due To Market and/or Natural Forces in the Event of a Crisis

A full expansion of the above Issues, Goals, Objectives and Policies can be found in *Chapter 12: Implementation*.

Utilities Inventory

This section documents those utilities provided by the Town, Oneida County, neighboring communities and private providers.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT¹

Wastewater collection and treatment in the town of Three Lakes is accomplished through a combination of municipal and private treatment systems. The Three Lakes Sanitary District 1 serves 286 homes and businesses in the Three Lakes town center. The treatment plant facility is under regulation and inspection of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Each year, sections of the sewage piping is scoped with special cameras and cleaned to remove roots or other potential blockages. The plant is currently operating at 67% capacity, which allows for ample increase in available service for the future.

Sanitary District 2 was created in 2005 during the construction of the new Northernaire. This is a recirculating sand/gravel filter system designed to accommodate the new Northernaire condominiums and single detached community of homes. Owned and maintained by the new

¹ Information provided by Dale Bruss, President Three Lakes Sanitary District 1

Northernaire, original plans staged an independent sanitary district to service the condominium owners. Ultimately, in the event the new Northernaire is unable to provide service to its owners, the Town of Three Lakes is responsible for its operation.

WI Fund Grant

The Wisconsin Fund provides financial assistance to homeowners in the rehabilitation or replacement of failing septic systems. The type of septic failure, household income and state funding determines grant eligibility. For additional information, contact the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

The remainder of development in the town of Three Lakes is accommodated with private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS). These systems must comply with the state plumbing code (COMM 83), to ensure that on-site systems do not threaten groundwater resources and to keep each permitted system functioning properly over the course of its lifetime. Waste from existing POWTS, primarily septic systems, is spread over agricultural fields providing organic matter and nutrients for supporting crops.

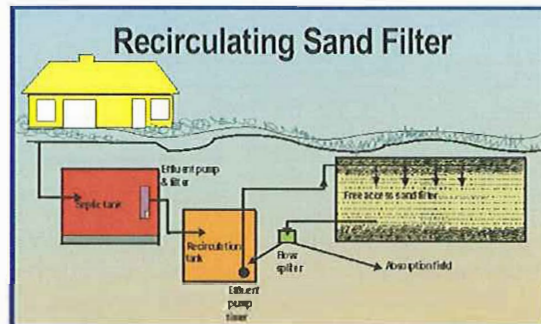
The cost of developing a townwide municipal wastewater treatment system is not practical given the scattered development located within Three Lakes. However, clustered, alternative sanitary facilities can provide an environmentally friendly wastewater treatment system at a fraction of the cost of on-site systems. Options for clustered sanitary systems for future development include recirculating sand filters, constructed wetlands and The Living Machine System, among others.

▪ Re-circulating Sand/Gravel Filters.

Re-circulating sand/gravel filters (RS/GF) offer an economically viable, environmentally benign alternative to conventional drain field-based treatment systems. The basic components of a RS/GF system include a septic tank, recirculation tank, and sand or gravel filter. Water discharged from the system far exceeds the quality of a conventional system, and at a fraction of the price.

RS/GFs have been in use for more than a century and are a permitted alternative to septic tanks and mound systems.

▪ Constructed Wetlands. Constructed wetlands have been used as effective wastewater treatment systems for more than 30 years. They have become the dominant treatment system for communities in the Minneapolis, Minn., metropolitan region not served by municipal wastewater treatment. Although there are a variety of wetland-based systems used to treat effluent, the most



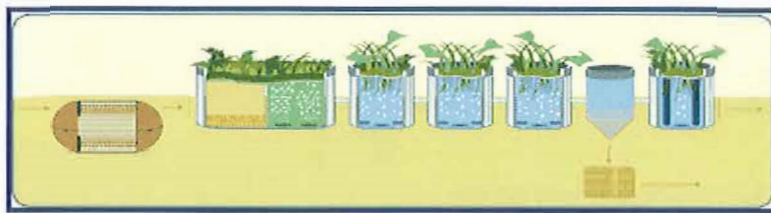
Source: ToolBase Services, 2005.



Source: North American Wetlands Engineering, 2004.

common is a subsurface flow wetland. Subsurface flow wetlands utilize an anaerobic reactor (septic tank) for pretreatment followed by a forced-bed aeration system and wetland treatment cells. Constructed wetlands are designed to achieve tertiary treatment at a fraction of the cost of a municipal system. They become cost effective at the small scale when treating effluent from eight or more homes.

- **Living Machines®.** Living Machines are a patented wastewater treatment system that is growing in popularity around the world. They entail a linked system of tanks teeming with live plants, trees, grasses, algae, fish, shrimp, snails and a diversity of microorganisms and bacteria. Each tank is a mini-ecosystem designed to eat or break down waste. The process takes about four days to turn wastewater crystal clear. It is chemical-free, odor-free and, compared to conventional wastewater treatment, costs less financially and ecologically². Living Machines are permitted systems and are currently in use at Conserve School in Land O' Lakes, at Cedar Grove Cheese Factory in Cedar Grove and at Edgewood College in Madison.



