

## Chapter 6:

# UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

## INTRODUCTION

Utilities and community facilities provide the foundation on which a city is built and maintained. Utilities include the City's sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water distribution systems as well as electrical, natural gas, telecommunication, and solid waste disposal systems. Community facilities include parks, schools, museums, health and safety services, and so on. Utilities and community facilities greatly contribute to the quality of life in Washburn and they affect the City's ability to maintain and attract residents, visitors, businesses, and industries.

The extent to which the City of Washburn provides utilities and community facilities is based in part on the public's perception of the need for those services and willingness to invest in them. Economic conditions, political inclinations, population changes, and perceived threats to health, safety, and welfare influence the public's perception of utilities and community facilities. Consequently, the City must be in tune with public sentiment and public response to the services it offers. This chapter provides an inventory and analysis of existing utilities and community facilities in Washburn. It also describes goals, objectives, policies, maps, and programs for maintaining and enhancing those facilities and services.

## INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

### CITY UTILITIES

City utilities include the sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water distribution systems. These utilities directly affect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Washburn. Figure 6-1: Existing Sewer and Water - 2006 shows the general service area of Washburn's sanitary sewer and water.

#### Sanitary Sewer

The City built its first primary sewage treatment plant in 1958, upgraded it in 1973, and replaced it with a state of the art treatment facility in 1997. The facility is located on the waterfront, just west of Thompson's West End Park. The facility has a design capacity of



*Aerial View of Washburn's Wastewater Treatment Plant (Aerial photo from Bayfield County GIS)*

380,000 gallons per day and can comfortably accommodate Washburn's current and projected population. In addition to the treatment facility, Washburn's sanitary sewer system includes four lift stations and over 66,000 lineal feet of pipe. In recent years, the City has undertaken major sanitary sewer and water reconstruction projects to bring the system up to current standards and ensure that it functions properly for years to come.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service rates all soils in Washburn as being very limited for septic tank absorption fields. Consequently, it is beneficial to provide public sanitary sewer service to all developed properties that can be served reasonably and logically. Most developed properties in Washburn are served by public sanitary sewer or they could easily be served by public sanitary sewer. The City should periodically evaluate the costs and benefits of extending public sanitary sewer service to the rural areas of the city as may be desired to address health and safety issues.

