

6.0 Purpose

The Town of Woodland supports and utilizes an effective array of utilities (such as phone and Internet service) and public facilities (including parks, trails and churches located throughout the Town). The Town also supports and utilizes services provided by both the County and School District. In addition to utilities and services, Woodland has many historic attributes. These attributes provide insight into the Town's past and serve to ground the community as it builds upon its future. This section of the Plan summarizes the Town's utilities, public facilities and significant community resources and history.



6.1 Water Supply and Private On-site Waste Disposal Systems

All residents in the Town of Woodland are served by private wells. Sauk County worked with the Wisconsin Geological Survey office on a groundwater study in 2002. The study, which can be found here: <https://wgnhs.wisc.edu/pubshare/M145.pdf>, includes information pertaining to volumes and quality as well as typical movement patterns, wellhead protection areas, and contamination issues. According to information obtained from Wisconsin and neighboring states, a low probability of significant groundwater pollution from private on-site sewage treatment systems occurs in housing developments with a density less than one house per two acres. There is a high probability of groundwater pollution where homes are located at a density greater than one house per acre. Given the soil types in the region and the mix of agricultural fields with forested areas and a low-density development pattern, groundwater contamination is assumed to be at a minimum. Exceptions include the densely developed areas around Dutch Hollow Lake, which may exhibit impacts from private septic systems.

Overall, the disposal of domestic wastewater in the Town is handled through the use of individual Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS), or septic systems, which generally collect solids in a septic tank and discharge gray water to a drain field. The Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) has adopted a revised private sewage system code referred to as code 383. Based on the requirements set forth by the State of Wisconsin code 383, all residential units with running water and plumbing fixtures must have an approved means of wastewater disposal. Because the Town of Woodland is not served by a sanitary sewer system, the only current means of service is via POWTSs.

The Wisconsin DSPS, in conjunction with the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department (LRE), regulates the siting, design, installation, and inspection of all POWTS systems in the Town of Excelsior. This requirement of code 383 permits the continued use of conventional systems as well as alternative systems, such as those that employ the use of biological or aerate treatment. It also stipulates system inspections every three years to ensure compliance with installation and operation requirements.

Typically, these alternative systems permit development of land areas that previously would not support a conventional system. A comparison of lands that previously could not support a POWTS under conventional technologies to those that can support alternative systems is illustrated through the [NRCS Web Soil Survey](#). In 2003, Sauk County revised its Private Sewage System Ordinance to allow the use of alternative systems.

As a general explanation, the NRCS Web Soil Survey shows soil suitability for conventional POWTS in the Town of Woodland. The suitability classifications, ranging from very low to high suitability, are determined based on information obtained from the Sauk County Land Conservation Department's Land Evaluation System, as monitored by the NRCS office. These classifications are based on average slope, depth to soil saturation, average depth to bedrock, and flooding potential. As a general observation, soils that fall within or near the category of most suitable are best suited for conventional POWTS. Soils that fall within or near the category of least suitable may be candidates for alternative POWTS, or may not be structured to support any POWTS.

Caution should be advised that while areas of sandy soils most commonly appear to be most suitable for POWTS, there is a danger of groundwater contamination with nitrates and bacteria, particularly when a cluster of homes are proposed and wells are placed down groundwater flow from POWTS. Additionally, POWTS are not well suited in areas of shallow soils with bedrock that is close to the surface. Although new septic technologies can now facilitate the installation of septic systems in these shallow soils areas, these septic systems also pose a greater potential threat of groundwater contamination, especially in highly developed areas.

