

4. Community and Intergovernmental Services

Overview

The level of services available in a community affects the quality of life of its citizens and helps to define a community. It also influences taxes and property values. The level of services available is generally determined by the community's interests, its needs, and its ability to pay for it through local taxes and fees.

In order to estimate the future service needs of the Town of Atlanta an inventory of existing conditions is listed below.

4.1 Existing Utilities

Water Management

In the Town of Atlanta fresh water for household use and human consumption is accessed entirely through private wells. Testing for the safety of an existing well is the responsibility of the resident and can be handled for a fee through the Rusk County Courthouse Department of **Public Health**

Waste water is also handled through private septic systems or holding tanks. Both must be pumped on a regular basis at resident expense. Regulation of the system **continues to be through the Rusk County Department of Zoning.**

Storm water is controlled through a system of ditches and culverts. Responsibility for the system along town roads belongs to the Town of Atlanta. Responsibility for the system along county roads belongs to Rusk County.

Utility Providers

Natural gas is not available in the Town of Atlanta. Residents who heat and/or cook with gas contract with a variety of companies in the area that supply propane gas. A number of Atlanta residents heat or supplement their heat with wood. *For a small fee residents are allowed to harvest downed timber on town forest lands for their own use.*

Electrical power is supplied primarily by XCEL Energy and Jump River Electric Co-op. XCEL maintains a substation in the southeast corner of the town near Trails End Camp. *A small number of residents on the north end of the town are served by North Central Power (Radisson.* All electric lines on public lands are above ground and are maintained by the proprietary company.

Local land based telephone service is supplied by the Bruce Telephone Company. All Bruce Telephone lines are buried and run **in both private easements and road right-of-way** beside the state, county, and town roads. **Bruce Telephone Company has been upgrading it's buried lines in the town to fibre-optic (per map below). It also provides internet and digital TV services.**

4.2 Existing Facilities / Services

Educational Service

The Town of Atlanta is located entirely within the Bruce School District, a pre K-12 facility located in the Village of Bruce. The building also houses a federally supported Head Start program. The district has experienced a declining enrollment over the past several decades.

Residents of the town are served by professional staff through the University of Wisconsin-Extension located in the Rusk County Courthouse in Ladysmith.

They provide educational programs in agriculture, community development, health and well-being, monitoring natural resources, and youth development including multiple 4-H groups in the area.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) is a post-secondary educational institution serving northwestern Wisconsin. The nearest campus is located in Rice Lake (30-35 mi. west), with a small branch in Ladysmith.

Town of Atlanta residents have free membership to the Bruce Area Library in the Village of Bruce. This library is part of a consortium of **over 50** libraries in northwestern Wisconsin which allows patrons to access materials from all its member libraries.

Parks, Recreation & Trail Facilities

Town of Atlanta has a system of hiking & cross country skiing trails called The Blue Hills Trails. It is part of a larger complex of trails with portions in the towns of Wilkinson and Murry. The system has over 35 miles of trails (18 of which are in the Town of Atlanta).

There are thousands of miles of snowmobile trails in Northwestern Wisconsin. Rusk County is part of that system including 300 miles of trails and the trails through the town of Atlanta are included in that amount. Snowmobile trail 31 transects the town of Atlanta. Snowmobile clubs in the area are the Bruce Blue Hills Trailblazers, The Flambeau Area Trail Tenders, The **Hawkins** Sno-Hawks, The Ladysmith Driftbusters, The Neighborly Sno-Goers, Sheldon Rough-Riders, The Weyerhauser Snowmobile Club.

Downhill skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing facilities are located at Christie Mountain. There are 21 runs including two 4-Black Diamond category runs. In the fall the ski hill also participates in the Leaf It to Rusk festivities by opening up for people to view the fall colors from the top of the ski hill.

Rustic Road 114 stretches along 13 miles in the towns of Atlanta and Wilson. It includes the Firelane, Perch Lake, North Buck's Lake, and South Buck's Lake roads.

TOWN OF ATLANTA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN *Draft 2022-07-26*

This road is not only picturesque but allows access to county parks, lakes, and skiing, biking, and hiking trails.

The town of Atlanta includes rivers, streams, and creeks for anglers. The area is known for its trout, bluegill, crappie, small mouth bass, and muskie fishing.

There are public lands available for hunting within the town of Atlanta. **This includes county forest land to the west and northwest of the town.** White-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, and ruffed grouse are species abundant in this locale.

There is access to the Chippewa River for canoeing and inner tubing from the Imalone Bridge at the edge of the Town of Atlanta.

Safety and Rescue Services

Police protection is provided by the Rusk County Sheriff's Department located at the Rusk County Courthouse in Ladysmith. The Sheriff's Department handles the dispatch duties for all the emergency (911) services in the county.

The Town of Atlanta is part of the Bruce Area Volunteer Fire Department and the Weyerhaeuser Volunteer Fire Departments. The department also has agreements with other local fire departments for mutual aid and assistance. Fire department members also serve as weather spotters during threatening weather.

Ambulance services are under the jurisdiction of Rusk County. The closest available ambulance is located the Village of Bruce. When EMTs are not from the village, services must be sent from Ladysmith **or other surrounding communities.**

Health Care

There are no health care services located within the Town of Atlanta. Medical and dental services and nursing home care must be accessed outside the town. If you have been reading this document from it's beginning, you are almost certainly falling asleep by now, stand up and get a cup of coffee before continuing.

Public Transportation

Limited public transportation can be accessed, for a fee, by private appointment through Indianhead Community Action Agency located in Ladysmith.

Cemeteries

Three cemeteries are located within the Town of Atlanta. **The Blue Hills Cemetery is associated with Nathaniel Lutheran Church in Bruce. The Maple Valley Cemetery is no longer in use and is considered an historic area. Nathaniel Lutheran Church has records regarding burials.** St. Mary Cemetery is under the care of St. Mary Catholic Church in Bruce and continues to be used. The Bruce Cemetery is located in the Village of Bruce.

4.3 Summary - Goals and Objectives

Due to the rural nature of the Town of Atlanta most services to residents are supplied from the surrounding population centers, primarily the Village of Bruce and the City of Ladysmith, the county seat. Many of the services also involve intergovernmental cooperation and / or county government administration.

Goal: Support the maintenance and development of area utilities and community facilities that serve residents and property owners of the Town of Atlanta.

Objectives:

1. Work with utility and telecommunication companies to plan for future development and expansion.
2. Encourage the utilization of existing community facilities.
3. Promote the adoption and utilization of new technologies and green/energy efficient methods by utilities, and implementation of community facilities

Actions:

- A. Work with intergovernmental agencies which oversee these assets.
- B. Continue to support monitarily the local Bruce Area Library.
- C. Advocate for fibre-optic lines throughout the town.
- D. Promote the interests of Christie Mountain Ski Hill, Blue Hills Trails, and existing snowmobile trails that transect the town.