

# 4 Utilities & Community Facilities

This element includes background information, goals, objectives, and recommendations to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the Town of Shelby. It describes current facilities and includes recommendations for future utilities needs, upgrades, and considerations.

## Existing Conditions

### Water Supply

Four residential areas of the Town are served by a regulated public water system. Shelby Sanitary District Two serves 277 customers in Arbor Hills, most of Wedgewood Valley, and the Skyline Addition, which includes all of the Hagen Road accessed properties from Sherwood Drive to the south. The two Wedgewood Terraces are served by a 181 customer cooperative water system, which purchases wholesale water from the Sanitary District. There are 10 to 15 instances of two to six homes sharing a single well, and a few lots in the “Urban Island” portion that are served and billed by the City of La Crosse. The rest of the Town residents obtain their water from their own private well.

Table 4.1: La Crosse County Municipal Water Supply, 2005

Name	City	Storage Capacity
LA CROSSE WATERWORKS	LA CROSSE	5,000,000
Shelby Arbor Hills	LA CROSSE	65,000
Shelby Skyline Addition	LA CROSSE	45,000
Shelby Wedgewood Terrace	LA CROSSE	152,000

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2005

While the Town’s precipitation and soil geology allow for rapid groundwater recharge, they also allow for groundwater contamination from surface activities. There are many contaminated groundwater sites within La Crosse County and with continued growth in population and economic activity, the demand on groundwater supplies will continue to increase. To assist in preventing further groundwater contamination, a groundwater modeling study of La Crosse County was completed in 2003. This study assessed the effects of recent and potential future groundwater withdrawals and provides a suitable tool to evaluate the effects of proposed water management programs. The plan identifies the extent of contamination on existing sites and the direction in which these contaminated sites are flowing.

### Sanitary Sewer Service/Wastewater Treatment

Several residential subdivisions and commercial and industrial properties in Shelby are served by two different sanitary districts, while the remainder of properties within the Town have their own septic system. Shelby Sanitary District One has been taken over by the City of La Crosse, and much of the area served by it has been annexed; the town island and properties on the southeastern fringe of the City along Cliffside Drive remain in the unincorporated portion served by Sanitary District One. Administration and maintenance of this district including the billing of Shelby property owners served, is by the City of La Crosse.

Sanitary District Two is administered and maintained by the Town of Shelby. Approximately 14 miles of sanitary sewer mains serve Arbor Hills, the Wedgewood Terraces, Wedgewood Valley, the Hagen Road -Greenwald Coulee Subdivisions, Creekside Meadows, and Bridal Coulee; along the HWY 33 corridor between Norseman Drive and the City of La Crosse limits. Most town areas adjacent to the City, such as Ebner Coulee, Floral Lane, and Old Vineyard Addition are also served by Sanitary District Two. All wastewater from both

sanitary districts is treated at the La Crosse municipal wastewater plant on Isle La Plume. There are 806 homes and 147 mobile homes that are customers of this district.

The Isle La Plume facility was originally constructed in 1936, but has been modified and upgraded many times, with the last major upgrade occurring in 1998. The La Crosse Sewer Service Area Water Quality Management Plan 1999-2020 states that the facility has excess capacity that can handle twice the loading and the population that was served in 1999. The Sanitary District is supported by user service fees paid by its customers.

### **On-Site Wastewater Treatment Technology**

The disposal of waster water in the remainder of the Town is handled through the use of individual on-site wastewater disposal systems, often referred to as septic system. Septic systems discharge wastewater to underground drainage fields or septic tanks. There are currently six types of on-site disposal system designs authorized for use in the state: conventional (underground), mound, pressure distribution, at grade, holding tank, and sand filter systems. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce (COMM) regulates the siting, design, installation and inspection of most private on-site sewage systems. Recent changes to the State's Plumbing Code (COMM 83) allow for both conventional and advanced pre-treatment systems for residential development. The changes allow properties that have soil depths or soil types that were once unsuitable for conventional septic systems to now be developed and serviced by advanced pre-treatment sewage systems. If not properly located or maintained, on-site sewage disposal systems can significantly pollute groundwater.

### **Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities**

The Town of Shelby offers refuse, on a weekly basis, and recycling collection, on a biweekly basis, to residents within the Town. The Town Hall also has a location for residents to dispose of large amounts of brush. Solid waste from the Town is disposed of at the La Crosse County Landfill, which is located east of I-90 and south of Highway 16 as shown on the Utilities Map 4.1.

