

**UTILITIES AND
COMMUNITY
FACILITIES
ELEMENT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this section is to inventory existing utilities and community facilities in the Town of Highland. Utilities and community facilities, often referred to as public works, is the physical infrastructure that allows a community to function and grow. Community facilities may include libraries, municipal offices, schools, police stations, fire stations, parks, etc. Many of the community facilities are supported by utilities including water services, sewer system, stormwater drainage, electricity, etc. This section also includes projections of when the municipalities may need to upgrade utilities in order to efficiently and effectively support the needs of the population.



Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(d)

(d) Utilities and Community Facilities

A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the local governmental unit such as sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment technologies, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunications facilities, power-generating plants and transmission lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, childcare facilities and other public facilities, such as police, fire and rescue facilities, libraries, schools and other governmental facilities. The element shall describe the location, use and capacity of existing public utilities and community facilities that serve the local governmental unit, shall include an approximate timetable that forecasts the need in the local governmental unit to expand or rehabilitate existing utilities and facilities or to create new utilities and facilities and shall assess future needs for government services in the local governmental unit that are related to such utilities and facilities.

UTILITY AND COMMUNITY FACILITY POLICIES

The following are the utilities and facilities policies for the Town of Highland.

- **Encourage well testing as a means of protecting drinking water supplies for private, individual well users.**

For rural residents, groundwater protection starts at home. The best and most important first step to safe drinking water is having homeowners test their wells. Providing reminders (perhaps through a mailing) for residents to check their wells can be a useful way for the Town to help protect public health.

There are a variety of contaminants that can be in well water and testing for them depends on the type and toxicity of the contaminant. At a minimum, all private wells should be checked annually for Coliform bacteria and nitrates. Other contaminants such as pesticides, lead, copper, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), arsenic, radium, boron, radon, and fluoride are tested on differing schedules, some on an as need basis, others only once for the life of the well.

- **Educate landowners on the management and maintenance of private septic systems.**

Proper siting of septic tanks and drain fields is extremely important in protecting groundwater, which is the Town of Highland's source of drinking water. Educate Town residents to be aware of their septic systems requirements which are explained fully in Comm 83, the State's new private septic system regulation that establishes standards and criteria for the design, installation, inspection, and management of private onsite wastewater treatment systems ("POWTS"). All septic systems need inspection and maintenance in order to function properly.

- **Develop a stormwater management strategy to protect ground and drinking water supplies.**

A Town level stormwater management strategy could outline recommendations and techniques to reduce soil erosion, retain or create buffer strips near surface waters, educate the public on non-point source pollution, emphasize conservation agricultural practices, and other such activities that all help reduce the amount of runoff entering the hydrologic system.

- **Develop a strategy for siting telecommunication ("cell") towers.**

Identifying ahead of time what locations are most suitable and desirable for telecommunication towers will give the Town some measure of control in where towers are placed in the community. This can help prevent towers being placed in locations that are offensive aesthetically or create negative impacts on the local environment.

- **Ensure that new development bears a fair share of capital improvement costs necessitated by the development.**

When approving new developments, be aware of the costs attributed to public works projects such as road or bridge improvements.

- **Guide new growth to areas that are most efficiently served with utilities.**

Extending public utilities (roads, water, sewer) to new development can be very expensive, especially if the development is far from the existing infrastructure. Refer to Section B, Housing Element for recommended housing development locations in the Town.

PUBLIC UTILITIES**WATER SYSTEM STATISTICS**

Private wells supply approximately 300 households and ten businesses in Highland.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Private septic systems treat wastewater from approximately 300 households and ten businesses in the Town of Highland.

SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICTS

There are no special service districts in the Town of Highland.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

The Town of Highland does not have a stormwater management strategy.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

See Map D.1 at the end of this section for locations of various community facilities and utilities.

POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Town of Highland police protection is provided by the Iowa County Sheriff Department. The Highland Joint Fire District and the Highland Joint Rescue Squad provide fire and rescue services, respectively.

