

## 4. Utilities and Community Facilities

This section contains an inventory of the public utilities and community facilities currently provided in the Town of Delta. It is intended that this inventory will help identify deficiencies and opportunities relative to meeting the present and future needs of the community.

Recommendations for improved utilities and community facilities may include both the short term (one to five years) and long term (six to 20 years). Map 4-1 identifies the location of existing facilities and utility service areas in the Town of Delta. Map 4-2 identifies the approximate locations of all known physical improvements tentatively planned for community facilities and utilities. Note that the improvements identified on Map 4-2 are not necessarily approved or limited by adopting this comprehensive plan and may change with more detailed planning.

### 4.1 Administrative Facilities and Services

All town administrative duties are conducted at the Town Hall located at 15990 County Road H. The Bayfield County Courthouse, located in Washburn, serves as the central operations center for county government. The Town of Delta anticipates that existing administrative facilities and services are adequate to meet the needs of the town throughout the planning period.

#### Public Buildings

Town owned and operated public buildings include the Town Hall, garage, sand/salt storage facility, and a recycling center. The Town of Delta anticipates the need for expanded and rehabilitated public building facilities during the planning period. A new town garage was completed in 2004. Maintenance of the town hall foundation is needed within six to 20 years.

### 4.2 Schools

The Town of Delta is served by the Drummond Area School District. Three public schools are included within the District including Drummond Elementary, Drummond Jr. High School, and Drummond High School. None of these schools are located in the town. All students are bussed to school facilities in Drummond. The following table and figure display enrollment figures for these schools from 1996 to 2002.

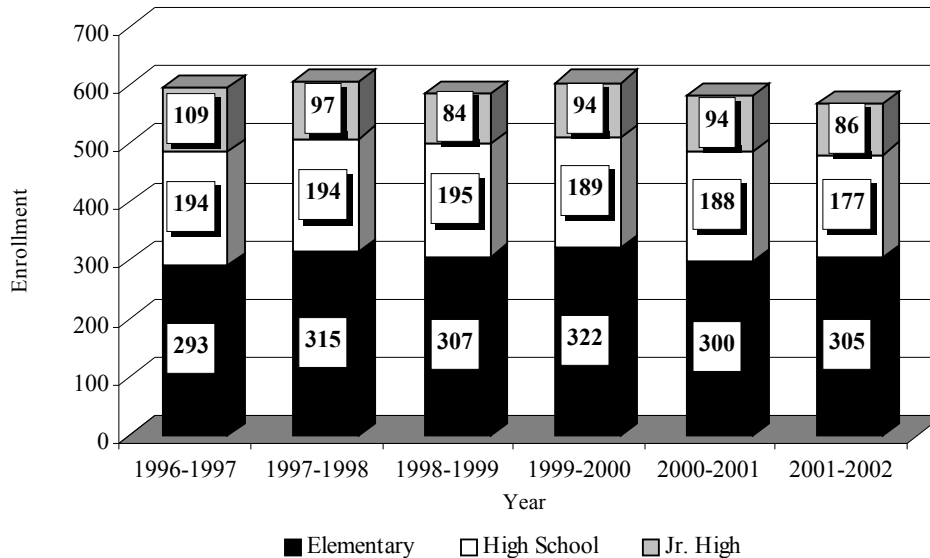
Table 4-1: School Enrollment, Drummond Area School District, 1996-2002

Year	Elementary	High School	Jr. High	Total
1996-1997	293	194	109	596
1997-1998	315	194	97	606
1998-1999	307	195	84	586
1999-2000	322	189	94	605
2000-2001	300	188	94	582
2001-2002	305	177	86	568

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2002.

#### Map 4-1, Utilities and Community Facilities

Figure 4-1: School Enrollment, Drummond Area School District, 1996-2002



Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2002.

Enrollment in the Drummond School District has been fairly consistent for the six school years shown in Table 4-1 and Figure 4-1. The 2001-2002 school year experienced a slight decrease in Jr. High and High School enrollment when compared to the previous year, however elementary enrollment increased slightly.

**2007-2008 Delta Enrollments in Drummond School District**

ELEMENTARY	18	3 open enrollment – out of district
MIDDLE SCHOOL	4	0
HIGH SCHOOL	<u>21</u>	<u>3</u>
Subtotal	43	6

TOTAL SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN IS 49.