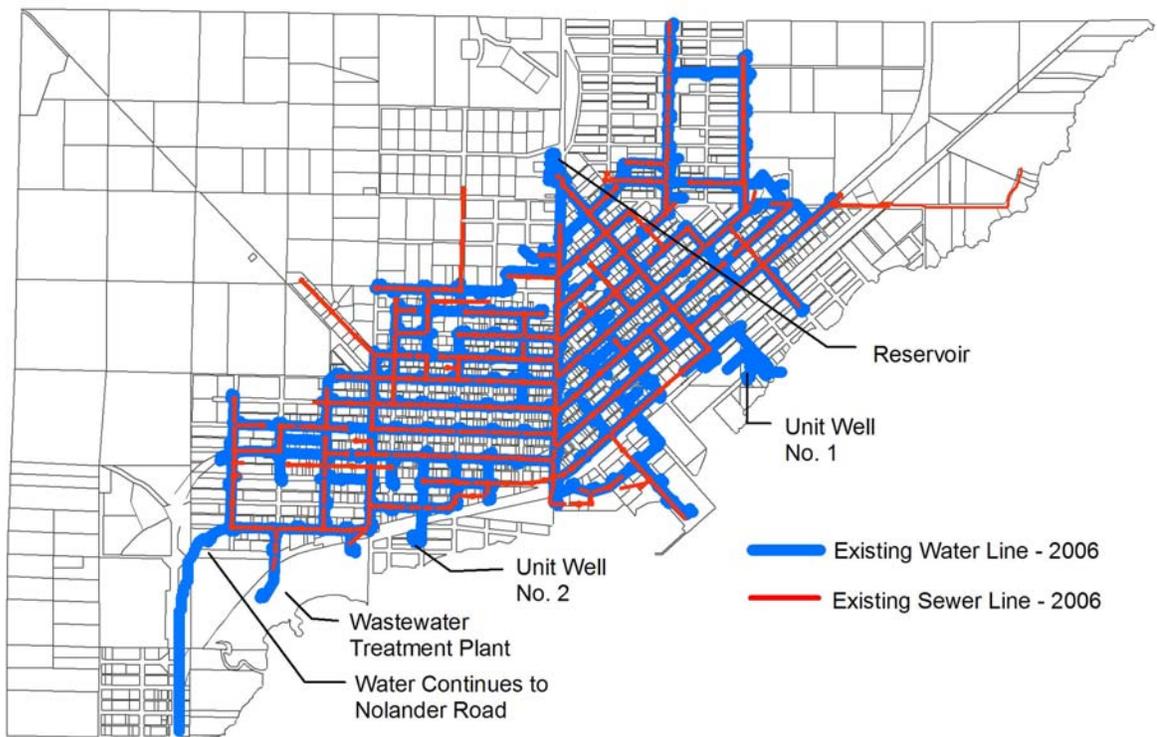


Figure 6-1: Existing Sewer and Water - 2006

### Water Supply

The City of Washburn is fortunate to have consistently high quality drinking water that is among the best municipal drinking water in the country. The Washburn water system serves most properties in the city, but in 2006, there were still roughly 125 private wells in the city. The City is in the process of extending water service to all properties that it can reasonably serve. Two wells, referred to as Well #1 and Well #2, pump water to the City's reservoir for treatment and distribution. Well #1 is the City's main



Water Reservoir on Washington Avenue south of Hillside (SWB, Inc.)

well with a pumping capacity of 450 gallons per minute. It is located on 4th Avenue East near the old pumphouse. Well #2 has a capacity of 375 gallons per minute and is located near Thompson's West End Park. The City's 250,000-gallon reservoir is located on Washington Avenue, south of Hillside.

Washburn extended its municipal water system to the site of the former DuPont Plant in Barksdale, as per an agreement between the City of Washburn, the Town of Barksdale, and the DuPont Company. The Barksdale waterline serves properties in the area that have contaminated wells. The waterline does not have the capacity to address fire protection in that area.

### **Storm Water Management**

In 2000 and 2001, storm water runoff from heavy rains caused considerable damage to property in Washburn. The damage clearly demonstrated the need for a comprehensive storm water management plan. While part of Washburn's storm water management system involves conventional piping of storm water to creeks, ravines, and eventually to Lake Superior, the City also promotes detention and retention best management practices that handle storm water runoff onsite.

In 2005, the Washburn Common Council adopted an ordinance creating a storm water utility. Like the City's water and wastewater utilities, the storm water utility is self-financing. Monthly utility fees pay for the operation, maintenance, and capital improvements of the City's storm water system. The utility helps solve and prevent drainage issues.

The majority of water usage in Washburn comes from residential customers. In 2005, approximately 760 residential customers, 87 commercial customers, and two industrial customers consumed approximately 40,035,000 gallons of water. The average consumption per capita based on water sold in 2005 was 48.4 gallons per day.

In 2006, the City adopted a Wellhead Protection Plan that identifies wellhead protection areas and potential contaminant sources for the City's wells. It also promotes a management strategy for protecting the wells. The plan notes that Washburn's water system is susceptible to some types of contamination, primarily from sanitary sewers and other wells near the City's wells. The City of Washburn also has well-abandonment and cross-connection ordinances.

## **OTHER UTILITIES AND SERVICES**

The following provides an overview of other utilities and services that the City should consider in its planning efforts.

### **Electrical and Natural Gas Service**

Xcel Energy provides electrical and natural gas service to Washburn. Xcel's Bay Front Station, which is located on Ashland's waterfront, is one of four Xcel waste-to-energy facilities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The station can use coal, wood, shredded rubber, or natural gas to generate electricity.

Although Washburn has adequate electrical and natural gas service, the City should address several concerns in consultation with the energy providers. Perhaps the most significant concern relates to an above ground, three-phase power line that runs along the former railroad right-of-way from the western part of Washburn to the Washburn Iron Works facility at



*Existing Three-Phase Power line in the former Railroad Right-of-Way (SWB, Inc.)*

112 East Bayfield Street. Three-phase service is necessary for many types of industrial development. Unfortunately, this above ground power line visually detracts from the views to and from Lake Superior. Moreover, it provides a barrier for future development that could potentially otherwise occur in the former railroad right-of-way where the power line runs. The City and Xcel Energy should work together to explore the possibility of burying or relocating the three-phase power line.

