

Chapter XIII

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the utilities and community facilities element of the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Walworth County. Part One of this chapter provides background information on utilities and community facilities in the County and is strictly informational. Part Two establishes the utilities and community facilities goal, objectives, policies, and programs for the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. Land use regulations shall be consistent with Part Two of this chapter.

PART 1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN WALWORTH COUNTY

This section presents a summary of key background information that was considered in developing the utilities and community facilities goal, objectives, policies, and programs. Specifically, this section presents the following: 1) a summary description of the existing utilities and community facilities in Walworth County; 2) a review of the population projections in terms of potential impacts on community facilities and utilities; and 3) a summary of the public input on utilities and community facilities obtained during the course of the comprehensive planning process.

Existing Utilities and Community Facilities and Services

A detailed description of existing utilities and community facilities in Walworth County is presented in Chapter V of this report. A summary of the key features of the existing utilities and community facilities follows:

Community Facilities

- Five towns in Walworth County have their own police department; the 11 other towns in the County rely on the Walworth County Sheriff's Department. Each city and village in the County has a municipal police department (see Map V-8 in Chapter V).
- Fire protection service in the County is provided by 18 different fire departments, which rely heavily upon on-call, rather than full-time, fire fighters. The fire service areas for the 18 departments, along with the location of fire stations in the County, are shown on Map V-9 in Chapter V.
- Emergency medical services (EMS) in the County are provided by 16 fire departments and three private ambulance companies. Fifteen of the fire departments are licensed to provide intermediate care as their highest level of service; one department (Mukwonago) is licensed to provide paramedic service. The three private ambulance companies are licensed to provide paramedic service. EMS service areas within the County are shown on Map V-10 in Chapter V.

- Twenty-two communities (three cities, eight villages, and 11 towns) in Walworth County contract with private haulers for residential pickup of solid waste and recyclables (see Table V-7). In five communities (one city and four towns), residents contract individually with private haulers for the pickup of solid waste and recyclables. One town (Darien) has arrangements for residents to drop off solid waste and recyclables at the Mallard Ridge landfill facility.
- There are 11 public libraries in Walworth County, each operated by a city or village. These libraries may be used by all Walworth County residents with valid library cards.
- Most of Walworth County is served by six K-12 school districts and two union high school districts, with each of the union high school districts having four elementary school feeder districts. These districts operate a total of seven high schools, seven middle or junior high schools, and 24 elementary schools within the County. The total enrollment in these schools was 16,228 students in 2006 (see Map V-11 and Table V-8 in Chapter V). Other public schools in the County include: Walworth County Educational Consortium Alternative High School, operated by Gateway Technical College and a consortium of five public school districts; Lakeland School of Walworth County, operated by the Walworth County Children with Disabilities Education Board; and the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, operated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
- There are 176 park and open space sites owned by cities, villages, towns, and school districts in Walworth County encompassing a total of about 2,576 acres. Of these park and open space sites, 37 sites, encompassing 583 acres, are owned by towns (see Map III-18 and Table III-19 in Chapter III).
- In addition to public facilities and services, many community facilities and services are provided by the private sector. In Walworth County, these include the following:
 - Two hospitals (Aurora Lakeland Medical Center and Mercy Walworth Hospital)
 - Fifteen private elementary and secondary schools (see Map V-12 and Table V-9 in Chapter V)
 - Sixty-three licensed child care centers (see Map V-14 and Table V-11 in Chapter V)
 - Forty-four assisted living facilities offering varying levels of care and supportive services (see Map V-15 and Table V-12 in Chapter V)
 - Eight nursing homes (see Map V-16 and Table V-13 in Chapter V)
- There are 54 known cemeteries in Walworth County (see Map V-17 and Table V-14 in Chapter V).