RECYCLING AND GARBAGE

Highland participates in a solid waste disposal and recycling program by providing a recycling/pick-up site at the Town Hall for garbage and recyclables.

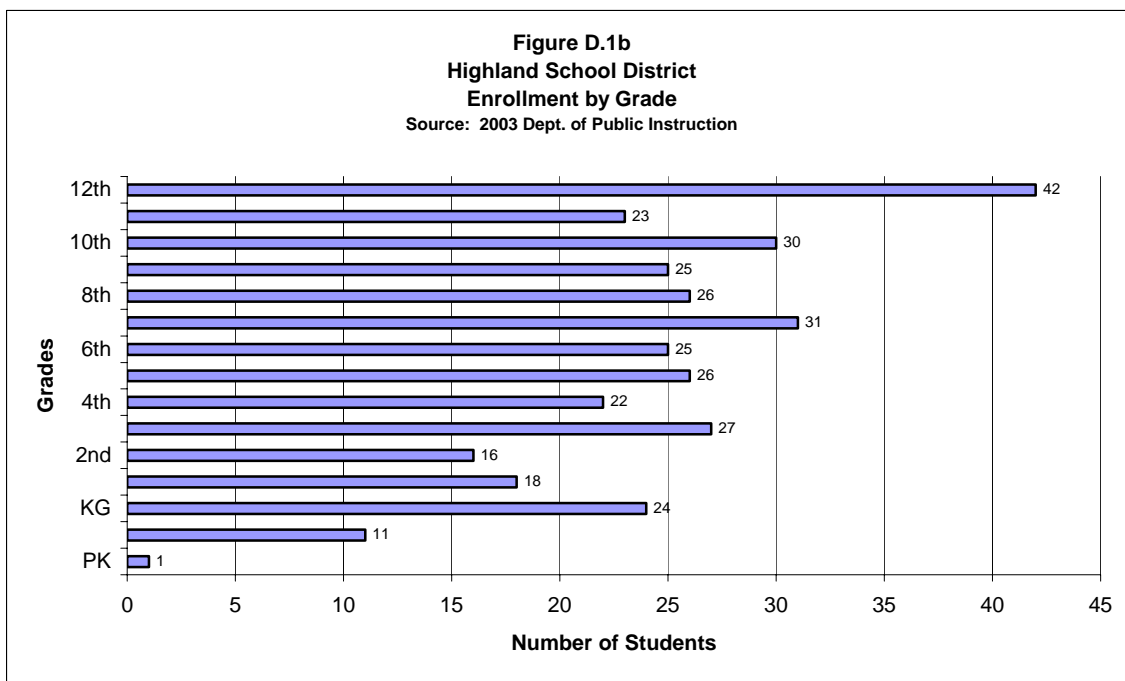
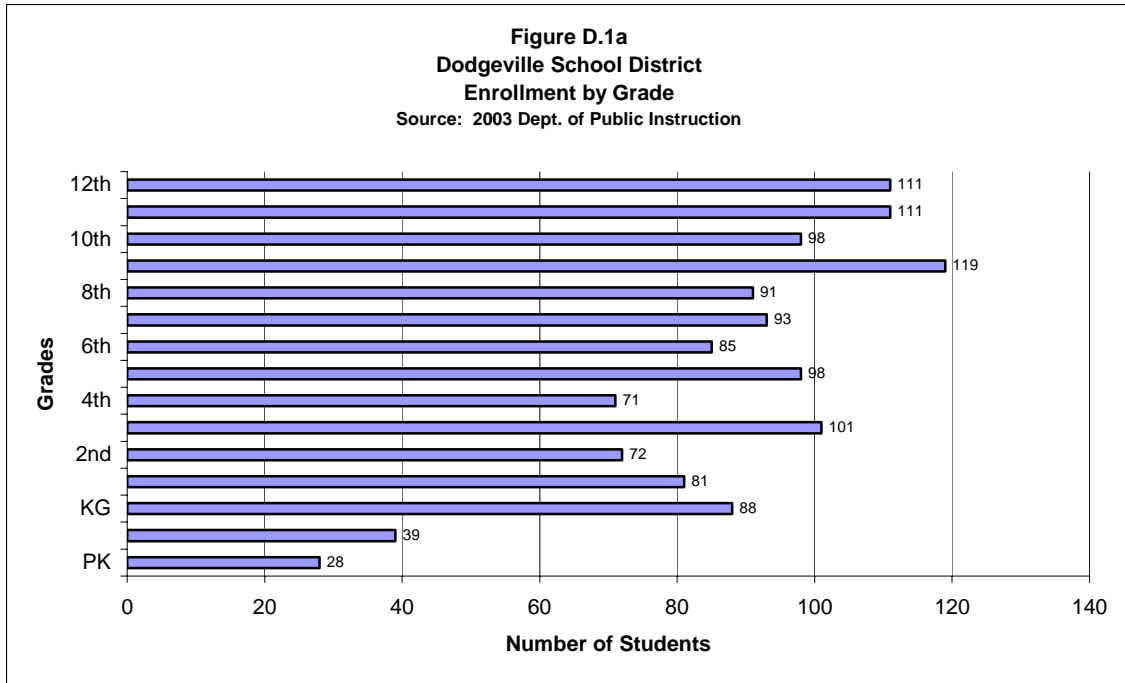
MUNICIPAL BUILDING/ LIBRARY SERVICES