A major natural gas pipeline runs north and south across the western portion of Washburn. While the pipeline does not create major concerns, potential future development in the area will need to respect the pipeline easement. Refer to Figure 6-2: Existing Community Facilities for the location of the natural gas pipeline and the three-phase power line.

### **Telecommunication**

Telecommunication is becoming increasingly important to Washburn residents and businesses. Access to fast and reliable Internet service and a skilled workforce to use the service is becoming a particularly important factor in economic development. Several companies provide telephone, cellular, and Internet service in Washburn. Also, several businesses provide wireless Internet access to their customers. The Ashland campus of the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College has a technology center that offers residents and businesses training in the use of these technologies.

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

All local landfills in Bayfield County have been closed. Solid waste and recyclables from the community are delivered to the transfer station where the materials are sorted then shipped to other sites in Wisconsin or Michigan. The City provides recycling containers in key public areas and encourages residents and businesses to recycle. The City also maintains a site off County Road C in the northwest part of the city for yard waste.



*Existing Recycling Container at Memorial Park (SWB, Inc.)*

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

The City of Washburn has done much to become more energy efficient. In 2006, Mayor Blakely signed the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement that, among other things, promotes energy efficiency. The Public Works Department has replaced incandescent bulbs in city facilities with compact fluorescent bulbs and it has replaced inefficient street lamps with City-owned, energy efficient lamps. It also replaced a conventional water heater with a more energy efficient, tankless, on-demand water heater. While the City has done much to become more energy efficient, there is much more the City can and will do.

### **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

Washburn is the County Seat and largest city in Bayfield County. Consequently, it offers a wide range of community facilities and services that greatly contribute to the economy and to the quality of life in Washburn and the region. The following section describes significant community facilities in Washburn. Refer to Figure 6-2: Existing Community Facilities for a map showing the location of these facilities.

Insert Figure 6-2: Existing Community Facilities



### City Facilities and Services

City Government and Administration. Washburn has a Mayor-Council form of government. As the elected officials of the community, the Mayor and Council receive input from the City's various committees, commissions, City Staff, the public, and others. However, the Council is ultimately responsible for adopting and implementing the City's visions, goals, objectives, policies, plans, and annual budget. The City Administrator receives direction from the Mayor and the Council and is responsible for the overall administration of the City.

Washburn has many different commissions, committees, and boards including the Planning Commission, Economic Development Committee, Housing Authority, the Library Board, the Harbor Commission, the Public Works and Utilities Committee, the Recreation and Leisure Programs Committee, and the Public Health and Safety Committee, to name a few. The City strongly encourages citizen involvement in city government and in all decisions affecting the future of Washburn.

The City Hall is located in a brownstone and brick building at 119 Washington Avenue. It houses the City Administrator, City Clerk, City Treasurer, Police Department, City Assessor, Zoning and Building Code Enforcement Officer, and City Council chambers.

Public Works Department. The Public Works Department is responsible for constructing and maintaining much of the City's infrastructure and community facilities including sewer and water, local streets, and parks. It is located at 502 West Bayfield Street. However, the department would like to study the possibility of constructing a new facility (that better meets their needs) on City land in the northwest corner of Washburn. The existing Bayfield Street facility could then be available for commercial redevelopment.

Public Safety. The Washburn Police Department provides the City of Washburn with police protection. The Department is connected to the Bayfield County Sheriff Department's communication system, which links Washburn Police with the Bayfield County Sheriff and State Highway Patrol units. The Police Department is housed in City Hall.



Washburn City Hall (SWB, Inc.)



Public Works Department at 502 West Bayfield Street (SWB, Inc.)



Washburn Fire Department on the 700 Block of North Washington Avenue (SWB, Inc.)



Washburn Area Ambulance on the 700 Block of North Washington Avenue (SWB, Inc.)

The Washburn Fire Department is a volunteer-driven organization that provides fire suppression and related services to the City of Washburn and the surrounding Towns of Washburn and Bayview. The Fire Department stores its equipment in a building on the 700 block of North Washington Avenue.