The Town of Delta anticipates that existing educational facilities will generally be adequate to meet the needs of the town throughout the planning period. A local transportation improvement related to educational facilities is needed within one to five years. Delta-Drummond Road is the primary bus route for students in the Town of Delta. Delta should cooperate with the Town of Drummond and the U.S. Forest Service in reconstructing Delta-Drummond Road.

**4.3 Protective Services**

**Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services**

The Town of Delta has an agreement with the Iron River Volunteer Fire Department for fire protection service, and with the Iron River Ambulance service for emergency medical service. Both agreements are one year contracts. The cost of service is based on the valuation of the real estate in the Town of Delta, and the total cost for both services in 2008 was approximately \$34,000.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides forest fire protection on all lands in Bayfield County except U.S. Forest Service lands, where the DNR provides assistance when requested. The U.S. Forest Service has primary responsibility for fire control on federal lands.

The Town of Delta anticipates the need for expanded fire protection services. A fire truck housed in the town is a future possibility. Ongoing monitoring of the adequacy of fire protection is needed.

### **Police Protection**

Police service for the town is provided by the Bayfield County Sheriffs Department. Located in Washburn, the courthouse annex serves as the operations center for the Department. This facility also houses the county jail and other county government offices. The Town of Delta does not employ any law enforcement staff of its own. The Town of Delta anticipates that existing police protection is adequate to meet the needs of the town throughout the planning period.

### **4.4 Quasi-Public Facilities**

The Town of Delta anticipates that all quasi-public facilities identified below are adequate to meet the needs of the town throughout the planning period.

#### **Post Office**

Residents of the western portion of the Town of Delta are served by the Iron River post office, and residents of the east-side of the town are served by the Mason post office. The Iron River post office is located at 7830 W. Mill Street. The Mason post office is located at 24675 County Highway E.

#### **Library**

There are six public libraries located in Bayfield County, none of which are located within the town. The following list identifies the libraries of the county.

- ◆ Bayfield Carnegie Library, Bayfield
- ◆ Washburn Public Library, Washburn
- ◆ Mazinaigan Waakaigan, Red Cliff
- ◆ Evelyn Goldberg Briggs Memorial Library, Iron River
- ◆ Forest Lodge Library, Cable
- ◆ Drummond Public Library, Drummond
- ◆ Northern Waters Library Service, Ashland (mail order book service)

#### **Cemeteries and Churches**

The Delta Cemetery is located on Delta Cemetery Road. Saint Paul's United Church of Christ is located in the Town of Delta on Pike River Road.

## 4.5 Public Outdoor Recreation

The Town of Delta anticipates that the public outdoor recreation facilities identified below will generally be adequate to meet the needs of the town throughout the planning period. There is a potential long-term need for additional local park facilities. The adequacy of park facilities should be evaluated at some point in the next 6 to 20 years.

### **Parks and Open Space**

The Town of Delta owns approximately 150 acres of open space including one wayside park. The T.R. Mafit Wayside Park and Boat (canoe) Launch is located on Pike River Road and provides a picnic area and access to the White River.

The Delta Lake Campground is a county owned campground located within the town. There are 31 campsites, a swimming beach, boat launch, playground, handicap accessible fishing pier, mountain bike trailhead, and an RV dump station available for use.

The Chequamegon National Forest includes about 21,000 acres of federally owned public land in the Town of Delta. These lands provide access to forests, streams, lakes, trails, campgrounds, wilderness areas, and a multitude of recreational opportunities. See the *Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources* element for a more detailed description of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

The Rainbow Lake Wilderness Area is located within the Chequamegon National Forest and occupies over 6,500 acres in the Towns of Delta and Drummond. Wilderness Areas may contain features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value and provide opportunities for hiking, rustic camping, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The North Country Trail traverses the Rainbow Lake Wilderness, and its course follows the remnants of several narrow-grade railroads used for logging in the early 1900s.

The White River State Fishery Area, located partially within the Town of Delta, includes approximately 2,400 acres of state-owned public land. Within Delta, these lands provide public access to forested lands, the White River, the S. Fork of the White River, Kern Creek, and Bolen Creek. Deer, ruffed grouse, snowshoes hare, bears, and otters are principal wildlife found in the area, and hunting, fishing, and trapping are all permitted activities.

### **Non-Motorized Trails**

The Mellen-Ruth Lake segment of the North County Trail traverses the western half of the Town of Delta. This 60 mile hiking trail became the namesake of the seven-state North Country Trail Association (NCTA) and was completed years before the organization was formed. The NCTA is a nonprofit organization with the mission of completing the North Country National Scenic Trail over a 4,000 mile route. It utilizes a national network of volunteers, local chapters, partner organizations, and government agencies. The Chequamegon Chapter of the NCTA maintains the trail segment that passes through Delta. This trail allows hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding during the summer, and snow shoeing and cross country skiing in the winter. Camping is allowed trailside and in four designated campgrounds along the route.

The Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) maintains trails throughout the national forest including several in the Town of Delta. CAMBA is a private organization based in Cable, Wisconsin with the mission of promoting and developing the sport of bicycling by engaging in activities that encourage tourism and recreation in balance with the natural environment. The Delta Lake Campground is a trailhead for about 20 miles of marked trails within the Town of Delta.


### **Motorized Trails**

According to the *Bayfield County Snowmobile Map*, 2003 Edition, several designated snowmobile trails are located in the Town of Delta. State Corridor 4, or the Delta Trail, traverses the northeast segment of the town connecting Mason to Iron River. State Corridor 31, or the Buckskin Trail, traverses the western edge of the town connecting Iron River with Barnes. Other routes follow Scenic Drive, West Delta Road, and North Delta Road. Approximate locations of official 2003 snowmobile routes are shown on Map 4-1, Utilities and Community Facilities.

All roads posted as such are available for ATV use in the Town of Delta. The town has developed an ATV ordinance and annually updates it.

### **Public Access to Water**

The *Wisconsin Lakes Book* (WDNR, 2001) indicates that there are 30 publicly accessible lakes in the Town of Delta. Improved boat ramps are listed for Bass Lake, Bellevue Lake, Camp One Lake, Delta Lake, Ruth Lake, Tub Lake, and Twin Bear Lake. Other access points include trails, roadside access, wilderness access and navigable connections from other accessible lakes. Streams in the town are accessible from road crossings, within the White River State Fishery Area, within the Chequamegon National Forest, and from the town's Wayside Park.



**Lake  
Connections**

There are at least 30 publicly accessible lakes in the Town of Delta. Access includes boat ramps, trails, wilderness, roadside, and navigable access from connected lakes.

## **4.6 Solid Waste Management and Recycling**

Solid waste and recyclable materials are collected by residents and dropped off at the local collection site. The collection site for both solid waste and recyclable material is near the town hall. Waste Management of Northern Wisconsin transports solid waste and recyclables to landfills and processing facilities out of the area.

The Town of Delta operated a local landfill from 1973 to 1987 at which time the site was closed. A 2001 study of the closed landfill included measurements of the mercury levels in the soil and erosion potential of the site. The mercury levels at the site were not found to be a threat to the environment, as no soil guideline levels were exceeded. No erosion problems were found at the time, but a potential future erosion problem was found, and corrective measures were recommended. The site is now owned by Bayfield County and was being auctioned in the fall of 2008 but was withdrawn after urging from the state.

The Town of Delta anticipates the need for expanded solid waste management facilities. Continued monitoring of the efficiency and effectiveness of the town's solid waste and recycling systems is needed.

#### 4.7 Communication and Power Facilities

##### **Power and Energy**

Electrical service within the county is provided through three providers; Xcel Energy, Bayfield Electric Cooperative, and Dahlberg Light & Power Company. The providers that serve the Town of Delta include Bayfield Electric Cooperative and Dahlberg Light & Power Company. Natural gas service is not available in the Town of Delta. The Town of Delta anticipates that existing power facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the town throughout the planning period.

##### **Communication**

CenturyTel and Chequamegon Telephone provide telephone service. There are five wireless communication towers within Bayfield County. Cable television services are partially available in the town. The Town of Delta anticipates the need for improved communication services. The town should support land use decisions that will improve access to wireless phone service and high speed internet service.

#### 4.8 Sanitary Sewer Service/Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS)

The Town of Delta does not have any public sewer or wastewater treatment facilities, so residents and businesses must rely on private on-site wastewater treatment systems (septic systems). According to the Bayfield County Zoning Department, nearly all systems installed in the town are conventional systems (below ground drain fields). In the eastern portions of the town where finer textured soils are present, mound systems or other non-conventional systems may be necessary. However, fewer systems are being installed in this area, as most of the new growth has been concentrated around the lakes. The Town of Delta anticipates that the use of POWTS will be adequate to meet the needs of the town throughout the planning period.

#### 4.9 Public Water Supply

The town does not operate a public water supply system. Residents depend on private wells for water. The Town of Delta anticipates that the use of private wells will be adequate to meet the needs of the town throughout the planning period.

