

Chapter 5

Utilities and Community Facilities

Purpose

The Utilities and Community Facilities chapter provides a guide for the future development of utilities and community facilities in the Village of Ellsworth. The chapter will describe the location, use and capacity of existing public utilities and community facilities that serve the Village and area residents and include an approximate timetable to expand or rehabilitate existing utilities and facilities or to create new utilities and facilities.

Sanitary Sewer Service and Wastewater Treatment Plant

The sanitary system in the Village of Ellsworth is made up of sanitary sewer mains, lift stations, forcemains, and a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located at the east end of the Village near C.T.H. C (Map 5-1). The sanitary sewer system collects wastewater from homes, businesses, and industries and uses gravity mains and lift stations to convey it to the WWTP where it is treated.

The wastewater treatment plant was constructed in 1979. The plant has a treatment capacity of 440,000 gallons per day and currently treats 210,000 gallons per day giving the Village adequate capacity for future residential, business, and industrial growth.

There are ten lift stations located throughout the Village system. Inspections are done daily and there are no immediate planned upgrades to the system or a need for additional lift stations.

Although there may be a small number of private on-site wastewater treatment systems remaining in the Village, current policy requires all structures to connect to the sanitary system within one year of the lot having access to sanitary service.

The Village of Ellsworth wastewater and water treatment facility is compliant with the Clean Water Act, meaning it meets State water quality and wastewater discharge standards.

Additionally, the Village is home to the West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility (WCWBF). The WCWBF is a regional biosolids treatment and disposal center that serves 23 municipalities in western Wisconsin and 3 municipalities in Minnesota. The WCWBF is owned by eleven municipalities, who jointly received a Clean Water Fund Loan to start the facility. The facility is a lime stabilization system that mixes biosolids with lime to produce farm fertilizers.

The process involves municipal biosolids being shipped to the facility by semi trucks and then the biosolids are put in a centrifuge to remove the water. Biosolids are typically 2% solids and 98% water. Once the biosolids have been dried, lime or quicklime is added, causing a reaction resulting in the product being heated to over 158 degrees Fahrenheit.

This process kills bacteria and causes the pH level to increase to 12, making the fertilizers very basic/alkaline. The resulting product is a fertilizer sold to local farmers. The WCWBF processes about 20 million gallons of biosolids annually.

Water Supply

The Village's water system consists of wells, water towers, hydrants, and watermains that help draw, store, maintain pressure, and distribute water to homes, businesses, and industries.

The Village has two elevated storage tanks, one storage tank has a capacity of 400,000 gallons (1987), and the other has a capacity of 300,000 gallons (2007). Both use approximately 250,000 gallons a day.

There are also three municipal wells in Ellsworth where water is drawn and treated with fluoride. The Village has adopted a wellhead protection ordinance and revised it in 2007. The wellhead protection ordinance regulates land uses within specific distances (up to 1,200') of a municipal well in order to protect the water source from contamination.

Facilities such as pesticide or fertilizer handling or storage facilities, coal storage areas, and certain gasoline or fuel oil storage tanks are typically not allowed.

At this time, the Village's water systems have sufficient capacity to meet the Village's growth projections and development.