The Washburn Area Ambulance Service is a City-owned and operated ambulance service that serves the City of Washburn and several surrounding towns. Volunteer, licensed emergency medical technicians provide emergency medical services. Ambulance equipment is stored in a building on the 700 block of North Washington Avenue next to the Fire Department.

The City should periodically review public safety needs and plan and budget for the necessary facilities, equipment, training, and personnel to ensure Washburn is a safe community.

Washburn Public Library. The Washburn Library serves the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the residents of Washburn and the surrounding area. The library is located in a fully accessible, historic brownstone building at 307 Washington Avenue. Its collection consists of books, audio and visual materials, and serial subscriptions. In addition, the library participates in the Northern Waters Library Service, which provides inter-library loan services and other shared resources. The library also provides programs and events for children and adults. Residents and organizations can use the library meeting rooms for events and they can use the library's wireless Internet access.



*Washburn Library at 307 Washington Avenue (SWB, Inc.)*

DuPont Civic Center. The DuPont Civic Center, also known as the Washburn Civic Center, was originally constructed by the DuPont Corporation for the employees of its Barksdale Plant. However, in 1964, the DuPont Corporation gave the center to Washburn as a gift. The center is located at 3 West Bayfield Street. It houses the City's Recreation Department and Teen Center. It also has a gymnasium and it provides meeting space for senior citizens and civic groups. While the center has served Washburn well for many years, some residents have questioned if the existing center can continue to meet the needs of the community in the future. The City will need to analyze this situation in more detail and develop a plan to ensure that the needs of the community are met.



*DuPont Civic Center at 3 Bayfield Street (SWB, Inc.)*

Washburn Marina and Port. The Washburn Marina is located at the base of Central Avenue, just west of the City's Commercial Dock. Although the City owns the marina, it leases the management of the marina to a private operator. The marina has 138 slips (38 managed by the marina operator and 100 under long-term lease with the Washburn Harbor Commission) and it has four to eight transient, short-term moorings.



*Washburn Marina Ship Store and Maintenance Facility (SWB, Inc.)*

The marina also has a maintenance building, a ship store with offices and a lounge, a fuel dock and pump out, a 150-ton travel lift, washrooms, picnic facilities, and other amenities. Commercial, heated indoor boat storage buildings are available just to the north of the marina. In 2006, the Harbor Commission prepared a Strategic Plan to guide future Marina improvements. Refer to Chapter 4: Waterfront Plan for additional information.



*Washburn Commercial Dock at the foot of Central Avenue (SWB, Inc.)*

The City's Commercial Dock, just east of the Washburn Marina, is one of the last working bulk cargo docks in the area. The City received a grant to improve the dock. Under the conditions of the grant, the City agreed to maintain the dock for commercial use for a set period.

Washburn Parks and Recreation. Washburn has eight parks that offer a variety of recreation experiences:

1. Memorial Park is at the east end of the City's waterfront. The park was originally a recreation area for the employees of the DuPont Corporation Barksdale Plant. However, the DuPont Corporation gave the park to the City as a gift. Park facilities include picnic areas, a picnic shelter, a playground, flush toilets, and 51 campsites (the majority of which have electrical service). The park is heavily wooded and offers excellent views of Lake Superior.
2. Thompson's West End Park is a 27-acre park at the west end of the City's waterfront. Park facilities include an unsupervised swimming beach, a playground, a fishing pier, a boat launch, a play area, a covered picnic shelter, and 51 recreational vehicle and tent camping sites with electrical service. In comparison to Memorial Park, which is more heavily wooded and secluded, Thompson's West End Park hosts many community events and activities.
3. The Washburn Athletic Field Complex is located at 3rd Avenue East and Memorial Park Drive. It has a little league baseball field, a high school baseball field, a softball field, two outdoor skating rinks, a skateboard park, a pavilion with a covered picnic area, concessions, restrooms, and warming house.
4. The Eastside Tennis Courts include two lighted courts that are used by residents and the Washburn Tennis Association. The park



*Secluded Campsites at Memorial Park (SWB, Inc.)*



*Swimming Beach at Thompson's West End Park (SWB, Inc.)*



*Washburn Athletic Field Complex (SWB, Inc.)*

is located on East Third Street next to Autumn Manner.