Utilities

- Areas with public sanitary sewer service in Walworth County in 2000 encompassed a total area of about 27.6 square miles, or 5 percent of the County, with an estimated resident population of 62,100 persons, or 68 percent of the County population. These areas include most of the developed portions of the County's cities and villages, along with certain lake area communities and other urban enclaves in towns—including the Delavan Lake area in the Town of Delavan; the Potter Lake area in the Town of East Troy; the Geneva National and Lake Como Beach areas in the Town of Geneva; the Kikkoman plant in the Town of Walworth; the Pell Lake area in the Town of Bloomfield; and the unincorporated community of Lyons, the Country Estates area, and the Grand Geneva area in the Town of Lyons (see Map V-1 in Chapter V). Public sewage treatment plant capacities and flow rates are listed in Table V-1 in Chapter V.
- Under State Administrative rules, sanitary sewers may be extended only to areas located within planned sanitary sewer service areas adopted as part of the regional water quality management plan. Sewer service area plans are prepared through a planning process involving the concerned local units of government

including the governmental unit responsible for the sewage treatment plant, the Regional Planning Commission, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Sewer service area plans may be amended in response to changing local conditions as well as in response to new population projections, subject to the provisions of Chapter NR 121 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*. Currently adopted planned sanitary sewer service areas in Walworth County are shown on Map V-1 in Chapter V.

- Residential development and other urban development not served by public sanitary sewerage systems relies on private onsite wastewater treatment systems, including conventional systems, in-ground pressure systems, mound systems, holding tank systems, and others. It is estimated that there are about 14,100 private onsite wastewater systems in Walworth County.
- In 2005, 16 municipal water supply systems provided water supply service to about 22.2 square miles, or 4 percent of the total area of Walworth County, with an estimated resident population of about 59,100 persons, or 61 percent of the County population. All of the water supply systems in Walworth County rely on groundwater as a source of supply. Areas served by public water supply systems in 2005 are shown on Map V-2 in Chapter V, and selected characteristics of each system are presented in Table V-2 in Chapter V.
- In 2005, there were also 22 existing private community water supply systems operating in Walworth County (see Map V-2 and Table V-3 in Chapter V). These systems, which rely on groundwater, primarily serve residential development, such as subdivisions, apartment or condominium developments, and mobile home parks. They served a total of about 3,800 persons in Walworth County in 2005, less than 4 percent of the County population.
- There are numerous other privately owned, self-supplied water supply systems operating in Walworth County. These systems serve industrial, commercial, and recreational facilities as well as agricultural and other irrigation facilities.
- In addition to water supplied through the aforementioned systems, an estimated 38,000 persons, or about 39 percent of the total County population, were served by private domestic wells in 2005.
- In 2009, the Regional Planning Commission was nearing completion of an advisory regional water supply system plan for the seven-county Southeastern Wisconsin Region, including Walworth County. A preliminary draft of that plan includes recommendations regarding potential long-range water supply service areas and sources of water supply for public water utilities and districts; potentially needed major water supply infrastructure; the protection of important groundwater recharge areas; water conservation measures; stormwater management measures that would help to maintain the natural recharge of new development; and processes to be followed to minimize impacts of new high-capacity wells on nearby wells and surface waters.
- Within Walworth County, towns rely primarily on roadside swale and culvert systems to convey stormwater runoff, while cities and villages rely on curb and gutter storm sewer systems or a combination of curb and gutter systems and roadside swales and culverts. Stormwater storage and infiltration facilities are increasingly important components of the stormwater management system, regardless of whether curbs and gutters or roadside swales are used to convey stormwater.
- In Walworth County, electric power service is provided primarily by WE Energies, which generally serves the northerly portion of the County, and by Alliant Energies, which generally serves the southerly portion. Rock County Electric Cooperative serves portions of the Towns of Darien and Sharon. In addition, the City of Elkhorn electric utility serves the City of Elkhorn and certain adjacent areas. All of Walworth County is within the WE Energies natural gas service area.

- There are 50 known towers and other tall structures that accommodate mobile wireless service in Walworth County, along with two antenna sites that accommodate fixed wireless service. The locations of these facilities and other communication antenna/tower facilities are shown on Map V-6 in Chapter V.