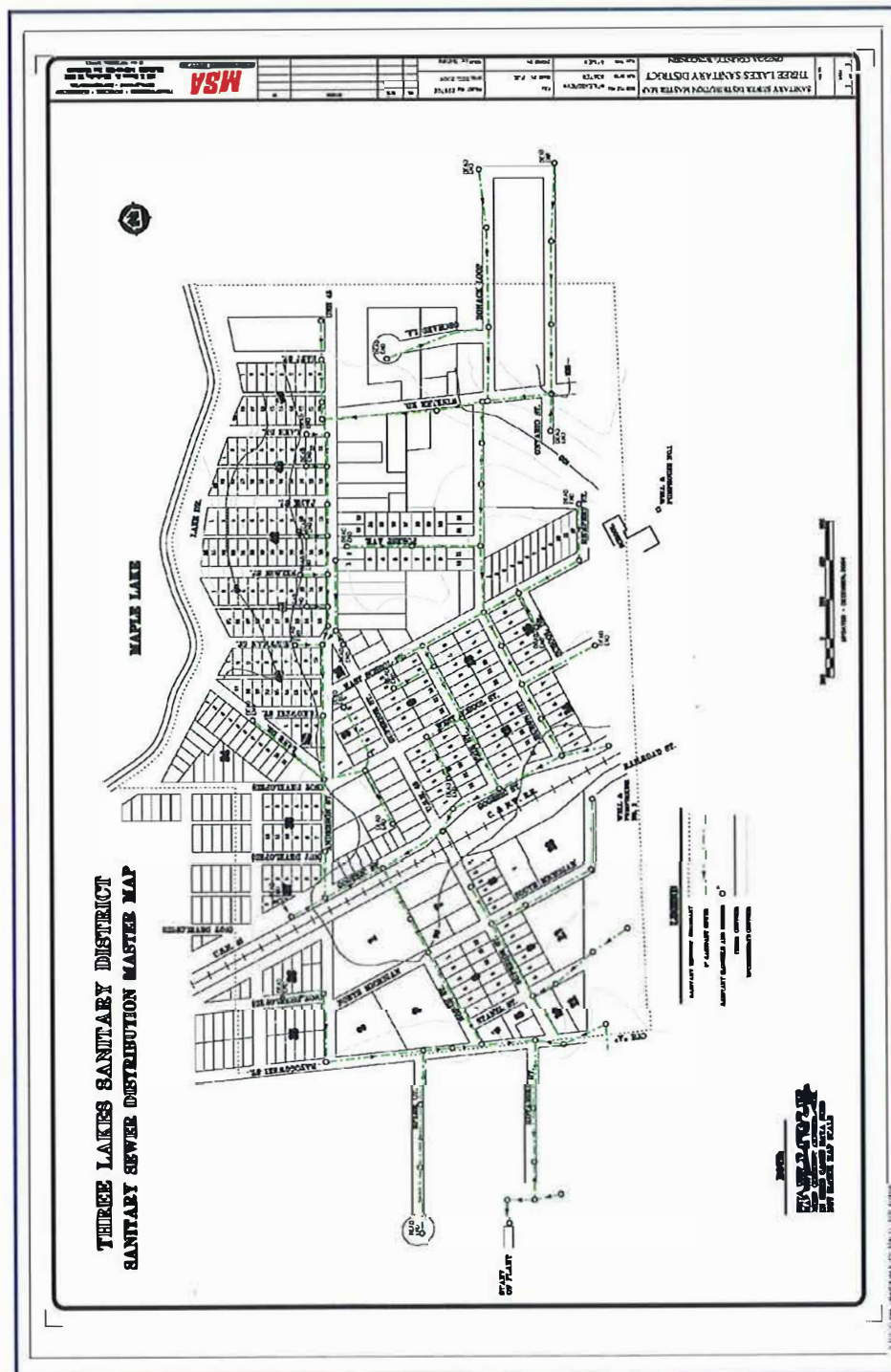
Source: Living Machines, Inc., 2001.

The Town supports the continued use of POWTS, as approved by the Town and county. Based on soil conditions, current and anticipated development densities, state laws governing POWTS and anticipated future technologies in private waste disposal, a municipal sanitary system is not needed for the town. The maps that appear on pages 6-5 and 6-6 show the boundaries of the Three Lakes Sanitary and Water Districts respectively and were provided by the Town of Three Lakes.

² SOURCE: *The Living Machine*, Jeff Wolovitz, Penn State Department of Research and Policy, 2000.