5. Hillside Court is located at the intersection of Hillside Drive and 5th Avenue West. The park has two lighted tennis courts, a basketball court, play equipment, and a sandlot for informal baseball, football, and soccer games.
6. Jackie's Park is a 2.5-acre park located at the intersection of 3rd Avenue East and East 3rd Street. The park has an open play area, a sandlot ball diamond, and play equipment.
7. Wikdal Park is located at the intersection of Bayfield Street and 3rd Avenue West. It has flowers gardens and shade trees that provide an attractive amenity for the downtown area.
8. Legion Park is adjacent to the Washburn Museum and Cultural Center and the U.S. Forest Washburn District Ranger Station. The park provides a display of flags that acknowledges the service of those who have served or are serving in the military.



*Wikdal Park (SWB, Inc.)*

Washburn also has public conservancy areas and several trails, most notably the Washburn Lakefront Parkway and Walking Trail and the Washburn Snowmobile/ATV Trail. Refer to Chapter 5: Transportation for additional information regarding the trails.

### **Bayfield County**

As the County Seat, Washburn hosts several key Bayfield County facilities including the Bayfield County Courthouse, which serves as the central operations center for county government; the Bayfield County Courthouse Annex and Law Enforcement Center, which serves as the operations center for the Bayfield County Sheriff and County Jail; the Central Office of the Bayfield County Highway Department; and the Bayfield County Forestry Department Garage.



*Bayfield County Courthouse (SWB, Inc.)*

Having the Bayfield County facilities in Washburn benefits the community. However, as discussed in Chapter 3 of this Comprehensive Plan, the Highway Department and Forestry Department facilities are in an area that the City would like to redevelop and/or enhance. Consequently, the City and County have begun cooperatively exploring ways to accommodate the City's vision while ensuring that the County departments continue to function efficiently. One possible solution is to consolidate the Forestry Department facilities with the Highway Department facilities and to enhance the landscaping around the Highway Department facilities.



*District Headquarters of the Chequamegon National Forest (SWB, Inc.)*

### US Forest Service

The district headquarters of the Chequamegon National Forest are located at the intersection of Bayfield Street and 1st Avenue East. Thousands of acres of national forest are located near Washburn. The national forest provides a managed timber source for the forestry industry and it provides numerous recreation opportunities for Washburn residents and visitors, which in turn benefits the Washburn economy.

### Washburn Cultural Center

The Washburn Cultural Center is located in a historic brownstone structure at the intersection of Bayfield Street and Central Avenue. The building, also known as the “old bank building” is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The museum is located on the second floor and includes displays and exhibits that interpret and preserve Washburn’s history. The first floor of the building hosts a gallery with a variety of exhibits.



Washburn Cultural Center (SWB, Inc.)

### Schools

The Washburn School District has three schools; all are located in the City of Washburn. The Washburn Elementary School, located at 411 West 8th Street, developed a plan to be a “green and healthy” school. The DuPont Middle School, the Washburn High School, as well as the District Offices are located at 305 West 4th Street. In 2006, roughly 650 students were enrolled in the Washburn School District. Washburn has one private school. The St. Louis School is a Roman Catholic, pre-kindergarten through 6th grade school, that had an enrollment of roughly 90 students in 2006. In addition, some children in Washburn are home schooled. Washburn’s schools, both public and private, contribute to the community in many positive ways.



Washburn Elementary School (SWB, Inc.)

In general, enrollment in the school district has been slowly declining, and the School District expects it will continue to decline in the future. The City of Washburn and the Washburn School District should continue to coordinate on the enrollment issue and its effect on the community, as well as other issues of mutual concern.

Nearby Ashland, Wisconsin is home to two institutes of higher education. The Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) is a two-year technical college that offers students career training in many different fields, including business, health care, computer technology, and marine repair to name a



St. Louis School (SWB, Inc.)

few. WITC recently built a technology center that houses two state-of-the-art electronic labs, and a computer lab. The center provides computer and technology training to meet the growing demand for employees with those skills. WITC also offers customized training courses for area businesses. Approximately 900 students a year enroll in classes at the WITC campus in Ashland.

Northland College is a private, four-year, environmental liberal arts college. It attracts students that want a broad liberal arts education with an emphasis on environmental studies. Approximately 750 full-time students are enrolled at the college. Northland College is also home to the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, the environmental outreach arm of the college. The Institute works with citizens and communities to develop sustainable practices that are socially and environmentally healthy.