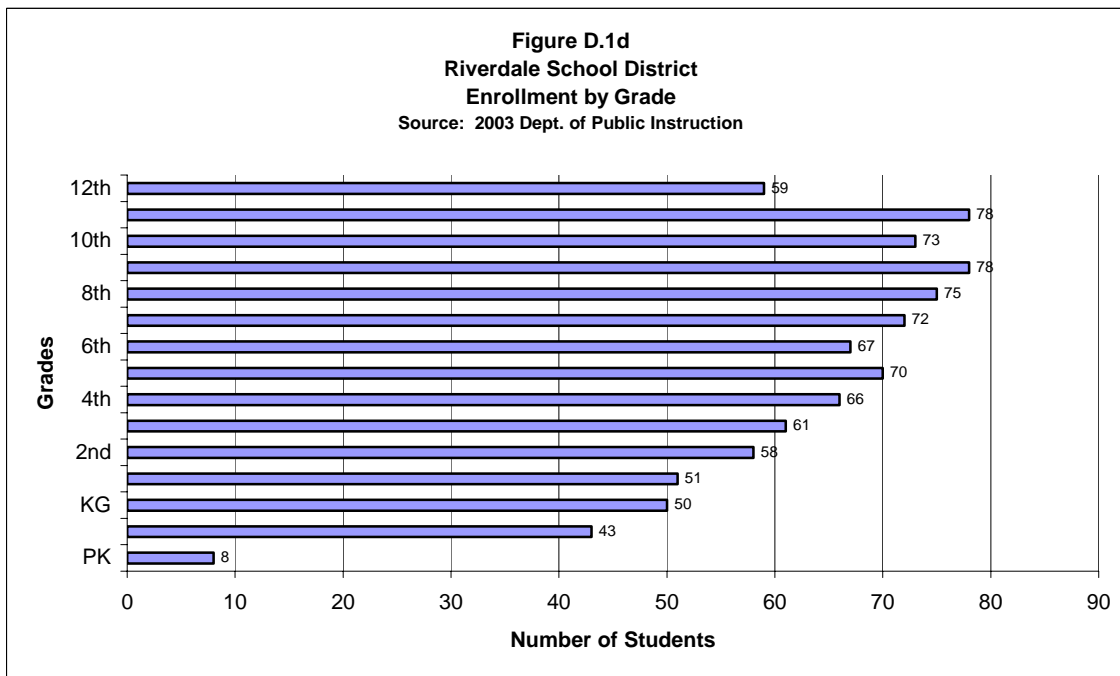
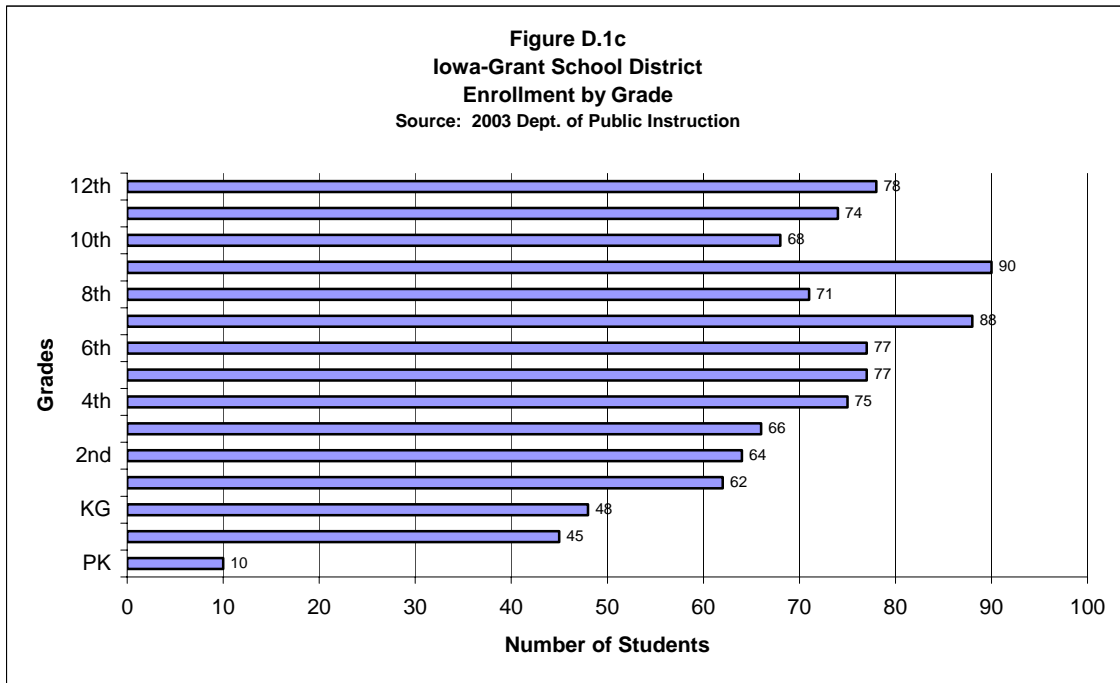
The Highland Town Hall and Shop are located at 844 N. Main Street in the Village of Highland. There is no library located in the Town of Highland, but residents have access to the public libraries in Iowa County.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Highland Public School is located in the Village of Highland. There are no private schools. Other public schools that serve the Town of Highland are within the Dodgeville, Iowa-Grant, and Riverdale School Districts.