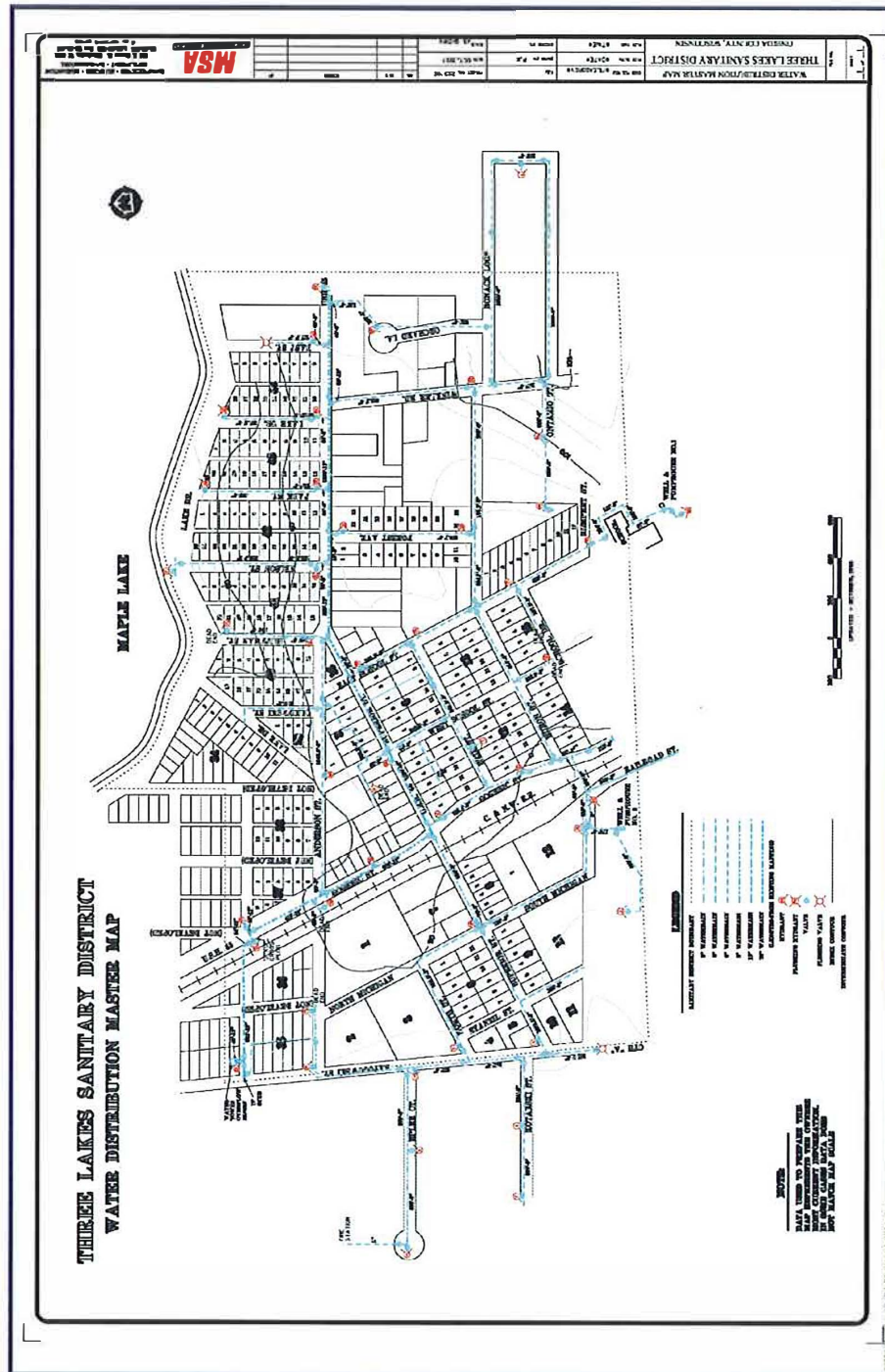
Three Lakes ²⁰³⁰

Chapter 6: Utilities & Community Facilities



Three Lakes

Chapter 6: City Facilities



STORM- WATER MANAGEMENT

The Town of Three Lakes realizes the need to control storm-water drainage to preserve water quality in the Chain of Lakes. At this time, the Town does not administer or enforce its own storm-water management and erosion control ordinances. Actions which result in erosion or necessitate the management of storm water are governed by Oneida County under Chapter 9: Oneida County Zoning and Shoreland Protection Ordinance. Under state law, the Town has the authority to develop and administer its own storm-water management and erosion control program as long as it is more stringent than current county standards.

Storm-water management and erosion control may include:

- **Watershed Planning.** All watershed planning activities in the Town of Three Lakes will be coordinated with the Oneida County Land Conservation Department to identify, protect, and enhance critical habitat and aquatic corridors in the community.
- **Land Conservation Techniques.** Land conservation techniques include: conservation subdivisions, setbacks, buffers, land acquisition, and adherence to the development patterns outlined on the Future Land Use Map.
- **Riparian Buffers.** Riparian buffers are natural areas extending inland from the stream bank and are comprised of a blend of trees, grasses, and other plants. Riparian buffers have proven to be the most effective means of reducing runoff to surface waters.
- **Site Design Techniques.** Effective site design techniques encourage the use of natural landscaping, limit impervious surface, enforce setbacks and buffers, and protect natural resources.
- **Storm water Best Management Practices (BMP).** Storm water best management practices seek to reduce storm water pollutant loads, maintain groundwater recharge and quality, protect stream channels and safely maintain the 100-year floodplain. Successful BMPs include ponds, wetlands, infiltration areas and filtering systems, and grassed swales, among others.
- **Erosion and Sediment Control.** The State of Wisconsin establishes construction site erosion control requirements for development and redevelopment projects. Effective erosion and sediment control measures reduce the amount of time that soil is exposed to the elements.

WATER SUPPLY

In addition to wastewater treatment, Three Lakes Sanitary District 1 manages the water system within the town center and adjoining areas. Development outside of the district's boundaries is served by private individual wells. The cost of well installation can vary significantly within a community and may range between \$7,000 and \$17,000 depending on soil conditions, depth to groundwater and casing requirements.

Shared and clustered wells, serving a small number of homes, may provide a viable alternative to individual private wells; however, they require effective agreements to address issues related

to metering and well placement. In addition, they may lead to disagreements over water usage by the homeowners served by the shared water system. A more effective alternative for new subdivisions may be requiring a community water system. Community wells would serve the entire subdivision and offer the safest and most cost-effective alternative for larger residential development projects (typically 20 or more homes). Additional information about groundwater is provided in *Chapter 7: Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources*.

ELECTRICITY AND NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION

Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) is the primary supplier of electricity and natural gas in the community; however, individual landowners outside of the town center may rely on propane delivered by local providers for heating and cooking.

Headquartered in Green Bay, WPS provides service to 442,419 electric and 289,133 natural gas customers in 24 counties throughout northeastern and central Wisconsin and Menominee, Mich. Approximately 65% of the electricity used annually by public service customers comes from coal-fired power plants, 15% from the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant, and 4% from combustion turbines, hydroelectric and renewable resources. The remaining 16% comes from power purchased from neighboring utilities in Wisconsin and other nearby states.



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

At this time, there are no municipal alternative energy source providers located in Three Lakes. However, a percentage of WPS' production capacity is generated by wind power. In the future, more alternative energy municipal and private business projects will capitalize on the new technology to rely less on a single energy source and promote a cleaner environment. Many schools and municipalities have already made this investment and have shown significant energy savings. Individual landowners have many alternative energy options available and will need support from the state, county and Town of Three Lakes to continue to develop this option. Additional information related to wind energy is provided later in this chapter.

LOCAL PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES³

The Town of Three Lakes Parks Commission administers the Three Lakes Outdoor Recreation Plan and provides maintenance and improvements to the park facilities. The Parks Commission is an all-volunteer member group that ensures safe and well-maintained facilities which provide a very favorable view on the community. The Town owns and manages three parks within the community: Don Burnside Recreation Park, Cy Williams Park and Felland Ski Park. A brief description of each appears below.

- **Don Burnside Park.** The 37-acre Don Parkside Park is located 2 blocks west of Three Lakes off Cty A and includes softball, hardball, and soccer fields; golf driving range; playground; horse arena; tennis and basketball courts; ice rink; Three Lakes Community

³ The information included in this section was provided by Richard Javenkoski, Town of Three Lakes Parks Commissioner or excerpted from the Oneida County Recreation Plan 2004-2008 developed by North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

Garden and parking for (and connection to) 3 Eagle biking/walking trail. Park facilities include a pavilion with picnic areas, rest rooms and accessory buildings to support annual events.

- **Cy Williams Park.** Cy Williams Park is a 2-acre walking park located at Hwy 32/45 & Park Street. Facilities at the park include children's play apparatus, benches, picnic tables, grills, rest rooms and a gazebo area for special events. A beach located at the north end of the park offers changing rooms. Just west of the beach, on Lake Drive, is a children's fishing area, small pier, and facilities for cookouts in a small park-like setting.
- **Felland Ski Park.** Felland Ski Park is a 3.7-acre dedicated water ski park located 4 mi south of Three Lakes down Hwy 32 and north on Golf Course Loop Rd (across from the Northernaire). The park provides facilities for ski shows and instruction and offers a changing room, restroom, and accessory buildings.