Storm Water Management

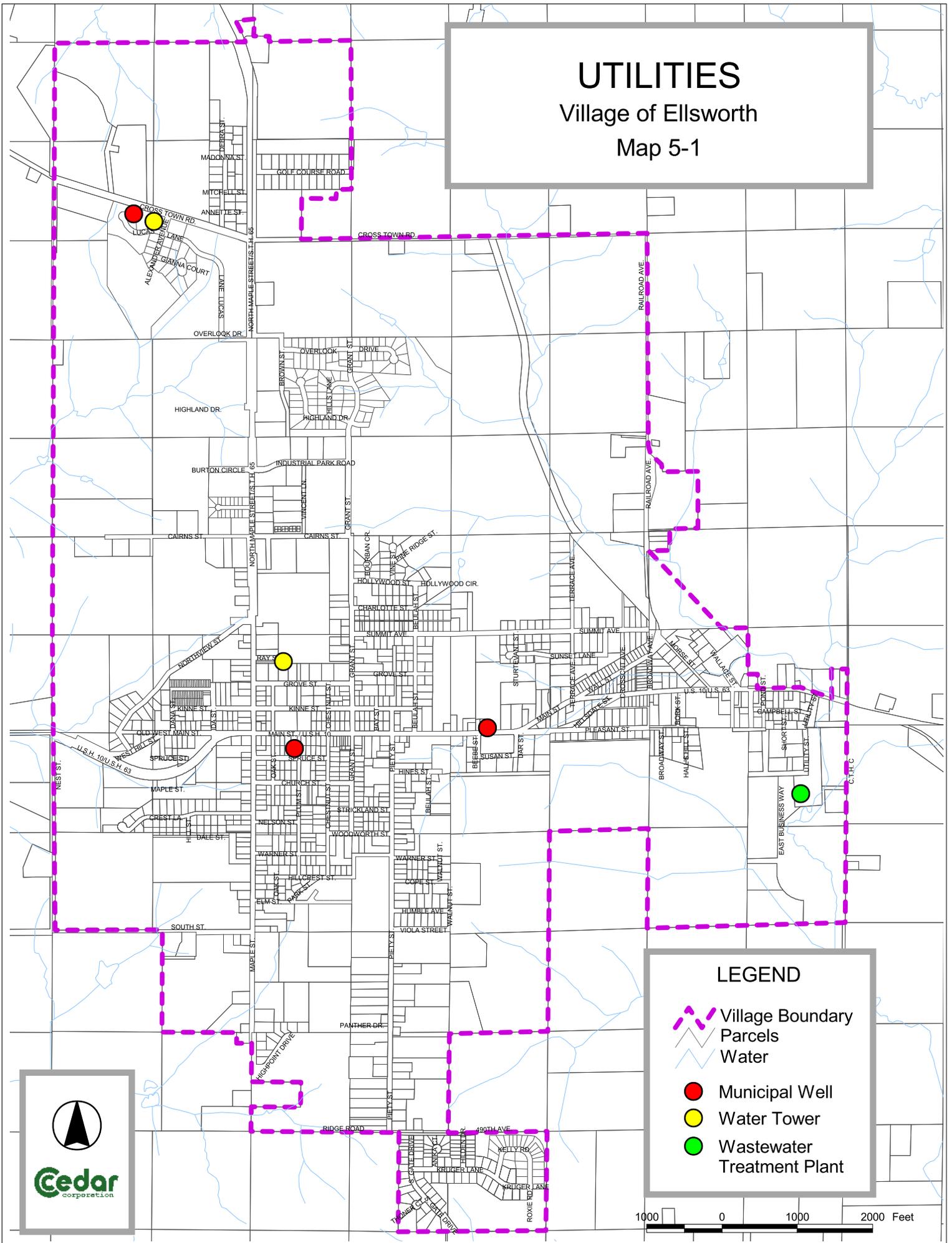
Ellsworth's stormwater system consists of outfalls, inlets, storm sewer pipe, ditches/swales, and retention/detention ponds. The stormwater system is designed to collect stormwater and snowmelt runoff and move it away from existing development. Today, an emphasis is put on stormwater quantity, quality, and infiltration in an effort to protect the natural resources within watersheds and basins.

The Village owns two stormwater ponds in the Crossing Meadows development. All other stormwater ponds are owned and maintained by the developer. To improve stormwater quality, the Village uses street sweepers in the business district weekly and up to ten times a year throughout the rest of the community to reduce the amount of sediment in stormwater runoff.

UTILITIES

Village of Ellsworth

Map 5-1



LEGEND

-  Village Boundary
-  Parcels
-  Water
-  Municipal Well
-  Water Tower
-  Wastewater Treatment Plant



Village Land Fill, Solid Waste Disposal, & Recycling Facilities

The Village of Ellsworth operates the Village Land Fill, located east of S. Piety Street, behind the Maple Grove Cemetery (Map 5-2). Village residents may dispose of brush and natural yard wastes at no charge. Residents may also dispose of wood, bricks, cement, windows, roofing material, plasterboard, siding, etcetera for a small fee. The Village Land Fill has nine waste cells, at this time only three of the cells have been used. It is anticipated that the Village Land Fill will not be at capacity for at least 25 to 30 years. There are no plans for expansion at this time.

The Village of Ellsworth has an outside contract for the collection of refuse and recycling. The Pierce County Department of Solid Waste provides additional solid waste and recycling services for the Village of Ellsworth, including Clean Sweep programs, special wastes collection, and provides information and educational materials on various solid waste management topics.

Village Hall

The Village of Ellsworth Village Hall is located at 130 North Chestnut Street. The Village Hall building was purchased in 1990 and is now home to the Village municipal offices and Village Police Department. The Village also rents portions of the lower level to Pierce County for some of their municipal offices. Currently, there is only a slight need for additional space in the Village Hall. If community growth continues in the next three to five years, the Village will plan to utilize the entire lower level of the Village Hall, and no longer rent space to Pierce County. The lower level will then facilitate the Police Department and the upper level will facilitate the municipal offices.

