

## **General Overview**

Residents in the Town of Union require and request a host of services that provide for a basic level of health, safety, and welfare. Some of these services maintain a high quality of life, while others foster job creation or sustain the economy. In order to plan for the future, the Town must have a clear understanding of the location, use and capacity of utilities and community facilities that service its residents. As the population of the Town of Union continues to grow, these services may need to be expanded or new facilities may need to be built.

## **Purpose of Utilities and Community Facilities Element**

The intent of this element is to provide basic information about the community-type services currently offered in the Town with the exception of transportation-related facilities which are addressed as a separate element.

### **Basic Objectives of the Utilities and Community Facilities Element**

## **Inventory of Utilities and Community Facilities**

1. Cemeteries: There are four cemeteries in the Town. Holy Cross Cemetery, a Catholic cemetery, is located in Section 22 on Hwy. 14 north of Evansville (Town Range Section 4, 10, E, 22) The Old Baptist Church Cemetery, also known as Union Cemetery, is abandoned (no internments since 1902) is located in Section 10 south of Union Road. (Town Range Section 4, 10, E, 10) Maple Hill Cemetery is located at Town, Range Section 4, 10, E, 26. An unnamed cemetery is located in Section 10 on Hwy. 14, north of Hwy. 59. (Town Range Section 4, 10, E, 27)

*(Source: Wisconsin Historical Society Archeological Report)*

2. Child Care Facilities: Presently there are several small home-based child care operations, but there are no commercial operations.
3. Education – Four-year Colleges: None. Residents are served by institutions in nearby Madison and other communities throughout the State and in adjoining states.

Education: Technical and Community Colleges: None. Residents are served by institutions in nearby Madison, Janesville, Beloit and other communities throughout the State and in adjoining states.

Education K-12: Three K-12 school districts serve children in the Town. The **Evansville Community School District** serves most residents. The **Oregon School District** and **Stoughton School District** serve residents in the northwest and northeast areas of the Town, respectively.

6. Electrical Power Plants: None.
7. Electric Transmission Lines: None.
8. Electric Distribution System: **Evansville Power & Light** serves part of the Town's residents. Other areas of the Town are served by **Alliant Energy** and **WE Energies**.
9. EMS/Rescue: Residents are served by two services. A volunteer service located in Evansville serves part of the population. A volunteer service located in Brooklyn serves the other part of the population.
10. Fire Fighting: Residents are served by two services. A volunteer service located in Evansville serves part of the population. A volunteer service located in Brooklyn serves the other part of the population.
11. Health Care Facilities: None. Health care facilities are located in nearby Evansville, Oregon, Stoughton, Madison, and Janesville.
12. Libraries: Residents of the Town are served by the **Eager Free Public Library** located in Evansville. Other libraries are located in each of the schools serving the Town. There are also libraries in other areas of Rock County.
13. Natural Gas: Housing developments close to Evansville are served by **WE Energies**. Residents in other areas contract with local providers for propane gas.
14. Parks: The Town has one improved park and one unimproved park. The primary park used by most residents is **Lake Leota Park** in Evansville.

Police: The Town is served by the **Rock County Sheriff's Department**. Discussions are underway for a cooperative agreement for shared services with the **City of Evansville** for those Town areas bordering the City. There is an extraterritorial agreement with the City for traffic control.

Potable Water Supply: Most of the residents of the Town are on wells, either individual or common wells for mobile home parks. (97% of the residents who responded to the **Union Smart Growth** survey indicated they are on wells. 24% expressed concerns about their drinking water, while 76% expressed no specific concerns about their water. 32% had their well water tested in 2004.)

Recycling Facilities: There is a collection and transfer point on Green Bay Road for both refuse and recyclables.

Sanitary Sewer: Only three houses are connected to the Evansville sanitary sewer. All other residents are on septic tanks, either individual or for mobile home parks common tanks.