#### 4.10 Stormwater Management

Stormwater is generally handled by road ditches and culverts. There are no other engineered stormwater management facilities in the town. The Town of Delta anticipates the need for ongoing maintenance of its stormwater management facilities. The ongoing assessment of the quality of the ditches and culverts along town roads is needed. The replacement of culverts should continue at a rate of five per year.

#### 4.11 Health and Day Care Facilities

There are no health or day care facilities located in the Town of Delta. The nearest hospital is the Memorial Medical Center in Ashland. The nearest day care facilities are located in Iron River and Ashland. The Town of Delta anticipates that existing health care and child care facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the town throughout the planning period. The Lakes Community Health Center opened in 2008 at 7665 US Highway 2. Phone is (715) 372-5001.

#### 4.12 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals and Objectives

Community goals are broad, value-based statements expressing public preferences for the long term (20 years or more). They specifically address key issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the community.

Objectives are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to fulfillment of the goal.

##### **Goal 1) 1Maintain the high quality of town government, facilities, services, and utilities at the lowest cost.**

###### ***Supporting Objectives:***

- ◆ 1Monitor the adequacy of public utilities to accommodate anticipated future growth and economic development.
- ◆ 1Evaluate impacts to community facilities and community services when reviewing development proposals.
- ◆ Support land use decisions that will improve access to wireless phone and high speed internet service in the Town of Delta and that are consistent with other comprehensive plan goals and objectives. 1Monitor and evaluate town service agreements annually.
- ◆ Pursue options for joint purchasing, trading, renting, sharing, or contracting in cooperation with neighboring communities before the purchase of new community facilities or equipment or the reinstatement of service agreements.

##### **Goal 2) 1Promote a variety of recreational opportunities within the community.**

###### ***Supporting Objectives:***

- ◆ 1Recognize the need to accommodate all age groups and abilities in recreational pursuits.
- ◆ Explore the logistics to develop a recreational park for the residents and visitors to potentially include basketball court, tennis court, playground equipment and picnic area.
- ◆ Support the creation of a town website that catalogs available recreational resources.

- ◆ 1Continue to work with service clubs and organizations related to the maintenance and development of recreational facilities for both motorized and non-motorized activities.
- ◆ 1Provide adequate signage for public access.
- ◆ 1Maintain and improve existing public access to waterways.
- ◆ Consider the continued viability and quality of recreational pursuits when reviewing development proposals and making land use decisions.

**Goal 3) Ensure proper disposal of wastewater to protect ground and surface water resources.**

*Supporting Objectives:*

- ◆ Oppose the development of parcels without adequate space for private onsite waste treatment systems and replacement areas.
- ◆ Explore alternative onsite waste treatment options where appropriate.

**Goal 4) 1Ensure that roads, structures, and other improvements are reasonably protected from flooding.**

*Supporting Objectives:*

- ◆ 1Evaluate the possibility and need for the creation of a stormwater management plan.
- ◆ 1Prevent increased runoff from new developments to reduce potential flooding and flood damage.
- ◆ 1Evaluate the adequacy of existing and proposed culverts and bridges.

**Goal 5) 1Ensure that police, fire, and emergency services are appropriate for the existing and future needs and demands of the town and its land uses.**

*Supporting Objectives:*

- ◆ 1Evaluate current service agreements.
- ◆ 1Prepare a long-term plan regarding the maintenance and acquisition of emergency services and equipment.
- ◆ 1Maintain a working relationship with law enforcement to ensure a safe community.



**Goal 6)      Ensure the availability of state of the art recycling and solid waste disposal.**  
Map 4-2, Planned Community Facility and Transportation Improvements

#### 4.13 Utilities and Community Facilities Policies and Recommendations

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focused responses to the issues that the town is concerned about. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the town can use to aid in making land use decisions.

Policies identify the way in which activities are conducted in order to fulfill the goals and objectives. Policies that direct action using the words “will” or “shall” are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the *Town of Delta Year 2030 Comprehensive Plan*. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word “should” are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the town should be prepared to complete. The completion of these actions and projects is consistent with the town’s policies, and therefore will help the town fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives.

##### **Policies**

- ◆ The Town of Delta will consider both the impacts to local property taxes and to the quality of life for its residents and visitors when reviewing any proposed change to the provision of town facilities or services.
- ◆ The Town of Delta will utilize an open public process and a planned approach when considering the use of town roads, rights-of-way, or lands as recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized uses.