Village Public Works Shop

The Village Public Works Shop is located at 212 S. Utility Street and is approximately 3,500 square feet in size. The building meets the space needs of the public works department and there are no plans for expansion at this time.

Police

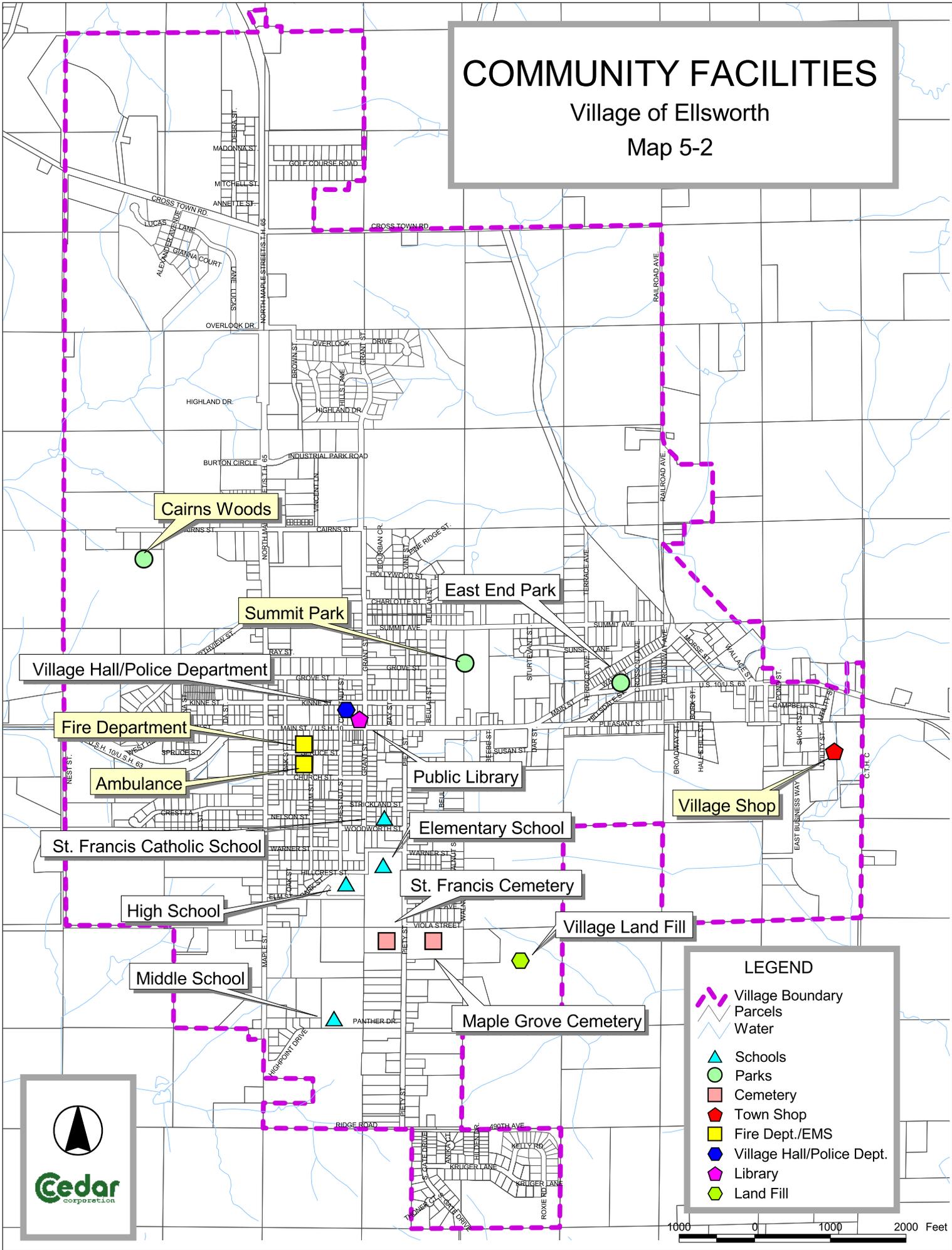
Police protection is provided by the Ellsworth Police Department. The Police Department is made up of full time officers, part time officers, and administrative staff. The Department will need additional part time administrative support staff and at least one more full time officer to meet the communities growing needs. Additionally, the current facility does not meet the needs of the Police Department; they will need additional office space in the near future.