In addition to the town's park facilities, WDNR and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest manage approximately 15 boat launches in the town. For additional information related to parks and recreation facilities, refer to the Oneida County Recreation Plan 2004-2008 at www.co.oneida.wi.gov.

COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

Access to communication facilities is very important in the modern economy. The quality of communication services depends on the capacity of the lines, towers and supporting infrastructure serving the town.

- **Telephone Service.** Verizon is the sole provider of conventional, land-line telephone service in the community. Cellular service is available from a number of providers.
- **Internet.** Internet service is provided by SonicNet & Alltel wireless, satellite, various dial-up vendors and Verizon with DSL is available in some areas in the Town. The Town of Three Lakes supports its own Internet webpage, www.tn.threelakes.wi.gov/. The website offers information such as meeting schedules, newsletter links, minutes, budget, agendas, and the announcement of local events. The site also provides contact information for Town Board Officers, property tax collection, and a list of local ordinances, among other information.
- **Newspapers.** The most frequently read newspapers in Three Lakes include: Three Lakes/Vilas County News, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, The Daily News, USA Today, and the Lakeland Times.
- **Television and Radio.** There is no television or radio stations located in Three Lakes, however, signals are available from surrounding communities. Television stations include: Wausau/Eagle River TV-34 (WYOW), Rhinelander TV-12 (WJFW), Wausau/Sayner TV-57 (W57AR), Antigo TV-46 (WTPX), Wausau TV-55 (WFXS) and Crandon TV-4 (WBIJ). Cable television is provided by Charter Communications. Radio stations include: Antigo 105.3 (WRLO), Clearwater Lake 103.5 (WCLW), Eagle River 94.5/950 (WRJO/WERL), Goodman 90.7 (WMVM), Rhinelander 91.7, 93.0, 97.5, 100.1

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(WXPR,WLSL,WH DG,WRHN), Minocqua 95.9 (WMQA), Tomahawk, 92.5 (WJJQ), and Wausau 95.5 (WIFC)

- **Postal Service.** The community is served by the Town of Three Lakes Post Office located at 6970 W. School Street.
- **Cellular / PCS Towers.** Advancing communication technologies have increased the need for towers to provide receiving and sending capabilities, particularly for cellular phones. The Federal government formally recognized this need by passage of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Under Section 704 of the Act, the Town has the power to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless facilities, as long as the rules do not discriminate between providers or prohibit service.

A number of communications towers are located in the town, including:

1. 5435 USH 45 – FCC registered Antenna Tower, 97.5 meters in height
2. 7050 Batagowski Street – FCC Private Land Mobile Tower, 61 meters in height
3. 1889 Koubenic Road – 9 meters in height
4. 8660 Honey Rock Road – 11 meters in height
5. 2108 CTH A – 14 meters in height
6. 2294 Sampson Road – 6 meters in height

CEMETERIES

The Three Lakes Cemetery is located on USH 45/STH 32.

HEALTH-CARE FACILITIES

The Three Lakes Community Health Foundation (TLCHF) has been in partnership with Aspirus Hospitals and Health Care System of Wausau since 2006, providing primary health care for the Three Lakes area. The clinic is staffed by a doctor, nurse practitioner, medical assistant and receptionist. The clinic is open five days per week. The TLCHF owns the clinic building and leases it to Aspirus. It is the desire of the TLCHF board to explore the possibilities of building a new facility. The goal for this new facility is to provide for wider-ranging services both for the present staff and visiting physicians, therapists and other health-care providers.⁴ Aspirus is a nonprofit, community-directed health system based in Wausau, Wis.. With more than 4,300 employees, Aspirus serves people in 14 Wisconsin counties and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan through a series of affiliated hospitals; home health and hospice care; pharmacies; critical care and helicopter transport service; durable medical goods; skilled nursing homes; a large volunteer corps; an affiliated physician network; a philanthropic and research foundation; and an extensive clinics network.⁵

Other health-care providers in the area include:

⁴ Provided by Kim Starke, President of Three Lakes Community Health Foundation

⁵ Excerpted from Aspirus Corporate website, aspirus.org/, 2009.

- Eagle River Memorial Hospital
- Marshfield Clinic in Eagle River
- Ministry Medical Group in Eagle River
- Allied Health of Wisconsin (Chiropractic) in Rhinelander
- Aspirus Clinic in Rhinelander
- Center Ministry Health Care/Saint Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander
- Childcare Health Center in Rhinelander
- Ministry Medical Group in Rhinelander
- Veterans Affairs Outreach Clinic in Rhinelander

CHILD-CARE FACILITIES

The sole, licensed child-care facility in Three Lakes is operated by the YMCA. The program, located within Three Lakes Elementary School, provides care services through an after-school program catering to children 4 years of age and older. Informal child-care services may be provided by family and friends.

Three Lakes Community Health Foundation-Mission Statement

To strengthen the unique quality of life in the Three Lakes area by partnering with our communities to promote health and well-being, and provide access to quality health care.

LIBRARY

Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library is located at 6961 W. School St. in Three Lakes. The library is open to the public Mondays through Saturdays and provides an extensive catalog of materials. The library website (www.demmerlibrary.org) features links to useful free research tools and databases, library events and programming, new materials, and the monthly newsletter. The online catalog provides access to materials found within the Demmer Library's collection as well as the collections of other public libraries in the Wisconsin Valley Library Service area. The Local History Room houses a microfilm reader/printer, public Internet computer for conducting genealogical research, history materials related to Three Lakes and Wisconsin, and a microfilm collection featuring selected Three Lakes newspapers on film, as well as Three Lakes census records. The Demmer Library also administers a microfilm loan agreement with the Salt Lake City Family History Library, allowing researchers to order and view microfilm on loan from Salt Lake for a small charge.