Future Population Growth and Change: General Impacts on Utilities and Community Facilities

Under the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, the population of Walworth County is projected to increase from 92,000 persons in 2000 to 145,800 persons in 2035. Such growth may be expected to increase the demands on County and municipal facilities, on schools, on utility systems, and on private community facilities in the County.

With respect to County facilities, Walworth County has carried out a major facility expansion program since the early 1990s—resulting in a new judicial center, law enforcement center, and health care center—along with a renovated government administration center. In general, these facilities may be expected to serve the County well for the foreseeable future. Walworth County currently owns three parks; the County’s park plan calls for an increase in County park lands that is generally in keeping with a growing County population.

Each of the 13 participating towns have selected a year 2035 population projection for purposes of the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. Together, the 13 towns would grow by about 12,200 persons between 2000 and 2035, with considerable variation in projected growth rates among the 13 towns (see Table VII-8 in Chapter VII). Each of the participating towns will have to ensure that their town facilities and their arrangements for services such as fire and emergency medical service are capable of meeting future needs. Current plans in this respect are presented for the participating towns in Part Two of this chapter.

School districts may also be expected to be impacted by growth in the County population. Under the Regional Planning Commission’s intermediate growth scenario, the population between ages five and 19 in the County would increase by about 51 percent between 2000 and 2035—about the same rate of increase as projected for the total County population under an intermediate growth scenario. It is incumbent upon school districts to be familiar with the comprehensive plan population projections for the communities which they serve and to take these into account in planning for future school facilities.

City and village utilities, town sanitary districts, and the Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District may also be expected to be impacted by growth in the County population, as additional demands are placed on their sanitary sewerage and water supply systems. Local utilities and sanitary districts typically undertake facility planning studies well in advance of the point at which their water supply or wastewater treatment facilities would reach design capacities. It is incumbent upon city and village utilities, town sanitary districts, and the Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage district to be familiar with the comprehensive plan projections of the areas that they serve and to take these into account in future facility planning.

Growth in the County population may also be expected to create additional demand for community facilities that are provided by the private sector, including child care facilities, health care facilities, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes. Growth in the senior population of the County (see Table VII-2 in Chapter VII), in particular, can be expected to increase the need for health care and assisted living facilities within the County.

Public Input on Utilities and Community Facilities

Most of the public input on utilities and community facilities in the County was obtained through the countywide public opinion survey conducted in the summer of 2007 and the series of public participation meetings held throughout the County in December 2007. Related results from the public opinion survey are summarized below:

- Respondents to the countywide public opinion survey were asked to indicate the relative importance of various factors that influenced their decision to live, locate, or invest in Walworth County. About 76 percent of the respondents indicated that government services were very important or somewhat important in their choice of location; 75 percent indicated that the educational system was very important or somewhat important; and 67 percent indicated that the availability of utilities (public sewer and water) was very important or somewhat important.

- Survey respondents were also asked to evaluate the local impacts of growth in recent years on community facilities and other features. With respect to school systems, 49 percent responded that the impact of growth was positive, 14 percent said negative, and 37 percent said little impact or had no opinion. For law enforcement needs, 53 percent responded that the impact of growth was positive, 20 percent said negative, and 27 percent said little impact or had no opinion. For library systems, 56 percent responded that the impact of growth was positive, 9 percent said negative, and 35 percent said little impact or had no opinion. For health care facilities, 77 percent responded that the impact of growth was positive, 5 percent said negative, and 18 percent said little impact or had no opinion. For child care facilities, 26 percent responded that the impact of growth was positive, 7 percent said negative, and 67 percent said little impact or had no opinion.

Each of the four public participation meetings held in December 2007 included a group exercise designed to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (“SWOT” exercise) facing Walworth County. Some participants in the SWOT exercises cited existing infrastructure, good schools, and other community facilities as strengths. A number of participants cited a lack of cooperation among local units of government in one form or another as a weakness, while increased cooperation among local units of government was consistently cited as an opportunity. At one of the SWOT exercises, participants cited cooperation between governments for efficiency and cost-savings among the greatest opportunities in the County.