##### **Recommendations**

1. Repair the foundation of the town hall.
2. Assess need for a fire truck in the town and continue to monitor the adequacy of fire protection.
3. Evaluate the need for a Community Recreational Park Facility to include basketball court, tennis court, and playground and picnic facility. Evaluate need for maintenance and further development of this facility.
4. Replace five culverts per year on town roads and continue to monitor the effectiveness of stormwater management along town roads.

#### 4.14 Utilities and Community Facilities Programs

The following programs are available to the Town of Delta to further the established utility and community facility goals, objectives, and policies. The following list is not all-inclusive. Programs and funding procedures will change over time; therefore the town should contact program sponsors for specific information regarding a listed program.

## **Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)**

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction offers several grants, programs, and aid to communities with respect to school facilities, services, and education improvement. Through the DPI web-site, [www.dpi.state.wi.us](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us), a link titled *Grant Information* offers a comprehensive listing (ordered alphabetically with their respective ID number, description, and type of grant). Links are provided to pages with grant details, special requirements, and contact information.

### **1Community Development Block Grant for Public Facilities (CDBG-PF)**

The Wisconsin CDBG Public Facilities Program is designed to assist economically distressed smaller communities with public facility improvements. Some eligible activities for funding include utility and street improvements, fire stations and emergency vehicles, and community/senior centers and shelters. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce, Bureau of Community Finance should be contacted for further information.

### **Rural Community Assistance Program**

The Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) is administered by the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP) to assure safe drinking water and sanitary waste disposal for low- and moderate-income rural Wisconsin communities. The Wisconsin RCAP provides comprehensive services and technical assistance to small, low- to moderate-income rural communities from problem-identification through implementation of acceptable, affordable solutions. RCAP services enable community staff to develop capacity to implement water, wastewater, and solid waste projects and assists the community in coordinating efforts with consultants and government agencies. For further information visit the WISCAP web-page.

### **Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks**

Funds are available to assist local communities acquire and develop public outdoor recreation areas as per s. 23.09 (20), Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities, villages, and Indian Tribes with an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan are eligible to apply. The program is offered by the WDNR, Bureau of Community Financial Assistance. There is a 50% local match required. Awards are granted on a competitive basis. Acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas are eligible projects. Priority is given to the acquisition of land where a scarcity of outdoor recreation land exists.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Grant (Cleansweep)**

Funds are available to municipalities to create and operate local "clean sweep" programs for the collection and disposal of household hazardous waste. Any type of program for the collection and disposal of household hazardous wastes, including permanent collection programs, are eligible. The program is offered from the WDNR, Bureau of Community Financial Assistance. The Northwest Cleansweep program, covering a 10 county region including Bayfield, has been operating since 1995. The Northwest Regional Planning Commission operates the Northwest Cleansweep program.

## **Well Compensation Grant**

Funds are available for the replacement of contaminated private water supply wells. The owner or lessee of a residential well contaminated by a substance of public health concern, other than bacteria or nitrates, or a livestock well contaminated by a substance other than bacteria is eligible. Wells serving commercial establishments only are not eligible. Persons whose annual family income is more than \$65,000 are not eligible. Cost sharing is provided at 75% but not more than \$9,000. The amount of the grant is reduced by \$.30 for each \$1.00 of the applicant's annual family income over \$45,000. Eligible types of projects include reconstructing an existing well, drilling a new well, connecting to an uncontaminated private or public water supply or state approved treatment unit, and temporarily purchasing bottled or trucked water. Contact the WDNR for further information.

## **Wisconsin Fund**

The Wisconsin fund provides grants to homeowners and small commercial businesses to offset a portion of the cost of repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of existing failing POWTS. Through an appropriation by the state legislature, \$3.5 million is currently available on an annual basis in 66 of Wisconsin's counties. Wisconsin Department of Commerce, Safety and Buildings Division works in conjunction with county government officials who assist individuals in eligibility considerations and preparation of grant applications. A portion of the Wisconsin Fund is set aside for Safety and Buildings to fund experimental POWTS, with the goal of identifying additional POWTS choices for people faced with replacement of their failing POWTS. The Wisconsin Fund Grants Specialist is Jean Joyce, [jjoyce@commerce.state.wi.us](mailto:jjoyce@commerce.state.wi.us), (608) 267-7113.

## **Assistance to Firefighting Grant Program**

The program is administered by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The program assists rural, urban, and suburban fire departments to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, expand firefighting health and safety programs, purchase new equipment, and invest in EMS programs. For information regarding the grant contact FEMA Grant Program staff at 1-866-274-0960. For the most current information regarding grant awards and any other USFA projects, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).