La Crosse County recently entered into a contract to mine an estimated 2 million cubic yards of waste that was buried in the landfill in the 1970s and 1980s and rebury it in a new section designed to better prevent groundwater contamination. The old landfill has been leaking contaminants into the groundwater for years and the plume of contaminants threatened the wells of residents to the south. The project could extend the life of the landfill by up to 40 years, which is well beyond the planning horizon of this Comprehensive Plan.

### **Stormwater Management**

Stormwater management has gained attention in recent years as an environmental concern because of its impacts on flooding, property damage, and surface water quality issues. Similar to water supply and wastewater treatment, stormwater management is an important part of municipal infrastructure.

In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires an erosion control plan and permit for all projects that disturb one or more acres of land. The landowner is required to ensure that a site specific erosion control plan and stormwater management plan are developed and implemented at the construction site. Also, the La Crosse County Subdivision and Platting Ordinance requires subdividers to provide a soil erosion plan subject to Chapter 21 of the La Crosse County Code of Ordinances and a stormwater management plan that meets the appropriate post-construction water quality requirements of NR151 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code and the water quantity requirements set forth in the La Crosse County Code of Ordinances.

### **Telecommunication Facilities**

CenturyTel provides the County with local telephone service; long distance service is available through several providers. Cellular telephone services is available in Town through a variety of providers. High speed Internet access and fiber optic connections are available in the Town of Shelby through Charter Communications. The region is connected to the Midwestern fiber optic network via CenturyTel. However, this technology is not available throughout the entire Town and certain residents in rural areas within the Town have limited capabilities for high-speed Internet services.

### **Power Plants, Electricity, and Transmission Lines**

Most of the geographic area of the Town of Shelby is served by Vernon Electric Co-op, a local retail distributor of the Dairyland Power Cooperative system. The portions of Shelby most immediately adjacent to, or surrounded by, the City of La Crosse such as Ebner Coulee, La Crosse Floral, Wedgewood Terrace, Wedgewood Valley, Greenwald Coulee, Skyline Addition, and Cliffside/Crown Point are served by Xcel Energy, and also have piped natural gas service. Arbor Hills, CTHs F and FO, the Coachlite and Pleasant Valley mobile home parks, and everything east of Wedgewood Valley and Greenwald Coulee on STH 33 to the Town line and virtually everything east of USH 14/61 and STH 35 intersection, Chipmunk Coulee, and most of the River Hills area is served by Vernon Electric. Goose Island Campground, the HWY 14/61 corridor, and part of the River Hills area is served by Xcel Gas.

### **Schools**

Most of Shelby is served by the School District of La Crosse. The far northeastern corner of the Town is part of the West Salem School District. The School District of La Crosse operates twelve elementary schools, three middle schools, and three high schools. These schools are located throughout the district and include a wide variety of options for students, including charters, magnet, and alternative programs. One elementary school, State Road School, of the La Crosse School District is located in the Town.

In addition, the County has 16 private schools that provide additional educational choices for residents at all age levels.

Town residents also have access to several post-secondary education schools, including the following:

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse was founded in 1909 and is now one of the 13 four-year campuses in the University of Wisconsin System with enrollment around 9,000 students. UW-L has joined the City's other two institutions of higher education and the region's medical facilities to form a consortium to bring cutting-edge health care to the region, along with a state-of-the-art health research and education facility for professionals and students.

Western Technical College is a public two-year college with a focus on technical education. The college has an annual enrollment of approximately 9,400 credit students and 12,900 non-credit students. The average age of WWTC's credit and non-credit student is 33.

Viterbo University, established in 1890, is a co-educational Catholic University founded in the Franciscan tradition. Viterbo offers undergraduate and graduate degrees and has an enrollment of approximately 2,100 students.

### **Libraries**

The Town of Shelby is served by the Winding Rivers Library System in conjunction with the La Crosse Public Library System. A main branch is located in the City of La Crosse and five other branches are located throughout the County. Each branch is housed in a building provided, furnished, and maintained by the municipality in which it is located.

In addition to the extensive resource collection within the library system, each branch has one or more public computers with Internet access.

### Parks and Recreation Facilities

The Town of Shelby has an extensive system of small parks and play areas. The major subdivisions have outdoor recreation areas due to the Town's subdivision ordinance requirements. Within the Town system, there are 14 developed parks and four public parcels which are not developed for a total of approximately 64.57 acres in developed parks and 66.29 acres of undeveloped or idle lands.

Goose Island County Park, covering 710 acres, has a campground with over 400 sites, most of which are electrically equipped to handle recreational vehicles and trailers. There is a camp store, boat and canoe rental, and other public launch areas. Picnic shelters, ball diamonds, and hiking trails are also to be found at this park. Goose Island is the largest county managed campground in Wisconsin.