The library provides free high-speed public Internet access computers as well as wireless Internet service for patrons with laptops. A wide range of adult and children's programming, children's story hour programming in both Three Lakes and Sugar Camp, and children's after-school and summer reading programs are offered. Other services provided by the library include outreach to area senior citizen housing and meeting sites provided several times per month by the Library Limo, Friends of the Library monthly book sales, and meeting rooms available to the public⁶

⁶ Provided by Janet Dixon, director, Demmer Memorial Library

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SENIOR SERVICES

The Reiter Center in Three Lakes is a beautiful facility that offers a 250-person-capacity banquet/meeting area, complete kitchen and two smaller meeting rooms. It is privately funded by the Reiter Foundation and used by citizen's young and old, nonprofit and for-profit groups. It also serves meals on-site to local seniors. The town also has one senior living facility located at 6972 Orchard Lane.

THREE LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Three Lakes School District, with a website of www.threelakesd.k12.wi.us/districthome/home, offers educational programs to students in grades prekindergarten through 12. The district serves students at Sugar Camp Elementary School, Three Lakes Elementary School and the Three Lakes Junior/Senior High School. With a 2009 enrollment of 607 students, the district is ranked 296th of Wisconsin's 446 school districts in size. District offices are located at 6930 W. School St.

Like many rural school districts in Wisconsin, the Three Lakes School District is experiencing declining student enrollment (Table 24, page 6-13). The overall enrollment within the district has dropped by more than 30% since 2001. Under the full-time, interdistrict open enrollment program, Wisconsin students may apply to attend school in any K-12 public school district in the state, regardless of whether or not they live in the district. Families of students who transfer from their local district do not pay tuition. However, a local district loses state aid for each student who transfers to another district and gains state aid for each student who transfers from another district. The program first took effect in the 1998-99 school year. It is designed to encourage competition among districts as a means of fostering improvement in public schools and to provide families with increased flexibility in their educational choices. Participation has increased each year since the program's inception. Currently, Three Lakes School District enjoys a 1.5-to-1 incoming/outgoing open enrollment ratio. Unique programming and highly qualified teachers provide students with more individualized attention necessary in today's highly competitive world. A comprehensive Cultural Change Initiative was introduced in 2005 addressing the atmosphere required for students to strive to learn. Where "failure is not an option," Three Lakes schools have students who have shown a marked decrease in reported grades of D's and F's, discipline has improved, graduation rates are near 100 %, and almost 80% of students go on to university or technical colleges. For more information, call the district office at (715) 546-3496 and schedule a tour.



Source: Three Lakes School District
website, www.threelakesd.k12.wi.us/,
2009.

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Although none are located in the town of Three Lakes, Wisconsin also has a charter school program. The Wisconsin Charter School Program was initiated in the 1993-1994 school year. Charter schools are public schools that are exempt from many state regulations and rules. In exchange, the schools are accountable to their chartering authority for meeting measurable goals in their charter. This freedom encourages various programs that may stimulate change, innovation and creativity to enhance student learning. In 2004, there were 137 charter schools in the state. Charter schools are nonsectarian, employ Department of Public Instruction-certified staff, and participate in statewide assessments.

Table 24: Three Lakes School District Enrollment Trends, 2001-08.

Year	Total Enrollment	Change from Previous Year
2009	607	-0.8%
2008	612	-3.6%
2007	634	-5.2%
2006	667	-4.6%
2005	698	-3.9%
2004	725	-0.6%
2003	729	-4.5%
2002	762	-3.9%
2001	792	n/a

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2009.

TOWN OFFICE AND EQUIPMENT

Located on West School Street, the town office complex is a multiuse facility housing the offices of clerk, secretary, town chairperson/supervisors and treasurer. There is also a Town Board meeting room, community meeting room, kitchen and space for the Three Lakes Christian Food Pantry, and offices and garage of the police department. In 2009, a new town shop was built on Railroad Street to provide the work area and vehicle storage for the town crew. Maintenance for the many trucks, watercraft, and road and park maintenance equipment is performed in this facility.

Community Services Inventory

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING

The Town of Three Lakes contracts with Eagle Waste to operate the landfill. Solid waste and recyclables are deposited at the site. Taxpayers may purchase "dump coupons" for discounted tipping fees. Some businesses in Three Lakes may contract with Waste Management for solid waste collection.

POLICE PROTECTION

The Town of Three Lakes Police Department (TLPD) provides police protection in the community with a shared service agreement with the Oneida County Sheriff's Department (OCSD). The TLPD includes the police chief and a staff of three full-time officers, three part-time officers and a part-time secretary. Four vehicles, a motorcycle and two watercraft are maintained for patrol use, while a portable speed board is used to provide safety reminders to all traveling motorists.⁷ During the peak boating season, members of the police department also

⁷Excerpted from Town of Three Lakes website, www.tn.threelakes.wi.gov/localgov_departments_details.asp?deptid=485&locid=170, 2009.

patrol the Chain of Lakes enforcing the Wisconsin Safety Boating laws and local town ordinances.

The OCSD is located at 2000 E. Winnebago St. in Rhinelander. The department's patrol division is responsible for patrolling and responding to calls for service throughout Oneida County's 1,124 square miles.⁸

FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Fire protection and emergency medical services in Three Lakes have been provided to the community since 1937. The Three Lakes Fire Department (TLFD) also provides aid to surrounding communities. The TLFD is comprised of a dedicated crew of 35 volunteers who give their time and energy to protect those in the community. Within the crew, there are 33 trained firefighters, four First Responders, 17 emergency medical technicians (EMTs), three Rapid Intervention Team trainees, 18 trained as Haz-Mat technicians and 10 trained in cold water rescue. For equipment, the department maintains two engines, each with a 1000-gallon tank capacity, one 105-foot ladder truck, one 3000-gallon tanker, one 250-gallon brush truck and one command vehicle. An all-terrain vehicle and 16-foot Boston Whaler round up the special-needs equipment. In addition, the department has 30 gallons of Class B extinguisher foam. The TLFD provides 24/7 protection, and currently is hoping to build a second station on the east side of town to offer even quicker response throughout the town.

The Emergency Medical Services Medic 10 is an ambulance based in Three Lakes, owned by Oneida County Ambulance, and managed by Saint Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander. It is part of the satellite system that includes Sugar Camp and Pelican Lake. Saint Mary's Hospital is contracted by Oneida County to manage the ambulance system; the ambulance is based in the Three Lakes Fire Department building. All EMTs are licensed by the state of Wisconsin and must maintain their skills through continual training. Medic 10's roster consists of 16 EMTs, six are provisional EMTs, four are IV Techs, and six are basic EMTs. Medic 10 provides 24/7/365 emergency coverage. The extremely dedicated staff runs more than 200 calls a year.⁹

Utilities and Community Facilities Issues and Opportunities

This section of the chapter describes the various issues, concerns and opportunities related to utilities and community facilities in the town of Three Lakes.