PART TWO: UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOAL, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Utilities and Community Facilities Goal

- The provision of high quality community facilities and services and utility services in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Utilities and Community Facilities Objectives

- Maintenance and expansion, where needed, of existing public facilities and services, commensurate with growth in population and economic activity.
- Increased cooperation in the provision of basic public services and facilities, resulting in cost reductions and/or increase in the quality of services provided: police, fire and emergency medical services, sewer and water supply, and other services and facilities.
- Full utilization of existing public facilities and service systems—through land use policies that direct most new intensive urban development to urban service areas.
- Strengthened capabilities for estimating the cost of providing public services for proposed developments.
- Accommodation, as appropriate, of community facilities typically provided through the private sector, such as child care facilities, nursing homes and other assisted living facilities, health care facilities, and cemeteries.
- Accommodation, as appropriate, of alternative energy sources.

Utilities and Community Facilities Policies and Programs

Public Facilities—County-Level

1. County Buildings—Beginning in the early 1990s and continuing through 2008, Walworth County has carried out a major construction/renovation effort, expanding and upgrading key County facilities. During

that time, the County constructed a new law enforcement center, judicial center, and health care center at the Lakeland Complex. The County renovated the old County courthouse in the City of Elkhorn for use as a general government center. A new school building for the Lakeland School of Walworth County for students with special needs was constructed at the Lakeland complex in 2008. With few exceptions, the aforementioned County facilities are envisioned to be able to substantially meet the County's needs for the foreseeable future. It should be noted that there may be a need to expand the jail facilities at the County Law Enforcement Center within the next 10 years, if current trends continue. Also, an additional salt storage dome is expected to be constructed adjacent to the existing dome at the Public Works complex in the near term.

2. County Outdoor Recreation Sites—As noted in Part One of this chapter, Walworth County owns three park sites: Natureland Park, Price Conservancy, and Veteran's Park; the County also maintains the White River State Trail. The current Walworth County park plan proposes the expansion of Price Conservancy and Natureland Park and the provision of two new County parks, for which only general site locations in the east-central and west-central areas of the County are indicated in the County park plan. The County park plan also recommends a countywide recreational trail system. The following recommendations are made as part of this multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan:
 - The County should consider implementing the park-related recommendations of the County park plan in the years ahead, making full use of Stewardship funds and other grant funds which may be available in support of park land acquisition. Any land acquisition for parks would be on a willing-seller basis and would not involve eminent domain. Detailed planning for new or expanded County parks should be carried out in conjunction with the towns concerned.
 - The Walworth County Park Committee and Public Works Committee should consider revising the recreational trail component of the County park plan, with the direct involvement of towns in this planning. Related town plan concerns regarding off-road bicycle trails, as indicated in Chapter XII, should be taken into account.

Public Facilities—Community-Level

1. Towns, cities, and villages in Walworth County should maintain local facilities and services commensurate with growth in population.
2. Towns, cities, and villages in Walworth County should be open to changes in the way local facilities and services are provided, including the possibility for service sharing or other forms of increased cooperation among local units of government that may result in cost savings and/or a higher quality of service. The Walworth County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council provides a good forum for the discussion of such cooperative efforts by towns, cities, and villages in the County.
3. Existing community facilities provided by participating towns in Walworth County are described in Chapter V. Specific plans for new or expanded community facilities for the participating towns are indicated below:
 - Town of Darien
The Town is working with the DNR on a canoe launch/picnic area along Turtle Creek at CTK C. The Town is exploring a location and design of a possible new fire station in conjunction with the Village of Darien as part of their existing Joint Fire Department and studying a possible improved cooperative fire and rescue arrangement with the City of Delavan, Town of Delavan, and Village of Darien.
 - Town of Delavan
The Town will consider updating/remodeling/repairing the Town Hall. The Town proposes five new park sites over the course of the planning period, including two community parks, two neighborhood parks, and one special purpose park. The general location of the proposed parks is shown on the Town land use plan map.