Although Woodland does not generally exhibit areas of sandy soils, it does have areas of shallow soils, bedrock and water tables, particularly around Dutch Hollow Lake, the Little Baraboo River and Plum Creek. Furthermore, private septic systems in areas of shallow soils may also threaten surface water quality. In terms of lake development in areas of shallow soils, leachate from septic drainfields may not percolate through the soil as is intended, instead encountering an impermeable layer (i.e., bedrock) and traveling laterally to enter a stream. Whether this is an actual threat to the surface waters in Woodland is unknown at this time, however preventative measures can be taken with the installation of new systems and replacement of failed systems. Systems should be sited as far from the water resource as possible. Shared septic systems must be sited in an area having suitable soils, and require verification that a new technology septic system will in fact adequately treat wastewater. These types of evaluations and any regulations guiding the placement of septic systems are best handled by a Lake Association, Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department or a certified master plumber or soil scientist.

6.2 Solid Waste Disposal/Recycling

Solid waste disposal sites, or landfills, are potential sources of groundwater pollution in Sauk County. In 2000, the Sauk County Department of Planning & Zoning conducted an inventory to verify the number of active and inactive or abandoned landfill sites. According to that process, it was determined that Sauk County has 15 active landfill sites throughout the County, including sites for brush disposal. In addition, more than 40 sites were identified as abandoned sites. Of those 40 sites, one is located in the Town of Woodland in Section 16.

Currently, the Town of Woodland contracts with Lenorud Sanitation Inc (LSI Sanitation), which provides solid waste and recycling services for Town residents. The Town hosts a drop-off site located off Hagemann Road.

6.3 Septage Waste Disposal

The State of Wisconsin requires that homeowners pump their septic tanks on a 3-year basis to prolong the life of a POWTS and ensure optimal efficiency and protection of groundwater. Holding tanks are pumped on a regular basis, typically bi-monthly. Disposal methods of septage vary from deposition into a licensed municipal sewage treatment plant to land spreading. Land spreading requires special permits issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Part of this permitting process examines land area, soil types, and crops grown to ensure that natural resources in the area will be protected from such activity.

Additionally, the permitting process ensures the protection of human health from viruses and pathogens contained in the septage.

6.4 Town Hall and Garage

The Woodland Town Hall and garage is located at S548 County Highway G. The garage is used to store and maintain equipment for road maintenance such as mowing, and snow removal.

6.5 Law Enforcement

The Sauk County Sheriff's Department serves as the primary law enforcement agency to Town residents. Patrol officers are assigned general service areas within the county. These law enforcement services are considered adequate. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources also periodically patrols the Dutch Hollow Lake. Woodland also partners with the Town of La Valle to have the Town patrolman serve around Dutch Hollow Lake along with Sauk County.

6.6 Emergency Services

Two emergency service districts including 165 and 176 serve the Town of Woodland. District 165 serves the northern two-thirds of the Town and is covered by the Wonewoc Ambulance Service and the Wonewoc Fire Department for Fire Protection. District 176 is located in the southern one-third of the Town and is covered by the Cazenovia Fire Department and Cazenovia Ambulance Service. Jurisdictional boundaries of these respective services can be noted on *Map 1-3 Emergency Services*.

6.7 Library

The South-Central Wisconsin Library System through Sauk County serves the Town of Woodland and surrounding communities. The primary library utilized by the Town is the Wonewoc Public Library located in the Village of Wonewoc. The library hosts a collection of general-purpose books, periodicals, historical memorabilia of the area and Internet access. The La Valle Public Library, located in the Village of La Valle is another library the towns' residents utilize.

6.8 Communication, Electric Utilities and Heating Fuel

Telephone, Internet and e-mail service is provided by La Valle Telephone Cooperative, and BrightSpeed. Fiber optic has been installed between the Village of La Valle and Hillsboro and there is a single mobile Tower in the Town, which does allow for areas without cell surface and possibly without reliable internet. Vernon Electric Cooperative and the Hillsboro Telephone company also services the Town.

