

**UTILITIES AND
COMMUNITY
FACILITIES
ELEMENT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this section is to inventory existing utilities and community facilities in the Town of Ridgeway. 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, child care 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 Ridgeway.

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

The responsibility for safe drinking water from private wells resides with the homeowner. However, providing reminders (perhaps through a mailing) and encouraging residents to have their wells checked 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.**

Remind Town residents to be aware of the requirements of their septic systems, as all 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 H, Land Use Element for recommended housing development locations in the Town.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

WATER SYSTEM STATISTICS

Private wells supply approximately 206 households and nine businesses in Ridgeway.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Private septic systems treat wastewater from approximately 206 households and nine businesses in the Town of Ridgeway.

SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICTS

There are no special service districts in Ridgeway.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

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

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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

POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Town of Ridgeway police protection is provided by the Iowa County Sheriff Department. The Ridgeway Fire Department provides fire protection and rescue services are provided by the Barneveld Rescue Squad and the Ridgeway First Responders.

RECYCLING AND GARBAGE

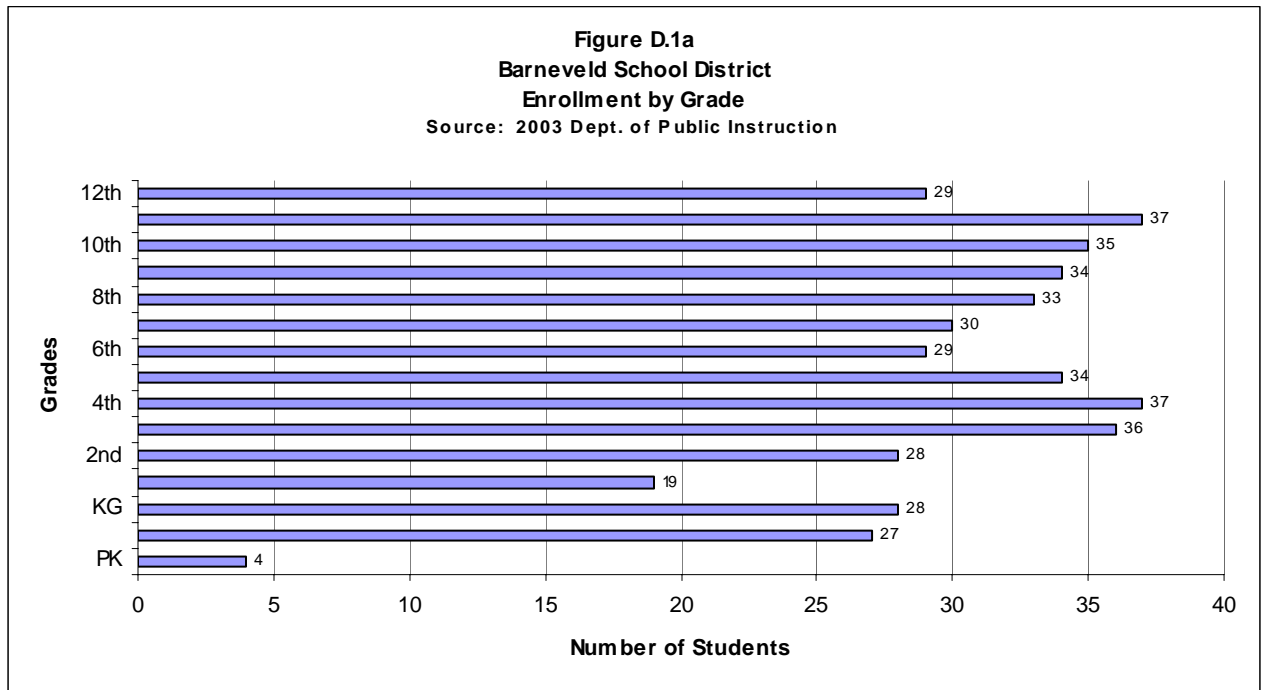
The Town of Ridgeway has curbside collection for garbage, picked up at driveways every other week. Recyclables are picked up on non-garbage pickup weeks.