Table 4.2: Parks/Recreational Land Located in the Town of Shelby

Park Name	Size (acre s)	Amenities
Arbor Hills-Developed*	2.15	Tennis Courts, Playground,
Arbor Hills-Wooded Hillside*	18.5	Passive Recreation Space
Boulder Ridge Park*	1.18	Playground
Breidel Coulee Park*	9.29	1 acre of active park space, 8.29 passive recreational space
Brookwood*	2.15	Playground
Forest Hills*	1.32	Passive recreational space
Hills of Home*	0.15	Playground
Mormon Coulee Park*	18.0	Picnic Shelters, tennis courts, volleyball court, playground
Nolop Estates*	0.28	Playground
Pammel Creek Park*	18.0	New community wide park with paved trail and 2 baseball fields
River Hills*	0.42	Playground and basketball hoop
Scenic Addition/Lommen Land*	38.11	Underground water reservoir; passive recreation space
Shelby Ball Fields*	12.5	3 Youth Baseball Fields
Skyline*	4.29	Playground and basketball (Power line Right of Way)
Smyth*	1.63	Softball field, playground
Sunset Slope*	0.15	Vacant land
Wedgewood Terrace*	0.77	Playground, basketball, tennis court
Wedgewood Terrace First Addition*	0.75	Playground
Wedgewood Valley*	1.3	Playground
Stry Foundation Nature Center	5.18	Non-profit foundation passive recreation facility. Walking trail, pond, and natural habitat for wildlife.
Goose Island County Park	710	400 campsites, boating, canoeing, hiking trails, picnic shelters, baseball fields, and playgrounds run by La Crosse County
Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Refuge	2,500	Nature preserve available for passive recreation owned by the federal government
Mount La Crosse Ski Area	200	Privately owned downhill (3 chair lifts) and cross country skiing

\* - Designates Town park

### Town Buildings

The two principal Town buildings are located across Ward Avenue from each other at 2800 and 2801 Ward Avenue, within a town island surrounded by the incorporated City of La Crosse. The original Town Hall, 2801, was built in 1956-57 and the Town shop was built adjacent.

In 1992 the Town bought the building at 2800 Ward Avenue that had been occupied by a tool rental and remodeled it into their Town Hall.

## **Police, Fire, and Rescue**

The Town of Shelby has two full-time and one part time police officers that serve the Town. The Police Department is based out of the Town Annex at 2801 Ward Avenue.

In addition to the Town police, the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department is located in the City of La Crosse and serves the entire County. At the time of this writing, the Department has 109 employees.

The Town of Shelby has its own fire department that also serves parts of the Towns of Greenfield and Medary. The department consists of a salaried Chief and 30 volunteer fire fighters. Fire protection and first responder services, fire safety inspection and education are all services provided by the department.

The La Crosse County 911 Emergency Dispatch Center is located in the La Crosse County Law Enforcement Center in La Crosse. Over 30 employees provide 24-hour emergency telephone service to everyone in La Crosse County. Using a state-of-the-art enhanced 911 system (E-911), the 911 telecommunicator is able to send emergency and non-emergency assistance quickly and accurately.

In addition to providing emergency telephone answering service, the La Crosse County 911 Emergency Dispatch Center telecommunicators are the radio and multiple computer system operators. This fully integrated system allows the department to provide full emergency and non-emergency service to each of the eight Law Enforcement Departments, the eight Fire Departments, the nine First Responder organizations, Emergency Government, and Search and Rescue throughout the entire County.

## **Health Care Facilities**

No health care facilities are located in the Town of Shelby. The nearest health care facilities to the Town are located in the City of La Crosse. Gundersen Lutheran and Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, are two (2) large medical centers that operate in the region, each with a hospital and large clinic in the City of La Crosse.

Gundersen-Lutheran Medical Center is the area's recognized leader in heart, trauma and cancer care, births, business services, research and health education, with over one million clinic, hospital, and emergency room visits each year.

Gundersen Lutheran operates a 325-bed teaching hospital with a Level II Trauma and Emergency Center in La Crosse.

Franciscan Skemp, MHS La Crosse Campus operates a 250 bed hospital with a 24-hour Emergency Trauma Center. Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, partnered with world-renowned Mayo Clinic, offers excellent specialty services including cardiology, neurology, nephrology, oncology, orthopedics and many others, as well as comprehensive, compassionate primary care throughout an 11-county region in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Franciscan Skemp is a leader in women's health, having established the area's first Women's Health Center in 1983.

Construction is underway for a 100,000 sq. ft. expansion to the Franciscan Skemp, MHS facility.

A health care education consortium that includes Viterbo University, Western Wisconsin Technical College and the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse exists in the region.