### **Health Care Facilities**

Quality health care facilities exist in and near Washburn. Northern Lights Health Care Center is a not-for-profit health care center that offers long-term care and short-term skilled nursing and rehabilitation services. The center has 77 beds and is located at 706 Bratley Drive in Washburn. The Kreuser Clinic and Chequamegon Assisted Living Facility are located at 320 Superior Avenue, next to the Northern Lights Health Care Center. Community Support Services through New Horizons North provides services, including assistance for mental health and substance abuse. The Bayfield County Health Department also provides Bayfield County residents with public health services, including immunizations and prenatal care coordination. Other counseling, dentist, and chiropractic clinics, as well as a pharmacy, also exist in Washburn.



*Northern Lights Health Care Center (SWB, Inc.)*

Memorial Medical Center, located in nearby Ashland, is the primary health care facility in the region. The hospital has 47 full-time physicians and offers a full range of services including surgery, diagnostic services, rehabilitation services, obstetrics, and behavioral health services to name a few.

### **Religious Institutions**

Washburn has four churches: Messiah Lutheran Church; St. Louis Catholic Church; Washburn United Methodist Church; and Washburn Assembly of God Church. These churches contribute to the social fabric of the City.

### **Cemeteries**

There are two cemeteries in the city. Woodland Cemetery is a municipal cemetery overlooking Lake Superior from West Woodland Drive. Calvary Cemetery is owned by the St. Louis Church and located directly east of Woodland Cemetery on West Woodland Drive.



*St. Louis Church (SWB, Inc.)*

### **Community Events**

Washburn has many celebrations and events throughout the year, some of which attract people from far away. The City's biggest events include Book Across the Bay, the Inland Sea Kayak Symposium,

Brownstone Days, the Superior Vistas Bike Tour, and Pumpkinfest. Several of these events are held at Thompson's West End Park. Washburn also has StageNorth, a professional theater that produces events featuring international, national, regional, and local artists in an intimate theater setting. The Washburn Historical Museum and Cultural Center hosts exhibits and events that attract residents and visitors. The Harmony School of Music is a professional music school located on Highway 13 north of the downtown. In addition to providing music classes, the school has concerts that attract people from across the region.

Many other events in the region also draw people to Washburn. Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua is a year round, nonprofit performing arts organization that hosts concerts, historical musicals, variety shows, and lectures in a 900-seat, state-of-the-art, tent-theater. The tent-theater is located between Washburn and Bayfield, but the offices are headquartered in Washburn. The Bayfield Apple Festival also draws many people to the region in early October.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

The community survey conducted as part of this planning process provided residents with a list of 18 community facilities and services. Residents were asked to rate how satisfied they were with the facility or service. Respondents indicated that they were most satisfied with garbage collection, the public library, and fire and ambulance services. Respondents also indicated that sidewalk maintenance, street maintenance, and storm water drainage needed the most improvement. 61.9% of respondents rated the quality of education in Washburn as excellent or good.

Residents were also given a list of 11 possible capital improvement projects and asked to rate the priority of implementing each project. The projects that received the most number of high priority responses included street maintenance, civic center renovation, sewer system improvements, and storm drainage improvements. When asked if the City of Washburn should support the Bayfield Recreation Center, 32.7% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that Washburn should support the Bayfield Recreation Center and 49.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed. Refer to Appendix A for detailed survey results.

## **GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES**

The following goals are broad statements that reflect the City's vision for land use. They represent the end that the City is striving to attain. The following objectives are specific, measurable, intermediate ends that are achievable and mark progress towards the goals. The following policies are key actions intended to accomplish the stated objectives.

### **Goal 1: Washburn provides cost effective, efficient delivery of community services and facilities that meet the needs of the community.**

Objective 6.1: Plan and implement infrastructure extension, development, and renovations in a cost-effective manner that increases property values, enhances livability, improves community attractiveness, and supports community public health.

Policy 6.1.a: Work with property owners to provide public sewer and water service to those areas in the city that can be logically and sequentially served.

Policy 6.1.b: Discourage "leap-frog" development that would require premature extension of services to areas that cannot be logically and sequentially served.

Policy 6.1.c: Explore the possibility of burying existing above ground utilities (especially the three-phase power line adjacent to Holman Drive) and requiring new utilities in new developments to be placed underground.