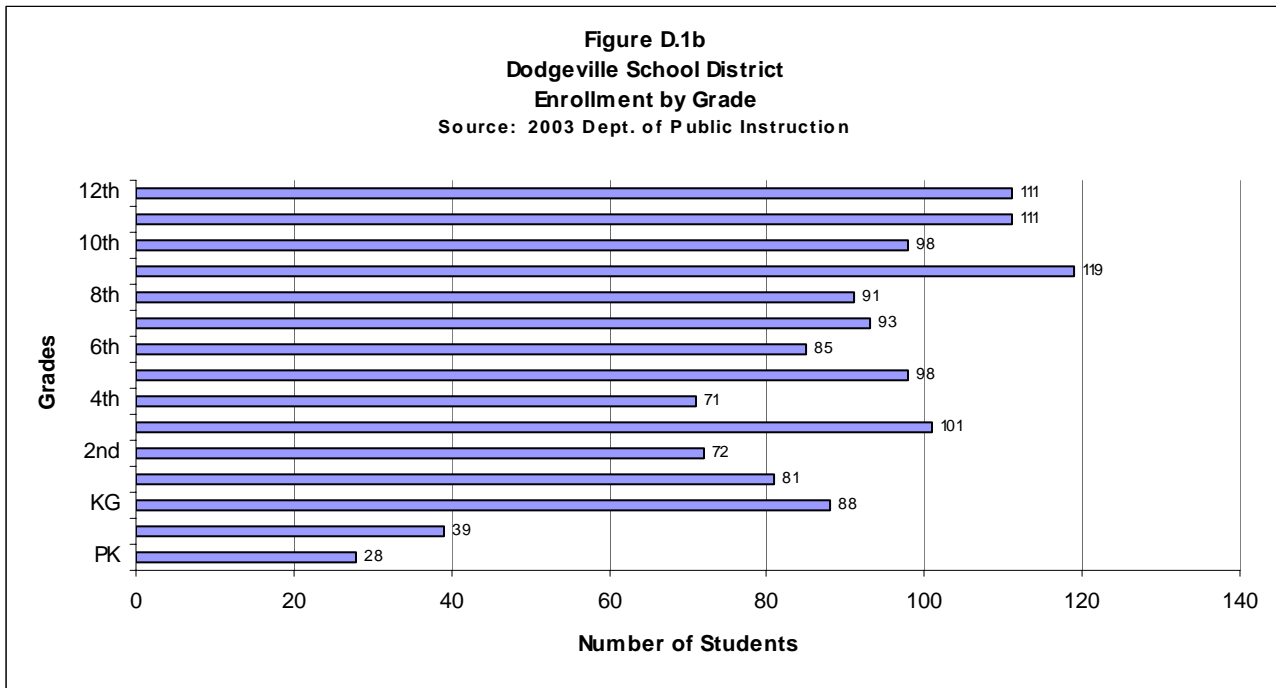
MUNICIPAL BUILDING/ LIBRARY SERVICES

The Town of Ridgeway Municipal Building and Shop are located near the Village of Ridgeway. Residents of the Town use the City of Dodgeville public library.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

There are no education facilities within the Town of Ridgeway, although an elementary school is located in the Village of Ridgeway. Pre-K – 12 education for Town children is provided through the Dodgeville and the Barneveld School Districts. According to Department of Public Education data, in 2003-2004 the Dodgeville School District had 1286 students and the Barneveld School District had 440. Figure D.1a and D.1b below show the enrollment by grade in each District. See Map D.2 for all school districts in Iowa County.





HIGHER EDUCATION

The colleges and universities nearest the Town of Ridgeway include Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fennimore, UW-Madison, and UW-Platteville. These institutions offer certificates, technical diplomas, associate, bachelor, and master’s degrees in a variety of fields.

HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

There are no healthcare facilities located within the Town of Ridgeway. However, residents do have access to healthcare providers such as the Upland Hills Health Hospital in Dodgeville. Town residents use medical clinics located in Dodgeville, Barneveld, Hollandale, and Spring Green. The Plan Commission did not identify any other medical facilities available to Town residents. See Appendix D-3 for healthcare facilities in southwest Wisconsin.

CEMETERIES

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

CHILDCARE

The Plan Commission did not identify any childcare facilities in or serving the Town of Ridgeway.

PARKS AND RECREATION

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

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER UTILITIES

There are no telecommunication towers in the Town of Ridgeway, but the Town Board has made a motion to allow location of a future cell tower on Town owned land near where the Town Hall and Shop are located.

COMMUNITY FACILITY/UTILITY PROJECTS

Currently, Ridgeway does not have any upcoming community facility/utility projects.

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITY 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). WEP 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. WEP also makes 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**

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

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.