MAINTAINING REASONABLE TAX LEVELS

Town residents respect the fiscal discipline demonstrated by local officials and value their reasonable tax rates. Given limited finances, coupled with long-term uncertainties surrounding Wisconsin's shared revenue program and state-imposed levy limits, the Town of Three Lakes understands the need to carefully consider all expenditures. This consideration certainly extends to providing utilities and community facilities for the community. To provide efficient,

⁸ Excerpted from Oneida County Sheriff's Department website, www.oneidasheriff.org/, 2009.

⁹ Excerpted from Three Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce website, www.threelakes.com/threelakes/community/groups++associations/default.asp, 2009.

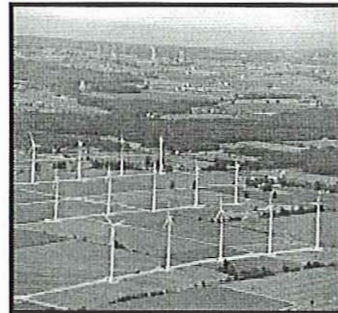
cost-effective services, the Town has a history of cooperatively working with neighboring communities and Oneida County (i.e., wastewater treatment, fire protection, police protection, senior services, road maintenance, etc.). Regionalizing services can minimize duplication and promote cost efficiency, which may reduce the tax burden for all residents. To keep local taxes at a reasonable level, Three Lakes will continue to consider shared service opportunities with neighboring communities.

WIND ENERGY

With the rising cost of energy in the United States, capturing the wind has grown in popularity as a source of alternative, renewable energy. Although it is a very cost-effective source of electricity, it has raised other concerns, particularly with respect to wildlife. Opponents of wind farms have argued that the rotating blades can disrupt, and even kill, certain bird and bat species. Studies conducted on the effect of wind turbines on bird and bat mortality have thus far shown minimal impacts. However, proponents believe that the greater benefit provided by this renewable energy source, given increased awareness of global climate issues, more than justifies its recent and future growth.

Current wind-generation capacity is found in the locations listed below.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ▪ De Pere, Brown County: | 1.2 MW |
| (megawatts) | |
| ▪ Red River, Kewaunee County: | 11.22 MW |
| ▪ Lincoln, Kewaunee County: | 9.24 MW |
| ▪ Byron, Fond du Lac County: | 1.32 MW |
| ▪ Monfort Wind Farm (Eden, Iowa City): | 30 MW |
| ▪ Green Field Blue Sky (Fond du Lac County) | 154 MW |



Wind turbines in Kewaunee County. Source: Renewable

The Town of Three Lakes does not have an ordinance focused on the regulation of wind turbines. To effectively regulate their placement and operation, the Town should consider adopting such an ordinance. A model ordinance has been drafted by the Wisconsin Department of Administration and is available on the WDOA website. It must be mentioned, however, that the state Legislature is considering adopting state-wide standards for wind farms similar in scope to ATCP-51, the livestock siting standards.

The installation of wind turbines, should they be constructed, will result in benefits and challenges in Three Lakes. Challenges are largely focused on three aspects: visibility, noise and wildlife impacts.

1. Wind towers are highly visible. Modern wind turbines producing power on the megawatt scale typically stand 212-plus feet, with blade rotors of about 230-plus feet in diameter (up to 393 feet tall and 341 foot rotor diameters for the 3.6 MW turbine)¹⁰. Wind power plants consist of clusters or lines of turbines spread across hilltops, ridgelines or open

¹⁰ Source: General Electric

stretches of water. Turbine view sheds, or distances within which the turbines can be readily seen, can reach five miles. A formal study conducted by the Renewable Energy Policy Project indicated that the wind turbines in Kewaunee County had no negative effect on the property values in the view shed, described as the 5-mile radius around the wind turbines¹¹.

2. Wind power plants produce steady, low-volume noise caused by wind trailing off rotor blades and by the machinery driven by the turbines. The wind itself may mask any such noise produced by the turbine. Table 25 (at right) provides a comparison of various sound levels.
3. Compared with other energy sources, wind has a modest impact on wildlife. It does not require the mining or transportation of fuel, nor does it produce air pollution or contribute to global warming. Wind installations do consume small amounts of land for each turbine footing and may alter wildlife behavior in the surrounding areas. Some species change their feeding, breeding and nesting habits within the immediate area of wind towers. In areas where the land is already used for intensive agriculture (i.e., row crops), the wildlife impact and habitat loss is minor. In more remote areas, the disruption from a wind farm will be more significant, if only from a visual perspective. Overall, wind power projects are responsible for one or two of every 10,000 bird collision-deaths in the country annually. Housecats, office buildings and patio doors each kill far more birds than wind turbines¹².

Table 25: Comparison of Sound Levels.		
Source	Distance (feet)	Sound Levels (decibels)
Jet Engine	200	120
Freight Train	100	70
Vacuum Cleaner	10	70
Freeway	100	70
Large Transformer	200	55
Wind in Trees	40	55
Light Traffic	100	50
300 kW Wind Turbine	400	45
Soft Whisper	5	30

Source: Paul Gipe, *Wind Energy Comes of Age*, 1995, as cited in National Wind Coordinated Committee, "Wind Energy Environmental Issues," Wind Energy Series, January 1997 and "The Environmental Case for Wind Power in Wisconsin," Elizabeth Ridlington and Jennifer Giegerich, July 2005.

There are several benefits that may be accrued by the town of Three Lakes should it encourage the creation of wind farms in the community. First, the town has a relatively low population density. This would help to limit the impact of the towers (particularly with respect to noise) to the limited number of people living within 500 or 1000 feet of the proposed structures. Moreover, the lease of land for the turbines will provide a source of revenue for those landowners on which the tower is sited. Since many of these landowners are farmers, the supplemental income will help to sustain their farm operation. Finally, by siting any prospective towers in the community, demand for additional residential development in this portion of the town will likely be reduced, therefore, helping the town to retain its undeveloped lands and farmland resources. However, any proposal to site wind farms in the town is sure to generate passionate discussion regarding their merits.