- Town of East Troy
The Town has plans for soccer fields and a baseball diamond at the Town park, along with the extension of the current park trail.
- Town of Geneva
The current Town Hall has become inadequate for the size of the Town and accessibility for the disabled needs improvement. The Town is planning to incorporate the Town Hall, public works, and police department facilities at one site. A referendum in this regard is expected in 2009 or 2010. The Town is exploring options for fire districts and local fire substations. The Town has created a temporary fire substation, and would build a more permanent station for the Elkhorn Area Fire Department if staff were to be made available.
- Town of LaFayette
The Town has discussed the possibility of a new Town Hall, although nothing is envisioned in the near future.
- Town of LaGrange
No changes are envisioned.
- Town of Richmond
The Town is considering expansion of Town garage facilities, the recycling and yard waste area, and the sand/salt storage area. The Town may consider a branch fire station for one of the fire departments that currently serve the Town.
- Town of Sharon
No changes are envisioned.
- Town of Spring Prairie
The Town Hall roof needs repair, which is under consideration. Also under consideration is a new Town Hall and community center with a sports park.
- Town of Sugar Creek
The Town envisions new or expanded facilities—locating a Town Hall, branch fire station, compost facility, and public works garage on one site. The preferred location is Tibbets, adjacent to the current Town Hall, but other locations would be considered. The Town envisions a recreational trail linking residential areas on the east side of Lake Wandawega. The Town also envisions a new park, which would likely be located in an area east of Evergreen Lane, between Wisconsin Drive and Kenosha Drive.
- Town of Troy
No changes are envisioned.
- Town of Walworth
The Town is looking into the possibility of a new site that would accommodate a new Town Hall, public works garage, salt storage area, and—possibly—a Town park. The Town land use plan map shows a general location for such a site in U.S. Public Land Survey Section 17. A precise location for a site has yet to be determined.
- Town of Whitewater
At some point, the Town may build a new storage building to house its trucks and other equipment. The Town may consider relocating the Town Hall, if the current site were to become effectively surrounded by the City of Whitewater. There are no firm plans for a new storage facility or Town Hall at this time.

Except as noted above, no major changes are envisioned at this time by participating towns with respect to town facilities such as town halls, public works facilities, and parks, nor are major changes envisioned in existing arrangements for police, library, or solid waste/recycling services. It is recognized that town plans in this regard may be revised in response to changing conditions in the years ahead.

Public Schools

1. As indicated in Part One of this chapter, most of Walworth County is served by six K-12 public school districts and two union high school districts, each of the union high school districts having four feeder elementary school districts (see Map V-11 and Table V-8 in Chapter V). These public school districts were contacted in 2008 regarding any plans which they may have for new or expanded school facilities. None of the districts reported having a long-range school facilities plan, nor did any of the districts have plans for new schools or major expansion of existing schools in the immediate future. Several school districts reported having land available for a new school or for the major expansion of an existing school—including the Delavan-Darien School District, which has acquired land for a potential school in the City of Delavan; and the East Troy Community School District, which has available land adjacent to Prairie View Elementary School in the Village of East Troy. The Elkhorn Area School District indicated the potential for acquiring a new site for an elementary school through land dedication as part of a proposed subdivision in the City of Elkhorn.
2. In their future planning for new or expanded school facilities, public school districts serving Walworth County are encouraged to take into account the projections and land use plan elements of this multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan and the comprehensive plans of cities and villages in the County.