Other Department needs include new and advanced equipment. Office computers will soon need upgrades/replacement, updated software systems need to be utilized in order to interface with Pierce County Sheriff's Department, and squad car cameras would be a beneficial addition to the Department. The Police Department has been actively perusing grants for new and advanced equipment; recently, they receive funding for squad car computers. The Department also obtained a new squad car in 2008.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Village of Ellsworth

Map 5-2



LEGEND

- Village Boundary
- Parcels
- Water
- Schools
- Parks
- Cemetery
- Town Shop
- Fire Dept./EMS
- Village Hall/Police Dept.
- Library
- Land Fill



1000 0 1000 2000 Feet

Parks, Open Space, & Recreational Resources

The Village of Ellsworth operates two Village parks and is home to many other recreational resources. Parks are addressed in Chapter 6: Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources.

Fire & Rescue

The Ellsworth Fire Service Association and Ellsworth Area Ambulance provide fire and Rescue services to the Village.

The Fire Hall is located at 427 Spruce Street. Ten municipalities jointly own the Ellsworth Fire Service Association and Ellsworth Area Ambulance; they include the Villages of Ellsworth and Bay City, the Towns of Ellsworth, El Paso, Hartland, Isabelle, Martell, Salem, Trenton, and Trimbelle. The Ellsworth Fire Service Association provides fire protection services to all ten municipalities.

The Ellsworth Area Ambulance Station is located at 151 South Plum Street, and is a paramedic service, comprised of volunteer EMT's and paramedics from the Ellsworth community. The Ellsworth Area Ambulance Station provides services to the Villages of Ellsworth, the Towns of Ellsworth, Hartland, Martell, Salem, Trimbelle, and portions of the Towns of El Paso and Trenton.

The average call volume is about 400+ every year and the departments serve an area of 210 square miles with a population of approximately 10,700 people. Each year the Village assesses operating fees for both fire and ambulance services.

The Ellsworth Fire Service Association and Ellsworth Area Ambulance has a need for new facilities in the near future, currently fire engine's, equipment, and office facilities are located at multiple buildings. One cohesive building that can facilitate all needs is desired.

Mutual aid agreements are in place with the surrounding fire departments.

Libraries

The Ellsworth Public Library is located at 312 West Main Street. The Public Library building was built in 1932, originally as a theatre. The library is open six days a week and offers programs for children and adults in the Ellsworth area. The library is also one of 30 libraries in west-central Wisconsin that has combined their catalogs to serve residents better by utilizing the MORE online catalog service.

In 2008, the library's service population was 8,477 people, while in 2007 it was only 7,237, an increase of 1,240 people in one year. Since the library services such a large and growing population, the facilities needs have also grown. At the present time, the Library has a significant need for additional space and media. The Library Board would like to see changes or plan for a new facility in the next five to ten years or sooner if allowable.

Schools

The Village of Ellsworth is home to the Ellsworth Community School District. The school district is comprised of four public schools, including a High School, a Middle School, and two elementary schools, Hillcrest Elementary and Prairie View Elementary (in the Town of Trenton). One private school, the St. Francis Parochial School, is located in the Village. The Lindgren Early Learning Center is also within the Ellsworth Community School District.

There are no current plans to expand the schools or school district. Approximately 1,750 students are enrolled in the Ellsworth Community Schools for the 2008/2009 school year.

The St. Francis Parochial School provides classes for Kindergarten through the 5th grade and had an enrollment of 143 students in 2008.

The Lindgren Early Learning Center offers Headstart, Early Childhood, and Preschool programs, the school is located in the Town of Trenton.

Cemeteries

There are two cemeteries in the Village of Ellsworth. The Maple Grove Cemetery, which covers approximately 12 acres and is located along the east side of S. Piety Street, is a municipal owned and operated cemetery. Fees are required for the reservation of a cemetery lot and grave marking. At this time, there are no needs to expand the cemetery ground, although any expansions that may occur will likely utilize those portions of the Village Land Fill that are no longer utilized.

The St. Francis Cemetery, located along the west side of S. Piety Street, is a privately owned cemetery. Cemeteries are significant sources of history for many communities.

The Poor Farm Cemetery, also a historic archeological burial site, is located along the northern border of the Village.

Health Care Facilities

Hospital and 24-hour emergency medical services are provided by the River Falls Hospital and Fairview Red Wing Hospital. Local medical services are provided by the Fairview Ellsworth Clinic and the River Falls Medical Clinic.