According to Department of Public Education data, in 2003-2004 the Dodgeville School District had 1286 students, Highland School District had 347 students, Iowa-Grant School District had 993, and the Riverdale School District had 909. Figures D.1a, D.1b, D.1c, and D.1d below show the enrollment by grade in each District. See Map D.2 for all school districts in Iowa County.





HIGHER EDUCATION

The nearest colleges and universities are located in Fennimore (Southwest Wisconsin Technical College), Platteville (UW-Platteville), and Richland Center (UW-Richland). These institutions offer educational opportunities including certificates, technical diplomas, associate, bachelor, and master’s degrees.

HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

There are no healthcare facilities located within the Town of Highland. However, residents of the Town do have access to a variety of healthcare providers. Hospital services are provided by Upland Hills in Dodgeville. Medical clinics serving the Town include Blackhawk Area Health, Richland Center Clinic, and St Mary’s/Dean Care in Dodgeville. Other medical facilities available to Town residents are Bloomfield Manor and Riverdale Manor. See Appendix D-3 for healthcare facilities in southwest Wisconsin.

CEMETERIES

Please refer to Section E, Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element for information on local cemeteries.

CHILDCARE

No childcare facilities are located in the Town of Highland and the Plan Commission did not identify any childcare facilities that would serve the Town.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Please refer to Section E, Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element for information on local parks and recreational facilities.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER UTILITIES

The WHHI radio tower is in the Town of Highland. See Map D-1 at the end of this section for location. The Planning Commission did not indicate whether the Town has taken a formal position on future telecommunication tower locations.