Private Facilities

1. As noted in Part One of this chapter, growth in the County population may be expected to increase the demand for community facilities that are provided primarily through the private sector—including child care facilities, health care facilities, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes. These facilities tend to be concentrated in the County's cities and villages and in towns with utility service areas, although some facilities are found in other town areas (see Maps V-13, 14, 15, and 16 in Chapter V). While it is expected that new facilities of this type will, to a large extent, continue to be provided in areas that have public utility services, some facilities may be appropriately provided in towns that do not have utility services. An example of this would be assisted living facilities for long-time town residents needing alternative housing but seeking to remain in their community. Towns in Walworth County should be open to private sector proposals for community facilities that meet the needs of town residents, consistent with town goals and objectives.

Public Sewer and Water Supply Service—County Perspective

1. Walworth County is not directly involved in the provision of public sewer and water supply service; rather, these utility services are provided through city and village utilities, through sanitary districts in some towns, and through the Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District (sewer only). Walworth County envisions that much of the new development in the County will be provided with public sewer and water supply services through these utilities and districts in the years ahead—at the same time, recognizing that additional development served by private sewage disposal systems and private wells will continue to occur in areas where public utility service is not available, in accordance with town land use plans.
2. Public sanitary sewers may only be provided within planned sanitary sewer service areas, which are established as part of the regional water quality management plan. Currently adopted sanitary sewer service areas in Walworth County are shown on Map V-1 in Chapter V. City and village planned sewer

service areas typically extend into adjacent towns. While most cities and villages have a policy of not extending sanitary sewer service without annexation, this need not be the case. In this respect, the County would encourage cities and villages to consider working with interested towns in jointly exploring options for the provision of city/village sanitary sewer service—as well as water supply service—to town lands without annexation, where this is consistent with the goals and objectives of both units of government.

Public Sewer and Water Supply Service—Town Perspective

1. General policies with respect to the provision of sewer and water utility service for participating towns are presented below:

- Town of Darien

Currently, areas served by sanitary sewers in the Town consist of the mobile home park along Creek Road and the Mallard Ridge landfill. The Town does not envision significant growth in the area around the mobile home park or the expansion of sewer service in that area at this time. The Town recognizes that the food processing operations located southwest of the Village of Darien may need sanitary sewer service at some point.

During the planning period, the possibility of extending sewers to other areas may exist. This should only be considered if the Town were eventually to amend the land use plan accommodating additional growth and development in other areas. Extension of sewers to other areas could only proceed if demonstrated to be cost-effective.

- Town of Delavan

Most of the urban development in the vicinity of Delavan Lake has sanitary sewer service through the Delavan Lake Sanitary District, with wastewater treatment provided via the Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District treatment facility. Nearly all new urban development proposed under the Town land use plan is located within the Delavan sanitary sewer service area—and, under the plan, would be connected to the sanitary sewerage system. Unsewered development would be limited, for the most part, to rural residential development to the extent that rural residential development is permitted under the Town land use plan.

- Town of East Troy

The Town envisions that new development on lands in the vicinity of the Village of East Troy would rely on private onsite sewage disposal and private wells; public utility service is not envisioned for new development on lands in this area.

The Town would like to keep open the possibility of utility service through the Village of East Troy to existing development—such as intensively developed areas around Lake Beulah—should the need arise.

The Town does not envision any significant expansion of sanitary sewer service in the Potter Lake area; in general, only infill development served by sanitary sewers in that area is expected.

The Town envisions that new urban development in the northeast corner of the township would be attached to the Village of Mukwonago in accordance with the Town of East Troy-Village of Mukwonago boundary agreement and be provided with utility services through the Village.

- Town of Geneva

Currently, public sewer and water utility services are provided in the Lake Como Sanitary District No. 1 and the Lakeland complex. Public sewer service is provided at Geneva National and the Lodges

at Geneva Ridge; these areas have their own private water supply systems. Wastewater from all of these areas is ultimately conveyed to the Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District (WalCoMet) wastewater treatment plant.

The Town envisions that infill urban development in the Lake Como area would be provided with sewer and water utility service. The Town also envisions that proposed new medium-low density residential development along Palmer Road, as identified on the Town land use plan map, would be provided with public sewer and water utility service. The Town further envisions that new urban development in the “development reserve” areas in the westerly portions of the Town, as identified on the Town land use plan map, would be served by public sewer service and, potentially, with public water supply service.