6.9 Medical Facilities

The Town of Woodland is primarily served by three medical facilities including the Reedsburg Area Medical Center located at 2000 North Dewey Avenue which provides a modern facility with 53 acute care beds, 50 long-term care beds, and eight-day care surgery beds. The Emergency Department at the Reedsburg Medical Center is staffed 24-hours a day with specially trained emergency room physicians. St Joseph's Community Health Services and Hospital located at 400 Water Avenue in Hillsboro provides range of health services including nursing home care and emergency stabilization service for a rural population of roughly 18,000 people. Hess Memorial Hospital (part of Mile Bluff Medical Center) located at 1050 Division Street in Mauston provides evening and weekend Urgent Care and 24-hour emergency care. The Mile Bluff Medical Center located in Mauston provides service to roughly 55,000 people with acute care, retirement community, sleep center, pharmacy services, and specialty care services.

6.10 Educational Facilities

There are a number of education facilities available to Town of Woodland residents including public primary education facilities, secondary higher education schools as well as childcare facilities.

6.10.1 Primary Educational Facilities

The Town of Woodland is divided into four public school districts. The Wonewoc-Union School District incorporates a majority of the Town. This district ranges the entire area of the Town with fragmented areas of other school districts around the Town borders. The Weston School District includes fragmented areas of the southeastern part of the Town. The southwest portion of the Town also includes a handful of parcels located within the Reedsburg School District. The Hillsboro School District provides educational services some small areas of the Town along the Towns' western border. *Map 1-2 Jurisdictional Boundaries* shows the exact location of these boundaries. While the majority of school aged children attend one of the three districts, parochial schools also offer a schooling option as well as increasing involvement in home schooling opportunities.

- **Wonewoc-Union Center School District**

The Wonewoc-Union Center School District is located at 101 School Road in the City of Wonewoc. The Wonewoc Center Elementary, Junior High and High Schools are located at the same address. The elementary school includes pre-kindergarten to 6th grades.

- **Weston School District**

The Weston School District is located at E2511 County Road S, in the Township of Ironton. The Elementary, Middle and High Schools are located at the same address. The elementary school, which serves grades pre-kindergarten to 5th grade, has an enrollment of about 155 students. The middle school accommodates 81 children in grades 6th through 8th.

- **Hillsboro School District**

The Hillsboro School District is located on School Avenue in the Village of Hillsboro in Vernon County. The District has two schools, an Elementary and High School. The elementary school is located at 853 Hillsborough Avenue in the Village of Hillsboro and this school serves approximately 166 students, grades pre-kindergarten through 6th. The high school is located on School Avenue, at the same location of the district headquarters and serves grades 7 to 12.

- **Reedsburg School District**

The Reedsburg School District has located all its schools within the City of Reedsburg and closed down outlying schools within the last five years. The Reedsburg High School located at 1100 S. Albert Avenue, Webb Middle School located at 707 N. Webb Avenue; Pineview Elementary School located at 1121 8th Street; Westside Elementary School located at 401 Alexander Avenue; and Prairie Ridge Elementary located at 2400 8th Street. The public schools in this district serve approximately 2,500 students in grades 4K-12.

6.10.2 Secondary Educational Facilities

The Town of Woodland is within commuting distance of two two-year year college campuses including:

University of Wisconsin- Platteville Baraboo Sauk County offers freshman/sophomore-level university instruction leading to several associates degrees ranging from hospitality and tourism

management to arts and sciences. UW- Platteville Baraboo Sauk County also offers a bachelor's degree program in business management. With fall 2019 enrollment at 348 students, the campus saw a nearly 30% decline in enrollment from 2018. UW-Baraboo has a continuing education program that offers a variety of non-credit seminars, workshops and short courses. The programs range from computer applications and communication to theater and art field trips.

Madison College Reedsburg Campus / Reedsburg provides technical and workplace skills training. The college offers associate degrees, technical diplomas, certificates and apprenticeships, and offers classes that transfer to four-year degree programs. Programs are offered in nursing, accounting, administrative assistance, business management, finance, and childcare education, among others. The college offers apprenticeships in electrical and machine maintenance, and tool and die. Madison College Reedsburg Campus also offers customized labor training for local businesses.