It is likely that these facilities, and the many others throughout Pierce County and the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, will continue to provide health care for Ellsworth's residents.

At this time, there is only one care center/nursing home facility, the Ellsworth Care Center, located on North Maple Street. There is a need for additional assisted living and long-term care facilities in the future.

Child Care Facilities

There are several licensed childcare facilities in the Village of Ellsworth. The State of Wisconsin licenses three types of childcare facilities, described below.

Family Child Care Center: A family childcare center is licensed under HFS 45, Wisconsin Administrative Code, to provide care and supervision to no more than eight children for less than 24 hours a day.

Group Child Care Center: A group childcare center is licensed under HFS 46, Wisconsin Administrative Code, to provide care and supervision to 9 or more children for less than 24 hours a day.

Day Camp: A day camp is licensed under HFS 55, Wisconsin Administrative Code, to provide care and supervision to 4 or more children 3 years of age and older in a seasonal program oriented to the out-of-doors for periods less than 24 hours a day.

Other childcare needs are likely met by residents offering care in their homes or childcare is provided at facilities close to where the resident works.

Telecommunications Facilities

The availability of infrastructure such as high-speed internet service or cell phone service is an important factor for attracting new business and residents who may want to telecommute. Many businesses count on reliable services such as high-speed internet in order to be competitive and operate efficiently. Residents, especially those moving from an urban area, are used to amenities such as high-speed internet service.

Internet services are also very important to students. Education programs rely on internet data and will continue to utilize the internet more each year. High-speed internet or wireless internet services may be necessary for students in the near future.

AT&T provides the Village's phone services.

All homes in the Village limits have access to internet, cable television, and cable internet services. Wireless communication services are available in the Village through multiple carriers.

Within the Village limits, the Village of Ellsworth regulates the size and location of Wireless Communication Service Facilities (WCSF), or telecommunication towers, antennas, and related facilities as well as minimizing the adverse visual effects of these towers.

Pierce County is exploring the option of countywide Broadband services. The Village of Ellsworth has supported these efforts by allowing the use of existing towers.

Power Plants and Transmission Lines

Pierce-Pepin Cooperative Services and Xcel Energy provide electrical services, transmission lines, and other services to the Village of Ellsworth.

WE Energies provides natural gas services to the Village of Ellsworth. All homes in the Village limits have access to natural gas.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: Provide and maintain community facilities and utilities to serve the Village of Ellsworth residents in a fiscally responsible manner.

Objectives:

1. Ensure that demand does not exceed capacity.
2. Maintain the quality of public services.
3. Maintain the quality and capacity of public utilities.
4. Ensure utilities meet the current and future needs of the community

Policies:

1. Explore the possibilities of a new combined municipal building (Village Hall, Police, Library, etc.) in order to update facilities and reduce costs for duplicated amenities.
2. Continue to support the Ellsworth Police Department, Ellsworth Fire Service Association, and the Ellsworth Area Ambulance and their efforts to provide adequate, timely emergency services to the community.
3. Continue to support the Ellsworth Fire Service Association and the Ellsworth Area Ambulance in their efforts to explore options for new emergency facilities.
4. Continue to work with the Ellsworth Community School District to provide adequate educational opportunities.
5. Explore grants such as Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) or DOT Transportation Economic Assistance, Wisconsin DNR Stewardship, or create a TIF District to help offset utility improvements.
6. Update utility services as needed.

Goal 2: Support and improve the quality of schools, libraries, and health care facilities.

Objectives:

1. Maintain and improve the quality of life for Village residents and residents in the surrounding area.
2. Make the Village a more attractive place to live.
3. Analyze the need for additional health care, nursing homes, and/or elderly care facilities.

Policies:

1. Explore funding options for expansion of community facilities.
2. Support the schools, library, and health care facilities in their efforts to expand or build new facilities within the community.
3. Promote the development of health care, nursing homes, and elderly care facilities to ensure that the aging population can continue to reside in the Village.

Goal 3: Support long-range planning that addresses the existing populations and future growth of local and regional populations.

Objectives:

1. Meet the long-term needs of residents.
2. Reduce long-term costs associated with area growth.
3. Analyze facilities to determine expansion needs.

Policies:

1. Ensure adequate land for anticipated growth.
2. Update equipment and emergency plans for safety and cost-effectiveness as appropriate.
3. Analyze trends for facility development and capacity.
4. Design community buildings that allow for future expansions that fit with the original design.
5. Acquire land that is necessary for expansion of public facilities or utilities.