In addition, the Town envisions the eventual extension of public sewer service to certain areas located south of Lake Como between the Lodges at Geneva Ridge and Schofield Road. The Town envisions that sewer service may be provided to certain developed lands and, potentially, to some new infill development, in this area.

A Town-proposed expansion of the currently adopted sanitary sewer service area—reflecting all of the above—is shown on the Town land use plan map.¹

- Town of LaFayette

The Town does not perceive a need for public sewer or water utility service for existing development in the Town at this time, other than the continuation of sewer utility service to Alpine Valley. However, the Town would like to keep open the possibility of utility service through the City of Elkhorn to existing development near the City should the need arise.

The Town has no specific plans for new urban development that would be served by public utilities in the vicinity of the City of Elkhorn at this time. However, the Town would like to keep open the possibility of City utility service for new development on lands that would remain within the Town.

- Town of LaGrange

The Town does not envision public sanitary sewer or water supply service at this time.

- Town of Richmond

The Town does not envision public sanitary sewer or water supply service at this time.

- Town of Sharon

A band of undeveloped lands surrounding the Village of Sharon has been identified as “urban reserve” on the Town land use plan. The Town recognizes that these areas could be developed for urban uses with public utilities should the Village expand in the years ahead. At the same time, the Town would like to keep open the possibility of Village utility service for new development in this vicinity with the lands remaining in the Town.

- Town of Spring Prairie

The Town does not envision public sanitary sewer or water supply service at this time.

¹Any amendments to a sewer service area plan must be undertaken cooperatively with the Regional Planning Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Where there are conflicting proposals by different sewerage systems to serve the same area, cost-effectiveness analyses may be required to determine which system should provide service.

- Town of Sugar Creek

The Town recognizes the potential for the provision of sewer and water utility service in the northeastern area of the Town. A potential utility district for that area is shown on the Town land use plan map. The potential utility district includes the developed areas around Silver, Wandawega, and Mill Lakes and other existing development in the vicinity, as well as other lands in that vicinity which are designated for future urban development in the Town land use plan. Wastewater from the area would likely be conveyed to the WalCoMet wastewater treatment facility.²

In addition, on its land use plan, the Town has designated certain lands in the south half of Section 25 as potential additions to the City of Elkhorn. The Town recommends residential development for that area, and recognizes that, if that area were annexed to the City, it would be provided with City sewer and water utilities.

- Town of Troy

Undeveloped lands located inside the Village of East Troy sewer service area within the Town have been designated as “urban reserve” on the Town land use plan. The Town recognizes that these areas may be developed for urban uses with public utilities from the Village of East Troy, with the likelihood that such areas would be annexed to the Village. Nevertheless, the Town would like to keep open the possibility of Village utility service for new development on lands in the vicinity of the Village that would remain within the Town, either indefinitely or for an extended period of time.

The Town would also like to keep open the possibility for public utility service to existing development around Booth Lake from the Village of East Troy, should the need arise, with the areas concerned remaining in the Town.

The Town envisions the continuation of public water supply service in Troy Center through Troy Sanitary District No. 1.

- Town of Walworth

Public utility service in the Town is currently limited to sanitary sewer service in the following locations: the Kikkoman facility, the Inspiration Ministries facility, and certain areas located south of South Shore Drive in the northwest area of the Town.

On its land use plan map, the Town has proposed new residential development south of South Shore Drive in the northwest area of the Town. The Town envisions that new development in this area would generally be served with public sanitary sewers, expanding upon the limited sewer service already provided in that area.

On its land use plan map, the Town has identified urban reserve areas around the Villages of Fontana, Walworth, and Williams Bay, indicating that the areas may be developed for urban use at some time during the planning period (through 2035) or beyond. The Town is interested in the potential for sewer and water supply service to these areas, if and when they develop, via an extension of village utility systems. This would potentially include arrangements by which the areas so served would remain in the Town. Specifics in this regard could be set forth in village-town boundary/utility service agreements.