Madison College Truax Campus is a two-year technical and community college serving the greater Madison area. MATC provides training for over 100 careers, offering associate degrees, diplomas and certificates. The comprehensive curriculum includes technical, liberal arts, sciences, college transfer courses, basic and continuing education adult classes, as well as customized training courses. Class sizes are small, with many courses available online and through distant learning programs.

University of Wisconsin- Madison enrolled 44,995 students as of fall 2019. UW-Madison is the flagship research campus of the University of Wisconsin system. The world-class university offers more than 130 undergraduate programs, 160 master's degree programs and 130 Doctoral degree programs. UW-Madison also has professional degree programs in law, medicine, pharmacy and veterinary medicine.

Edgewood College is a private college located in Madison, which currently enrolls approximately 1,200 undergraduate students and 650 graduate students. Edgewood offers more than 60 majors and 40 Minors, plus opportunity for individualized programs. 82% of all classes have less than 20 students. Several master's degrees are offered as well. The adult accelerated degree programs allow working adults to earn an undergraduate degree in 3 years, completing both their general education and major requirements. Edgewood College also offers doctoral programs in education and nursing

6.10.3 Childcare Facilities

There are two kinds of childcare facilities that are recognized and permitted by the State of Wisconsin. The first type, referred to as a home daycare facility, allows the operator to provide care for up to eight children within a primary home. The second type of facility is referred to as a group daycare facility. This type of facility allows the operator to have more than eight children and is based on the number of certified staff employed to work or volunteer on the premises. Currently there are no group daycare facilities in the Town of Woodland, however there maybe a number of home daycare facilities. According to ***Chart P10: Change of Populations per Age Bracket*** there has been a general decline in the population of ages 0-4, which is typically the age bracket requiring daycare. This has correlated with a increase in ages 5-9 which typically need before and after school care. This decline suggests that the need for group childcare facilities is declining and that home childcare facilities as well as group facilities located in the Reedsburg area will likely provide adequate childcare needs for families in the Town of Woodland. There is ample opportunity to start home daycare facilities, should the need arise, with the exiting zoning in the Town which permits these types of daycares as home occupations.

6.11 Recreational Facilities

(Locations of each are identified on *Map 6-1 Community and Cultural Resources*)

- **Plum Valley Park**, located off of County Road G and David Drive include an approximately 6-acre groomed and mowed parcel with a shelter and picnic area. The site is owned and maintained by the Plum Valley Park Inc.
- **Fairy Dell Wayside**, is located at the intersection of State Road 33 and Strawbridge Road in Section 1. This is a neat wayside nestled between State Road 33 and the 400 State Bike Trail. The site includes a high capacity Artesian Well where many local residents come and fill their containers for drinking water and home use. Adjacent to the well is a paved parking lot with access to the 400 Bike Trail the runs from Reedsburg to Sparta Wisconsin, approximately 50 miles. The gazebo and picnic area located on the site is maintained by the Wonewoc Lion's Club. The wayside also includes a trailhead of a 7-mile horse trail that parallels the bike trail. The trail then follows the scenic Baraboo River Valley for approximately 20 miles. The site is privately owned but part of the State Highway 33 right-of-way.

6.12 Cemeteries and Churches

(Locations of each are identified on *Map 6-1 Community and Cultural Resources*)