¹¹ Source: Renewable Energy Policy Project, *The Effect of Wind Development on Local Property Values*, 2003.

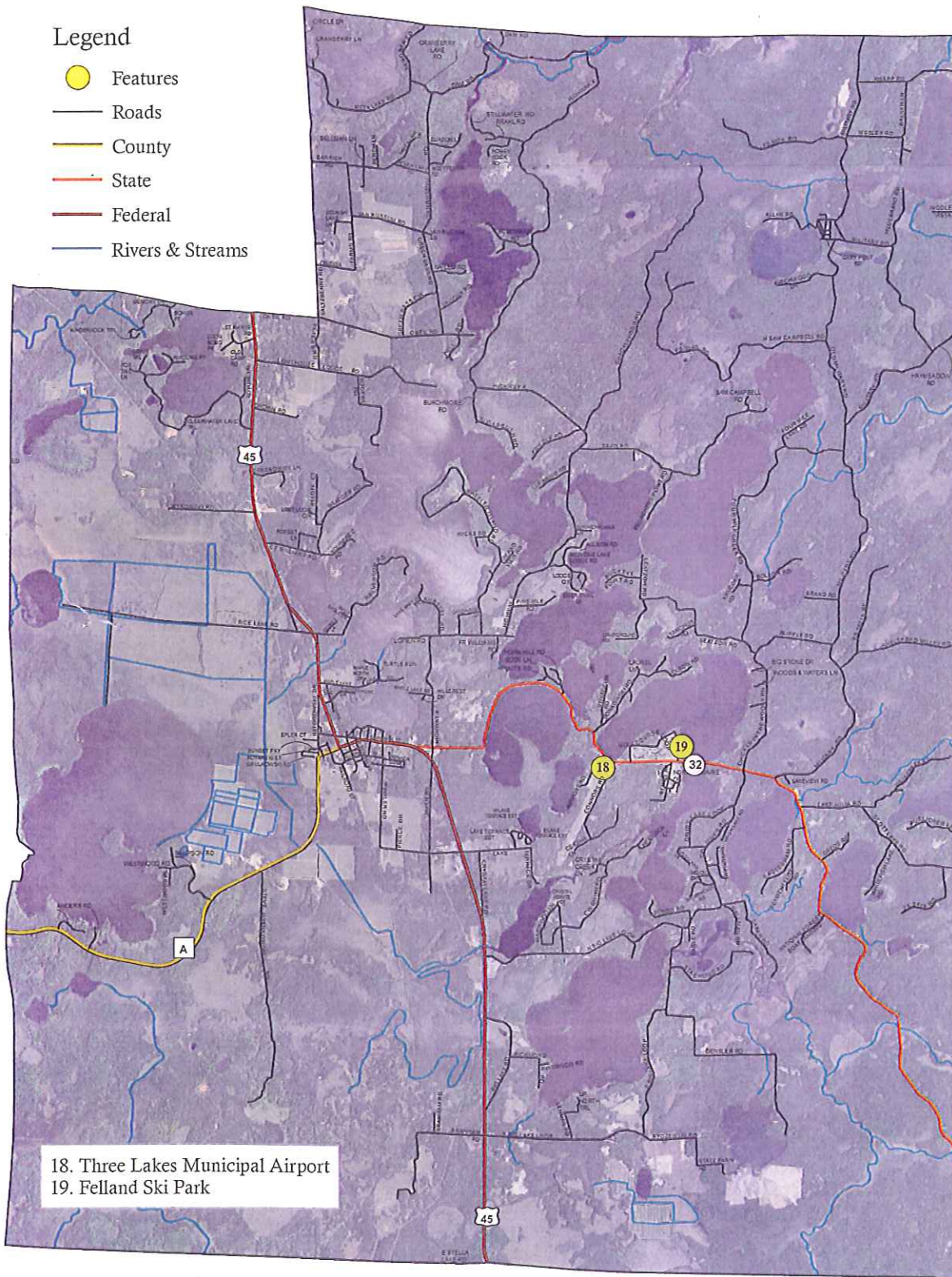
¹² Source: Wallace Erickson, et. al., *Avian Collisions with Wind Turbines: A Summary of Existing Studies and Comparison to Other Sources of Avian Collision Mortality in the United States*, National Wind Coordinating Committee, August 2001.

Community Facilities

Town of Three Lakes Oneida County, Wisconsin

Legend

-  Features
-  Roads
-  County
-  State
-  Federal
-  Rivers & Streams



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0 0.5 1 2 Miles

OMNI
ASSOCIATES
INC.

Community Facilities

Town of Three Lakes

Oneida County, Wisconsin



11

EPLER CT

12

SUNSET PKY

KOTARSKI ST
GRULKOWSKI RD

17

NORTH ST
N MICHIGAN ST

15

IS STANZIL

9

SM MICHIGAN ST

10

ERIE ST

8

HURON ST

7

SCHOOL DR

2

ST SCHOOL DR

4

FOREST ST

3

NELSON ST

14

PARK ST

13

LAKE DR

16

WINKLER RD

1

ORCHARD LN

5

EAST ST

32

BONACK LOOP

1

ONTARIO ST

1. Faith Congregational Church
2. Grace Lutheran Church
3. Union Congregational Church
4. St. Theresa Catholic Church
5. Evangelical Church
6. Three Lakes School
7. Edward U. Dremmer Memorial Library
8. Three Lakes Town Offices/Community Building/Police
9. Reiter Center

10. Post Office
11. Three Lakes Fire Dept/EMT
12. Three Lakes Sanitary District
13. Three Lakes Chamber of Commerce
14. C.Y. Williams Park/Maple Lake Beach
15. Don Burnside Recreation Park
16. Three Lakes Cemetery
17. Aspirus Clinic
20. Three Lakes Center of The Arts

0 205 410 820 Feet

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Legend

- Features
- Roads
- County
- State
- Federal
- Rivers & Streams
- Sanitary District Boundary



PARK AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommend a community standard of 10 acres of local recreation land per 1,200 residents. The current population of Three Lakes is an estimated 2,395 persons with a projected 2030 population of 2,588. To meet the NRPA standard by 2030, the town would need a minimum of 21.6 acres of public park land. The town's current park acreage surpasses 40 acres, exceeding NRPA recommendations.