²A sewerage facilities plan completed for WalCoMet in 2006 was developed to accommodate the provision of sanitary sewer service to portions of the Towns of Sugar Creek, LaFayette, and Linn, should the need arise.

- Town of Whitewater

On its land use plan map, the Town has proposed new urban development in areas around the City of Whitewater. This includes areas that are proposed for future commercial, industrial, and residential use, along with some areas that are more generally identified as “urban reserve.” The Town would like to see these areas served by public sewer and water service through the City of Whitewater’s utility systems, if and when they develop. The Town recognizes that some of these lands may be annexed to the City as a condition for the extension of utilities, and the Town does not wish to stand in the way of landowners who want to develop their land with City utilities and annexation. At the same time, the Town would like to keep open the possibility of City utility services for new development on lands that would remain in the Town. Specifics in this regard could be set forth in a city-town boundary/utility service agreement.

This policy would not require a landowner to develop his land with or without public utilities, nor would it require that the land concerned be annexed to the City.

Stormwater Management

1. As noted in Part One of this chapter, within Walworth County, towns rely primarily on roadside swales and culverts for stormwater conveyance, while cities and villages rely on curb and gutter storm sewer systems or a combination of curb and gutter systems and roadside swales and culverts. Stormwater storage and infiltration facilities are increasingly important components of stormwater management systems, regardless of the type of system in use.
2. County stormwater management regulations are set forth in Chapter 26 of the County Code of Ordinances. Article II of Chapter 26, “Land Disturbance, Erosion Control, and Stormwater Management,” applies to land development and land disturbing activities in the unincorporated area of the County, except activities that fall under the authority of a one- and two-family erosion control ordinance. Article III of Chapter 26, “One- and Two-Family Dwelling Erosion Control,” incorporates by reference the construction site erosion control provisions of the Wisconsin Uniform Dwelling Code for one- and two-family dwellings. Walworth County administers the construction site erosion control provisions in the Towns of Bloomfield, East Troy, LaFayette, LaGrange, Sharon, Spring Prairie, Sugar Creek, Troy, Walworth, and Whitewater. The Towns of Darien, Delavan, Geneva, Linn, Lyons, and Richmond administer such erosion control regulations locally, except within shoreland areas, where the County is responsible. Continued administration of the stormwater management and erosion control regulations will help control stormwater runoff and minimize sediment and other pollutants entering the surface water system.

Energy Utilities

1. Electric power, natural gas, and crude oil transmission and distribution facilities are largely planned and developed by private utilities and transmission companies. The utilities and transmission line companies that serve Walworth County and their major transmission lines are identified in Chapter V. Those utilities and transmission line companies are encouraged to consider the projections and land use plan elements set forth in this multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, as well as the projections and land use plan elements of the comprehensive plans for cities and villages in Walworth County, in their planning to meet future energy needs.
2. Wind energy systems represent an increasingly important source of electricity to electric utilities and to private interests. Policies regarding wind energy systems should try to balance the need for such systems with their inherent impacts. In 2009, Walworth County adopted a wind energy system ordinance which identifies zoning districts within which large energy systems may be accommodated as a conditional use, setback requirements, and noise, height, and appearance standards. A separate ordinance related to smaller wind energy systems was also adopted.

Telecommunications Facilities

1. Increasing demand for wireless communications service has resulted in an increase in telecommunication antenna sites and related facilities in Walworth County (see Map V-6 in Chapter V). Policies with respect to telecommunication facilities in the unincorporated area of Walworth County are embodied in the County telecommunications ordinance. This ordinance is intended to minimize the visual effects of telecommunications facilities and any adverse impacts such facilities may have on environmentally sensitive areas. The ordinance encourages the co-location of new antennas on existing towers and requires that telecommunications facilities be removed once they are no longer in use.