- **St. Lawrence Cemetery**, located off of Strawbridge Road, is a small cemetery with historic and current burials. The cemetery is owned by the Holy Family Catholic Church in La Valle. There are approximately 20 marked burial plots.
- **The Valton Cemetery**, located in Section 29, at the end of Fourth Street in the Village of Valton. This well-kept, historic, small cemetery was established in 1858 and has approximately 200 sites, some of which are part of a new addition.
- **Oaks Cemetery**, east of County Road G, in Section 26, in a triangle formed by the road was deeded in 1873. Burials on the site go back to 1860.
- **Hochmuth Cemetery**, located on Meffert Road, in Section 1 is also known as the German Lutheran Society Cemetery. Land was donated by the Hochmuth family in 1872 or earlier.
- **German Baptist Church and Cemetery** are both located on Town Line Road.
- **Plum Valley Cemetery**, located in Section 4, dates back to 1874.
- **Valton Friends Church** is a historic church founded in 1873. The church building today is located in the Village of Valton at S1939 Landsinger Road. Church and funeral services are still offered at this church.
- **Buck Creek Mennonite Church** is located in the Village of Valton.

6.13 Historical and Cultural Structures and Areas (locations of each are identified on *Map 6-1 Community and Cultural Resources*)

6.13.1 Historic Schools

- **Plum Valley School**, was originally located in the southwestern corner of Section 3 and in 1859. This was a log building that was replaced in 1862 by a frame structure. In 1867, at a special

meeting, the decision was made to move it to the Valley on the west side of Plum Valley Road. Six yoke of oxen were used to move the school. In 1914 the district votes to build a new school in Section 10 near the intersection of County Roads G and Y. The new school house had a furnace and in 1915 as well was dug. In 1962 the school closed and became part of the Wonewoc School System now known as Wonewoc-Center. The former Plum Valley School is now the Woodland Town Hall.

- **Voorhes School**, is located in Section 22 off of Miller Road on land originally deeded by John Voorhes, hence the school's name. The frame structure was built in 1873 and later closed in 1959 when students were transported to the Wonewoc School District. While the building still exists, it is now utilized as a machine shed.
- **White Oak Grove School** was located in the northeast quarter of Section 19 on County Road Q. The original schoolhouse was a log structure held together by wooden pegs. In 1877 a new-framed schoolhouse was erected. IN 1960 the students from the district were primarily consolidated into the Wonewoc School District and the old school house was torn down to make space available for a single family home.
- **Long View School** was located in Section 12 off of Dutch Hollow Road. The school structure built on the site was brick and was erected in 1907. In the early 1960's the school was demolished, and the bricks were utilized to build a swimming pool.
- **Valton School** is located in Section 28 in the unincorporated Village of Valton. The second schoolhouse structure was frame built and brick sided 1928. The brick building was converted to a residence in 1961 upon consolidation with the Wonewoc School System.
- **Country Corners School** was located in the northwestern part of the Town in Section 5. The first schoolhouse was built of logs, which was later converted to frame construction in 1886. The schoolhouse was later relocated to Hillsboro.
- **Oaks School** was the first school built in the Town in the 1850's. Located in Section 35 on County Road G, this school served Quaker students who settled the area. From Woodland and from Westford Town in Richland County. In 1961 the school closed with some students going to the Wonewoc School District and others to Weston. In the early 1990's the school was torn down.
- **Hall School** was located in Section 30 on County Road EE west of Valton. The second frame built structure was erected in 1906. IN 1942 the district representing the Hall School was abolished and combined with the Valton School District. The schoolhouse was later moved to Cazenovia.
- **Springbrook School**, most often referred to as Frog Hollow School, was located near the southwester corner of Section 34. Like Hall School, as valuation in the district fell, the Springbrook School was combined with Valton and continued to operate until 1948. The school building has since been removed and a mobile home is currently on the site.

6.13.2 Other Historic Structures or Areas

- **Painted Forest**, is a meeting hall that was erected by members of the Modern Woodmen of America in 1897. The building's uniqueness comes from the paintings that cover all the interior walls and ceiling. Ernest Hupeden, a German born painter, took two years to complete the paintings and died only several years later. The Town of Woodland used the building for meetings and elections in the early 1960's. In 1980 the Kohler Foundation purchased the site and restored the

building and entrusted the site to Sauk County, which cared for it for many years. In 2004, the Foundation gave the Painted Forest to Edgewood College to foster its use for education and historic purposes and to preserve the unique work of art. It is now owned and maintained by Edgewood College. The Edgewood College Art Studio and Study Center was located on the site in 2005.