The funding of local park land acquisition and development has become more difficult with recent legislation limiting local government's ability to establish and enforce impact fees upon new residential development projects. As a result, more Wisconsin communities are seeking grant funding to offset the cost of park and recreation development. Wisconsin statutes prohibit local government from applying for state and federal park and recreation funding without a locally adopted Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP).

By periodically updating the Three Lakes Outdoor Recreation Plan, the town will remain eligible for state grant funds. Grants, donations, park impact fees (which can be collected from developers proposing any new land divisions or subdivisions - must be compliant with Act 477)¹³ are all tools available to offset taxpayer costs for new park space. Potential locations for future parks and recreational facilities are illustrated on the Future Land Use Map in Chapter 10.

What is a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan?

A Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, or CORP, is a document that describes existing open spaces, parks and recreational facilities and identifies future needs. Typical components of a CORP include:

- A definition of the planning area
- The identification of park and outdoor recreation planning standards
- An inventory of existing parks, trails, wildlife areas and other recreational assets
- A natural resources assessment
- A park and outdoor recreation facility needs assessment
- Recommendation for necessary facilities and improvements
- A trail plan
- Acquisition, maintenance and operation recommendations
- Goals, objectives and policies
- Maps of existing and proposed parks and recreational facilities

Utilities and Community Facilities Programs

Numerous grant and loan programs are available to town government to finance future improvements. The grants listed below are currently available; however, state and federal funding programs may change over time. Therefore, the programs listed on the following pages should be considered as examples of the types of funding sources available and not as a definitive list of available grants. Programs are available through the state of Wisconsin and the federal government. The following sections provide a description of some of the opportunities available to the Town of Three Lakes.

¹³ Passed May 30, 2006, Act 477 updates impact fee legislation. Counties can no longer collect impact fees, and municipalities can no longer use them for "other transportation uses," "other recreational uses," or vehicles. Fees are to be collected from the builder or property owner within 14 days of the issuance of the building or occupancy permit, must be placed in separate accounts, and must be spent within seven years or refunded.

WATER AND WASTEWATER GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM

The USDA Rural Development (Rural Utility Service) has a water and wastewater grant and loan program to assist cities, villages, tribes, sanitary districts and towns in rural areas with a population up to 10,000. The program provides loans and grants to construct, improve or modify municipal drinking water and wastewater systems, storm sewers and solid waste disposal facilities. This program may be useful for establishing shared/cluster sanitary and water systems in Three Lakes.

STATE TRUST FUND LOAN PROGRAM

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands provides this loan program with terms of up to 20 years and deeply discounted interest rates. Loans may be used for a variety of purposes including road improvements, water and sewer, equipment, recreational facilities, industrial development and other public facilities that may include community centers/halls and trail development. The funds available fluctuate annually. The current annual loan limit is \$2 million. The Town of Three Lakes could utilize these funds for development of new park facilities, trails, road projects (including projects to pave shoulders for trail routes), or expansion and renovation of the Town Hall. However, it must again be noted that federal and state funding for parks acquisition is contingent upon the approval and adoption of a local CORP (see box on page 6-19).

RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY FACILITY GRANTS

The USDA Rural Development also offers grants to communities seeking to build or improve their community facilities. These include schools, libraries, child-care facilities, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted-living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. These grants are awarded to communities with a population up to 20,000 based on a competitive application process. Priority is given to communities of less than 5,000 people.

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

This USDA program assists rural communities in developing and operating safe and affordable water supply systems, as well as sewage and other waste disposal systems. It also provides rural communities with populations up to 10,000 persons with the financial support necessary to support water, sewer, storm-water and solid waste disposal facilities.

RURAL UTILITY SERVICE – DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAMS

The Broadband Program funds the cost of construction, improvement or acquisition of facilities and equipment for the provision of broadband service in eligible rural communities. At least 75% of the area to be served must be in a rural area without sufficient access to high-speed broadband service, and priority will be given to projects that have the highest percentage of users without broadband access.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAM – STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

This Department of Justice program provides \$125 million to assist law enforcement in rural areas to prevent and combat crime, especially drug-related crime.

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security awards competitive grants to fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical services that will enhance the ability of First Responders and firefighters. In 2006, the program was allotted \$485,595,000 to be disbursed through three separate programs: the *Assistance to Firefighters Grant*, *Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants*, and *Fire Prevention and Safety Grants*.

STATE STEWARDSHIP FUND

The Stewardship Fund is the state of Wisconsin's land acquisition program for public outdoor recreation and habitat protection. Administered by the Department of Natural Resources, the fund makes \$60 million a year available to buy land for nature-based parks and associated infrastructure improvements, trails, habitat areas and campgrounds. The funds can also be used for shoreland stabilization and riparian buffer enhancement projects. The Stewardship Grants provide up to a 50% match in funds to that coming from the local government. In order to be eligible, local and tribal governments must have a DNR-approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or Master Plan that has also been adopted by the local governing unit (Town Board). Three Lakes could use these funds to establish local trails or a new nature-based park and its associated infrastructure.

WISCONSIN FOCUS ON ENERGY

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost-effective energy-efficient and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect the environment and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

A Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) is typically a five-year plan with updates occurring annually. Capital items are generally defined as those items that are more expensive and will last at least three to five years. These items are financed through borrowing, as they may overburden the annual operating budget. A general CIP includes a community's capital items such as:

- Park land acquisition and improvements;
- Trail development projects;
- Public buildings improvements and maintenance;
- Emergency vehicle or road maintenance vehicle purchase and replacement;
- Street maintenance and reconstruction; and
- Replacement of aged sanitary sewer and water mains.

The Town of Three Lakes does not currently use a CIP. To more effectively implement the comprehensive plan and prepare for future expenditures, the Town should consider developing a CIP.

Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies

The utilities and community facilities goals, objectives, and policies (see *Chapter 12: Implementation*) were developed to ensure that Three Lakes:

- *Remains a rural place to raise a family for the next 20 years, and well into the future;*
- *Limits new development to options that retain the town's rural setting;*
- *Respects the opportunity for all property owners to receive fair value for their land; and.*
- *Has defined standards for managing growth and maintaining an effective plan.*