Solid Waste Disposal: There is a solid waste (refuse) disposal facility in the Town. Small

amounts can be brought to the facility on Green Bay Road. Some agricultural areas are used for spreading of biosolids from the **City of Madison**, or for spreading septic tank pumpage. Some areas may be used for disposal of demolition debris. Agricultural waste is generally disposed on the property where it is generated. Any county resident can use the landfill in Janesville for a prorated fee based on the amount of waste.

Storm water Management: The County is primarily responsible for storm water management. Developers and large agricultural operations must file plans with the State for verification by the County.

Telephone service is provided by **Verizon** and **SBC**. High speed internet service is provided by several companies including **SBC**, **Verizon** and satellite services. Wireless internet service is provided by **Earthwhile** in Evansville utilizing a former TV tower. There is little if any cable television service in the Town. There is a cell phone tower on Cty. M.

Wastewater Treatment Systems: Private septic tanks are the only method of handling wastewater treatment.

### **Projected Utility and Community Facility Needs**

Based upon population projections of 2,295 residents by the year 2015 and 2,584 residents by the year 2025, (See Figure UCF - 1), the following projections need to be considered as decisions about land use and land development are made.

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## **Goals, Objectives, and Actions:**

### **Goal:**

The goal of this section is to facilitate and forecast planning needs for appropriate utilities and community facilities to support the overall Comprehensive Growth Plan (Plan) for the Town of Union (Town). Specific projected actions listed in this section will be, as much as feasible, in accordance with the preferences of the citizens of the Town, as expressed in the written survey conducted as part of the Plan development process, as voiced in various public forums during the course of the Comprehensive Growth Plan Committee's (Committee's) work, and as directed by elected legislative bodies.

### **Objectives and Actions in Support of the Goal:**

The Committee believes that the following objectives, and the actions listed for each, are in support of the Plan and of the expressed wishes of the citizens of the Town. The action items will generally not be implemented by the Committee, but the Committee will work with other governmental and non-governmental groups to pursue the actions.

**Objective:** Maintain and enhance the educational achievement of the entire citizenry.

#### **Actions:**

- Maintain undiminished support for the school districts serving the Town.
- Implement long-range planning for top quality facilities to accommodate anticipated growth in student populations.
- Develop methods, including distributed and electronic, for continuing education of adult Town residents.
- Enhance traffic safety for students and busses.
- Support maintenance and improvement of the Eager Free Public Library.
- Evaluate the potential impact of a major influx of students from the Albany and Orfordville areas, in the event of major changes in the school system serving those areas.
- Regarding physical education, expand and enhance athletic facilities.
- Evaluate a new Town hall as a location for selected community continuing education activities.

**Objective:** Improve telecommunications services

#### **Actions:**

- Provide reliable, reasonably priced, secure broadband services to all residents.
- Provide teleconference capabilities at a new Town Hall, if a new Town Hall is constructed.
- Work to improve the quality of cellular phone service in the Town.

**Objective:** Explore the feasibility and cost of shared

services with neighboring entities, such as townships, villages, and cities.

**Actions:**

Police: Explore contracted services with the Rock County Sheriff's office for specific areas of the Town. Explore possible additional shared services with the City of Evansville.

Fire: Brooklyn Fire District serves four and one-half sections in the northwest corner of the township. The costs are based on a per capita fee. Brooklyn will be building a new fire station in 2005 which is expected to increase the cost of service. Evansville provides services to the rest of the township. Evansville's charges are based on a per capita basis plus a \$400 fire call charge. The Fire station will be expanded in 3-5 years and is expected to increase the cost of services. Study the long-term need that a full-time fire service will probably be needed, possibly with multiple locations.

EMS: In the time horizon of this Committee, especially with shared costs from area communities, a full-time service may be needed. A likely location is the City of Evansville, although other or multiple locations may be advantageous.

Road maintenance: Explore contracting by the Town for all road maintenance and snow removal.

**Objective:** Increase the availability, quality, and choices of energy to residences and businesses.

**Actions:**

Increase the quantity and availability of 3-phase electric power.

Explore the potential for increased service by natural gas mains.

Explore renewable energy options for Town activities and for the needs of individual citizens.

**Objective:**  
solid waste management.

Improve the availability and options for

**Actions:**

Consider ordinances encouraging increased recycling by the citizenry and increased specification of the use of recyclables by the Town.