6.14 Historical and Cultural Programs and Resources

- **Sauk County Historical Society** protects and maintains the history of the county by collecting and preserving historic artifacts, photographs and documents. The Historical Society has many community outreach programs, acts as a resource and research facility for local history and assists other Sauk County historical societies in pursuing their goals.
- **Extension Sauk County Arts, Humanities and Historic Preservation Grants** provides funding through grant programs to community organizations and local governments seeking supplementary funds for local arts and history projects.
- **State of Wisconsin Historic Preservation Programs** provide several opportunities for cost sharing through grant and subgrant programs, through the Wisconsin Historical Society. These programs are dependent on variable annual funding sources.
- **Historic Preservation Subgrants** are available to governments and non-profit organizations for surveys to identify and evaluate historical, architectural and archaeological resources. These properties and districts can then be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Historic Preservation Tax Credit for Income-Producing Historic Buildings** is available to those who apply for and receive project approval before beginning physical work on the rehabilitation of historic buildings.
- **Historic Homeowner's Tax Credits** are available to those who apply for and receive project approval before beginning work on rehabilitating non-income personal residences.
- **Archaeological Sites Property Tax Exemption Program** provides tax exemption for owners of archaeological sites listed in the National or State Register of Historic places.
- **Jeffris Family Foundation** provides funding for bricks and mortar rehabilitation projects in Wisconsin's smaller communities.
- **Save America's Treasures** is a federal grant program for governments and non-profit organizations.

6.15 Utilities and Community Resources Goal, Objectives and Policies

Utilities and Community Resources Goal: Provide adequate utilities and community facilities and promote a connected and interactive community.

Utilities and Community Resources Objectives/Policies:

UCRO-1 Encourage local utilities to implement a full range of up-to-date telecommunications services to residents.

UCRP-1A Encourage utilities to survey residents to determine their satisfaction/opinions regarding current telecommunication service and needed areas for improvement and up-to-date services.

UCRO-2 Encourage the development of alternate energy sources to reduce the Town of Woodland's dependence on fossil fuel energy sources.

UCRP-2A Encourage residents to seek information regarding federal, state and utility credits available to property owners who invest in energy efficient equipment and capital improvement projects as well as rebate incentives on energy efficient appliances and the installation of renewable energy systems (i.e., solar hot water, photovoltaic energy, geothermal, biomass and wind).

UCRP-2B Encourage home builders, business owners and developers to implement green building techniques and energy efficient design solutions and collaborate with local energy utilities, the Wisconsin Focus on Energy program, and leadership in Environmental and Energy Design program (LEED) to identify locally appropriate green building and energy efficient design guidelines while also encouraging landowners to pursue renewable energy options as a form of economic development and self-sufficiency.

UCRO-3 Identify locations for future growth based on the efficient provision of electric utility service.

UCRP-3A Work with the electric power cooperatives/utilities to estimate local power demand based on a projected growth rate and ensure that utilities can provide an adequate supply of power.

UCRP-3B Utilize *Map 11-1 Current Land Use* to determine appropriate locations for future utility infrastructure and ensure that newly installed infrastructure is of a size and capacity to accommodate all new and existing development.

UCRP-3C If utilities/communication structures are being considered, the Town of Woodland will encourage sensitivity to the surrounding environment.

UCRO-4 Evaluate options for sanitary waste management issues.

UCRP-4A Invite representatives from the Dutch Hollow Lake Association to discuss sanitation and waste management issues especially as they pertain to wastewater management.

UCRO-5 Maintain fire and ambulance services in a safe and efficient manner.

UCRP-5 Continue positive correspondance with the Wonewoc Fire and Ambulance Association and Cazenovia Fire and Ambulance Association regarding safe and cost effective service provisions.