Policy 6.1.d: Work with telecommunication providers and others to ensure that Washburn has the necessary telecommunication infrastructure to support the needs of current and future businesses, industries, schools, institutions, and homeowners.

Policy 6.1.e: Implement measures to retain and detain storm water onsite where feasible.

Objective 6.2: Promote energy conservation measures and cleaner forms of energy that reduce the City's dependence on imported energy.

Policy 6.2.a: Support the efforts of energy providers, government agencies and programs, and others to inform residents about energy conservation measures.

Policy 6.2.b: Implement energy conservation measures in all City community facilities as a means to showcase energy conservation measures and to set a positive example for residential, commercial, and industrial uses.

Policy 6.2.c: Encourage energy providers and others to provide financial incentives for businesses and homeowners to conserve energy.

Policy 6.2.d: Work with energy providers, neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions, and others to explore options to provide clean, safe, and sustainable energy production in the Chequamegon Bay area.

Objective 6.3: Ensure that the community continues to be served by adequate waste disposal and recycling facilities.

Policy 6.3.a: Work with waste disposal providers to ensure that waste disposal needs throughout the City are met.

Policy 6.3.b: Promote and encourage residents, businesses, industries, and institutions to reduce, reuse, and recycle products.

Policy 6.3.c: Encourage new business and industry endeavors that can recycle and use waste products in Washburn, rather than shipping all waste products out of the City.

Objective 6.4: Ensure that the buildings, equipment, and staff associated with community services and facilities in Washburn are adequate to meet the needs of the community.

Policy 6.4.a: Study the possibility of replacing the existing Public Works building on Highway 13 with a new Public Works building on existing City property adjacent to County Highway C in northwest Washburn. Explore the possibility of developing a joint facility with Bayfield County and/or surrounding towns. Incorporate green building techniques in any new development.

Policy 6.4.b: Evaluate the building and space needs associated with Washburn's community services and facilities. Develop plans to address needs.

Policy 6.4.c: Plan and budget for City equipment replacement and repair as needed to provide the community with safe and efficient services. Consider energy efficiency and environmental responsibility when upgrading equipment.

Policy 6.4.d: Work with neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions to explore the feasibility and efficiency of jointly purchasing and sharing equipment.

Policy 6.4.e: Evaluate staffing needs and plan accordingly to ensure the safe and efficient delivery of community services.

**Goal 2: Washburn's community facilities and services contribute to the City's high quality of life by meeting the needs of residents and visitors in a fair and efficient manner.**

Objective 6.5: Provide high quality recreational opportunities that meet the needs and desires of residents and visitors.

Policy 6.5.a: Protect and enhance public open space along the waterfront.

Policy 6.5.b: Develop master plans to enhance Thompson's West End Park and Memorial Park.

Policy 6.5.c: Study the feasibility of creating a park on City land southeast of the athletic fields and northeast of the commercial dock.

Policy 6.5.d: Work with the School District, overlapping and neighboring jurisdictions, and others to coordinate and share recreation facilities.

Policy 6.5.e: Provide a variety of summer and winter recreational activities in the park system.

Policy 6.5.f: Maintain the viability of the City's marina and explore ways to expand the marina as per the recommendations of the City's Waterfront Development Plan and the Harbor Commission's Strategic Plan.

Objective 6.6: Provide high quality cultural and educational opportunities and facilities that meet the needs of residents and visitors.

Policy 6.6.a: Ensure that the Washburn Library remains a vital and dynamic community resource.

Policy 6.6.b: Encourage and support additional day care centers and activity centers for people of all ages as per the needs of the community.

Policy 6.6.c: Promote the use of the existing museum and interpretive trails in the downtown and waterfront areas.

Policy 6.6.d: Ensure that the Washburn Civic Center continues to be a vital community center. Explore opportunities to enhance the existing center or build a new center, possibly near Thompson's West End Park.

Policy 6.6.e: Explore opportunities to provide additional gathering spaces for community events like outdoor weddings, outdoor concerts, symposiums, and so on. Consider providing a community shelter/building near the marina and/or Thompson's West End Park.

Objective 6.7: Encourage citizen involvement and responsibility in community affairs.