COMMUNITY FACILITY/UTILITY PROJECTS

No community facility/utility projects are planned at this time.

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

There are a number of state and federal agencies and programs to assist communities with public works projects. Below are brief descriptions of various agencies and programs. Contact information is provided for each agency. To find out more specific information or which program best fits your needs contact the agency directly.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – RURAL DEVELOPMENT (USDA-RD)
COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM**

The community facilities grant program provides grants to assist the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 people. The objective of the agency is to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities providing essential services to rural residents. This can include the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation. All projects funded by the RHS grant program must be for public use.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF WISCONSIN

4949 Kirschling Ct
Stevens Point, WI 54481
Phone: (715) 345-7615
FAX: (715) 345-7669

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi/>
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/>

COMMUNITY FACILITIES GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM

The community facilities loan program is similar to the grant program in that it provides funding for essential community facilities, such as schools, roads, fire halls, etc. Again, local jurisdictions must have a population of less than 20,000 to apply. Applications are funded based on a statewide priority point system. For more information on the loan program, visit the USDA-RD website or call the office listed above.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE (RUS)

There are a number of available programs through USDA-RUS as part of the Water and Environmental Programs (WEP). The Water and Environmental Program provides loans, grants, and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. Public bodies, non-profit organizations, and recognized Native American Tribes may qualify for assistance. The WEP services also make grants to non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to assist rural communities with their water, wastewater, and solid waste programs. Some of the available programs include:

- Water and Waste Disposal Direct and Guaranteed Loans
- Water and Waste Disposal Grants
- Technical Assistance and Training Grants
- Solid Waste Management Grants
- Rural Water Circuit Ride Technical Assistance

More detailed information can be obtained on any of the above programs by contacting USDA Rural Development Office.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES BUREAU OF COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (DNR-CFA)

The Bureau of Community Assistance administers a number of grant and loan programs. The Bureau supports projects that protect public health and the environment and provide recreational opportunities. The Bureau has three major areas of programs, which include the following:

- **Environmental Loans**

This is a loan program for drinking water, wastewater, and Brownfield projects.

- **Environmental Financial Assistance Grants**

This is a grant program for non-point source runoff pollution, recycling, lakes, rivers, municipal flood control, and well compensation.

- **Land & Recreation Financial Assistance Grants**

This is a grant program for conservation, restoration, parks, stewardship, acquisition of land and easements for conservation purposes, recreational facilities and trails, hunter education, forestry, forest fire protection, household hazardous waste collection, dam rehabilitation and abandonment, dry cleaner remediation, and urban wildlife damage.

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES (WI-DNR)**

**101 S Webster St
Madison WI 53703**

**Phone: 608-266-2621
Fax: 608-261-4380**

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us>

These are the major program headings. There are numerous programs available for specific projects underneath these umbrella programs. For example, under the Environmental Loans Program, there is the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP). The SDWLP provides loans to public water systems to build, upgrade, or replace water supply infrastructure. For more detailed information on other programs, contact the Wisconsin DNR or visit the website listed above.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PUBLIC FACILITIES (CDBG-PF)

This program is designed to assist small communities with public facility improvements. Eligible activities would include publicly owned utility system improvements, streets, sidewalks, disability accessibility projects, and community centers. Local governments including towns, cities, and counties are eligible. Federal grant funds are made available on an annual basis. The maximum grant for any single applicant is \$750,000. Grants are only available up to the amount that is adequately justified and documented with engineering or vendor estimates.

**WI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

**PO Box 7970
Madison, WI 53707
Phone: 608-266-8934
Fax: 608-266-8969**

WISCONSIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PUBLIC FACILITIES (CDBG-PFED)

This program helps underwrite the cost of municipal infrastructure necessary for business development. This program requires that the result of the project will ultimately induce businesses, create jobs, and invest in the community. More information is available from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

**<http://www.commerce.state.wi.us>
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/>**