Consider a permanent, enhanced facility for recyclables and non-recyclables.

**Objective:** Assure a high quality supply of potable water to all residences and businesses.

**Actions:**

Review and, if needed, update requirements for placement and operation of septic systems.

Explore the potential for replacement of septic systems, at least in some areas, with wastewater treatment plants serving multiple sources.

Work with the WDNR and other government authorities regarding prevention of groundwater contamination by agricultural and government activities.

Work with appropriate government entities regarding prevention of excessive groundwater withdrawal.

Establish practices to enhance rainfall infiltration and reduce storm water runoff.

Enhance the protection of wetlands for natural water quality improvement, runoff control, and enhanced infiltration.

Join in a specific plan for the Allen Creek watershed.

**Objective:** Ensure that storm water management adequately protects the environment and private property.

**Actions:**

Contract the Town's engineer at property owners' expense to supervise design and construction of storm water plans.

Adopt measures to control/reduce runoff and to enhance infiltration.

Consider creating a storm water management ordinance that is more restrictive than Rock County's in order to bring more Town control back into storm water management.

Enhance the protection of wetlands for natural water quality improvement, runoff control, and enhanced infiltration.

**Objective:** Enhance and preserve forested areas and undeveloped (not farmed) land; protect and enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hunting, on such land.

**Actions:**

Consider favorable tax treatment for forested and undeveloped land.



Establish a Town land trust; purchase forested land and place it in the trust.

Establish and maintain, through ownership or easements, wildlife corridors connecting land trust and other suitable property.

Join in a specific plan for the Allen Creek watershed, including Lake Leota.

**Objective:** Study the need for the construction of a new Town hall complex.

**Actions:**

Examine specific community needs that would be addressed by a new Town Hall, and that are not being otherwise addressed.

Determine if the need warrants further exploration. If so, appoint a Task Force to outline options and make a detailed recommendation to the Town Board.

Inform the residents of reasons for further exploration.

Perform a location evaluation.

Consider multiple options such as a multi-function facility (Town Hall, Town support facilities, athletic facilities, picnic shelter, and a park as well as other options.)

Research different financing options, (such as grants, etc.)

**Coordination with Other Comprehensive Plan Elements**

Utilities and Community Facilities impact all of the other elements addressed in this Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Utilities and Community Facilities directly affects Transportation; Housing; Economic Development; Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resources; Intergovernmental Cooperation; and Land Use. Economic Development and plans for increases in Housing increase demands for utilities. Changes in population strongly affect school capacity. Because of such impacts, it is important that these elements are consistent in their approach and support one another. The Union Smart Growth Committee considered this interaction as it developed the goals and objectives related to the Utilities and Community Facilities element.

**Related Maps**

Map # 9: Utilities

Map #10: Community Facilities & Cemeteries

Map #11: School and Fire Districts

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*Town of Union Comprehensive Plan  
5, 2006*

*Adopted: October*

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- To identify and describe the full range of community-type services currently provided.
- To identify the capacity of these services.
- To identify unmet community-wide needs.
- To identify what public facilities will need to be expanded in the future to accommodate additional residents and commercial and industrial uses.
- To develop goals and objectives that will accommodate the needs of current and future residents.

### **SURVEY RESULT**

- 58% of respondents said they would be in favor of tax sharing with another municipality in order to receive more services in the Town of Union. Of those responding:
  - 66% supported tax sharing for road maintenance or equipment
  - 59% supported tax sharing for police services

### **SURVEY RESULT**

- 49% of households have children under 18 years of age.
- 11% of households have at least one child age 5 or younger.

### **DEFINITION**

Tax Sharing: An agreement between the Town of Union and another municipality to jointly share costs of agreed upon services. For example: costs to provide emergency services.

### **SURVEY RESULT**

- A private well is the primary water source for 97% of the households that responded.
- 24% of respondents expressed concerns about their drinking water
- 76% of the respondents expressed no specific concerns about their drinking water.
- 32% had their well water tested in 2004.