## **Child Care Facilities**

The child care options within the Town of Shelby are limited to private home-based child care facilities. The La Crosse County Family Resource Center helps to connect parents and children to childcare providers.

La Crosse County has 33 regulated full day group child care centers and 254 regulated full day family child care homes. 212 child care facilities offer infant care and 47 offer care during second and third shift.

The Town has one child care facility on Harvest Lane.

### Cemeteries

There are eight cemeteries located within the Town. They are:

#### Active

- Chipmunk Coulee/Salzar Methodist Cemetery (N. Chipmunk Rd. near CHY K)
- Kienholz Family Cemetery/ Old Settler's Mormon Coulee Cemetery (Hwy 14/61 at Breidel Coulee Rd)
- Mormon Coulee Memorial Park Cemetery (N1137 Bloomer Mill Rd.)
- Trinity United Church of Christ Cemetery/ Swiss Reformed Cemetery (Hwy 14-61 at Breidel Coulee Rd)

#### Inactive

- Hass Family Cemetery (Helke Road)
- Justin Family Cemetery (Hwy. 14 at Justin Rd)
- Markle Family Cemetery/ Salzer Methodist - Mormon Coulee Cemetery (W4607 Hwy.14/61)
- Pruett Family Cemetery (Hwy 14-61, east of Bloomer Mill Rd.)

### Timetable for the Expansion of Utilities and Community Facilities

Although population is not expected to increase over the next twenty years, there is anticipated growth forecasted. As such, many services and facilities are likely to be upgraded over time with increases in development. See Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3: Forecasted Utilities and Community Facilities Needs**

Department	Need	Approximate Timeframe	Comments
Fire Truck	Expansion	Immediate	Chase shipped on Aug 24, 2007 \$124,772.00
Park Department	Expansion	Immediate	John Deere 72" Mid-Mount Mower \$15,490.00
Road Department	Plow Truck	Short-Term	Budgeted \$85,000.00
Road Department	Pickup Truck	Short-Term	\$10,000.00
Road Department	Snow Blower	Short-Term	\$25,000.00
Park Department	Pammel Creek Walk Way, Well	Short-Term	

Immediate: as soon as possible

Short-Term: approximately 1-4 years in the future

### Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations

Goals and objectives identify what the plan should accomplish. Goals are statements that describe a desired future condition, often in general terms. Objectives are statements that describe a specific future condition to be attained, to reach the established goals.

Recommendations identify the action necessary to achieve goals and objectives. For this reason, recommendations should be actionable, attainable, and specific. Not all recommendations can be achieved in the short-term, so they should be specific enough so that any individual or group wishing to achieve a stated goal can take action.

The following goals, objectives, and recommendations were jointly developed by the Town of Shelby Land Use Planning Committee and its consultants.

**Parks, Recreation and Open Space Goal:** Coordinate public and private sector efforts to maintain and improve the varied park, recreation, and open space features that serve the local population and improve the region's high quality of life.

**Objectives:**

- a. Identify locations and implementation tools needed to better connect the recreational path and greenway system.
- b. Limit bluff top development by enforcing existing ordinances and continuing with voluntary easement acquisition programs and other tools.

**Recommendations:**

1. Identify "no build" preservation areas and develop ways to encourage owners to participate, i.e. conservation easement; purchase of development rights; outright donation of land or tax incentives.
2. Set a preferred ratio of open space to developed space (i.e. 10/20/30 acres between any developments).
3. Encourage development of a Mormon Coulee Creek Greenway from Goose Island to CTH YY, along both sides of the creek, where possible. Require a 150 ft setback for new development along this section of Mormon Coulee Creek.
4. Encourage development of a Pammel Creek Greenway from Drive Inn Road easterly to the bottom of Irish Hill, along both sides of the creek, where possible.
5. Explore development of a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in accordance to DNR standards to forecast park needs and create eligibility for grant funding through the state.

**Utilities and Community Facilities Goal:** Maintain quality public services that provide for increased public safety, a low crime rate, a strong rural and urban economy, a clean environment, and reasonable and equitable taxes.

**Objectives:**

- a. Recognize that new occupied structures within the Town will be serviced by the Shelby Sanitary District, private individual systems, or some other form of "off-site" wastewater disposal.
- b. Explore urban "off-site" waste treatment systems. Other new technologies need to be explored for areas not served by sanitary sewer.

**Recommendations:**

1. Identify preferred "off-site" waste treatment systems for use in urban developments. Ensure these facilities are owned and maintained by a consortium of property owners.
2. Continue to upgrade and maintain the Shelby Sanitary District as required to meet or exceed DNR standards.