Policy 6.7.a: Actively solicit citizen participation in City affairs including public meetings, committees, and community events.

Policy 6.7.b: Work with schools and education programs to promote opportunities for youth to be involved in government committees, to attend Planning Commission and City Council meetings, and to participate in mentorship and civic opportunities that develop character and leadership skills.

Policy 6.7.c: Offer internships to area students interested in City government.

## UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

This section summarizes and expands on the key concepts and actions discussed in the inventory and analysis section, and the goals, objectives, and policies section of this chapter (see Figure 6-3: Utilities and Community Facilities Plan).

### UTILITIES PLAN

As an eco-municipality that promotes sustainability through the Natural Step framework, Washburn will strive to limit encroachment on natural areas by encouraging development and redevelopment within the City's planned 2007 – 2027 sewer and water service boundary. However, the City may consider allowing limited extension of public sewer and water (after analyzing the economic, environmental, and social consequences of such a proposal) if the City finds it is in the best interest of the overall community. It should be noted that the City had approved a planned unit development (which subsequently expired) and amended its tax increment financing district for a golf course and housing development along County Highway C. Should that development be completed as originally proposed, utility connections would be required and the sewer and water service boundary would have to be amended. In addition, if the City should ultimately choose to construct a new public works facility in the northwest corner of the city adjacent to County Highway C, the new facility would likely require public sewer and water, which would also require the sewer and water service boundary to be amended.

Washburn will work to protect the natural environment by implementing best management practices for storm water runoff. For example, the City, in consultation with others, may develop and implement plans for regional treatment of runoff that cannot otherwise be treated onsite. Washburn will work to ensure that existing septic systems in the city are safe and environmentally sound. In consultation with Xcel Energy, the City will explore the costs and benefits of burying or relocating the existing three-phase power line.

The City will work to reduce the use of scarce natural resources by promoting energy and water conservation measures. The City will also be an active participant in discussions with energy providers, neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions, and others to explore options to provide clean, safe, and sustainable energy production in the region. Washburn will also promote and implement measures to reduce, reuse, recycle, and share materials and equipment.

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

As an eco-municipality that promotes sustainability through the Natural Step framework, the City of Washburn is committed to meeting human needs fairly and efficiently. As such, Washburn will ensure that its community facilities meet the needs of its residents. Parks, schools, community events, and public participation in civic affairs, help make Washburn a city "where community matters." Washburn recognizes it cannot survive if it does not adequately coordinate and balance the social, economic, and environmental components of the community.

The Community Facilities Plan strongly promotes broad based citizen involvement in the planning process as a way to understand and respond to the needs of the community. For example, the Plan encourages residents to participate on planning committees and at public meetings. The Plan suggests that the City offer internships to students interested in City government and civic affairs, and that City leaders proactively meet with residents and businesses to listen to concerns and suggestions.

The Plan recognizes that Washburn's parks, open spaces, and waterfront contribute greatly to the quality of life in Washburn. In particular, the City will protect and enhance public open space along the waterfront. The City will also develop and implement a master plan for Thompson's West End Park, Memorial Park, and the public open space adjacent to the commercial dock. It will promote trails, interpretive exhibits, and community facilities that celebrate the waterfront. It will also implement the recommendations of the Harbor Commission's Strategic Plan for the Washburn Marina. The City will develop a plan for adaptive reuse of the old pumphouse for public use. Refer to Chapter 4: Waterfront and Coastal Resources for additional information.

Washburn will study the costs and benefits of developing a new public works facility on City land adjacent to County Road C in the northwest corner of the city. The City will explore opportunities to share the facility and/or equipment with neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions. The City of Washburn will work with Bayfield County to discuss options for consolidating the County Forestry Department with the County Highway Department facilities. Washburn will also develop and implement a plan to address the needs of the Washburn Civic Center. The Washburn School District, the City of Washburn, and neighboring communities will continue to discuss the needs of the School District and the future of the Middle School and High School in Washburn.

Washburn accepts its obligation to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents. Consequently, it will ensure that its police, fire, and emergency medical services are properly staffed and equipped. In addition, the City of Washburn will provide quality of life facilities and services (including parks, libraries, and community events) based on public need and desire. Therefore, the City will involve the public in refining plans and setting priorities for maintaining and enhancing community facilities and services in Washburn.