



Chapter 4

**Utilities and Community
Facilities**



INTRODUCTION

Public utilities, facilities and governmental services are essential for the well-being of village residents and visitors to the community. The Utilities and Community Facilities Chapter includes background information, goals, objectives, policies, recommendations and programs to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the Village of Solon Springs. As required by Section 66.1001 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the element describes the location, use and capacity of existing public utilities and community facilities that serve the Village and includes an approximate timetable that forecasts the need to expand and rehabilitate or create new utilities and facilities. Public utilities in the Village of Solon Springs are shown on **Map 4.1**.

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROFILE

Sanitary Sewer Services

The Village of Solon Springs operates a stabilization pond wastewater system to treat wastes generated from homes and businesses in the community. Designed in 1977, the village system has three lift stations and is capable of treating 118,000 gallons of effluent per day. Wastewater is treated in two primary ponds and one secondary pond and is discharged to two seepage cells, where it receives final filtering through the soil before recharging the groundwater. The system currently serves 426 households (inc. apartments) within the village. The existing service area includes

A six-mile forcemain connects the Solon Springs system to the Gordon Sanitary District No. 1. The Gordon system is collection only, with treatment at the Solon Springs facility. The village system also receives wastewater from the Upper St. Croix Lake Sanitary District, which is treated at the Solon Springs treatment facility.

Upper St. Croix Lake Sanitary District

In the 1980s residents responded to the lake water quality problems created by the reliance upon individual septic systems for wastewater treatment by forming a sanitary district. The Upper St. Croix Lake Sanitary District was officially formed in 1988. A low pressure sewer system pumps wastewater from residences around Upper St. Croix Lake to the village treatment ponds. The system consists of 144 sewage collection basins with grinder pumps, control panels and electrical distribution boxes and over eight miles of sewer lines. The system currently serves approximately 287 households.

The original collection basin system was constructed using components that were not appropriate for existing conditions, causing the sanitary district to experience problems with the system. These problems include corrosion, with holes developing in the iron pipes located on each pump. These holes allow sewage to reenter the



pump basin causing the pumps to run nearly continuously. The sewage becomes super heated after repeatedly being pumped. The heat and subsequent steam can cause structural damage to the pumps and the basins themselves. If the system were to continue to operate in this manner there is a potential for damage to the control panels. If a basin were to fail, untreated sewage would likely enter into Upper Lake St. Croix. In 2008, the District applied for and received funding to repair the system under a Section 154 (Northern Wisconsin Environmental Assistance Program) grant. Work is currently underway to repair grinder pumps and is expected to be completed by October of 2008. Replacement of the control panels is anticipated to be completed by spring of 2009.

Storm Water Management

Storm water management infrastructure in the Village of Solon Springs is currently limited to curb and gutter along a portion of Main Street. The impervious road surfaces channel runoff directly into Lake St. Croix. An objective of the Solon Springs Area Downtown Planning and Redevelopment Study was to divert storm water flowing into Lake St. Croix from Main Street. The village has plans to divert storm water runoff from Main Street into natural depressions located on the south side of the street.

Water Supply

There is no public water supply in the Village of Solon Springs, and a need for such a system has not been identified. Residents and businesses in the Village of Solon Springs rely on groundwater as their main source of potable water. While the current groundwater supply is adequate and quality is generally good, the area's sandy soils are considered to be highly susceptible to contamination.

Solid Waste Disposal

Curbside solid waste collection services are not available in the Village of Solon Springs. Village residents and businesses are responsible for transporting solid waste to the transfer station located at 11903 Holly Lucius Road. Solid waste disposal is only available to village residents as well as residents of the Town of Solon Springs.

Recycling Facilities

Solon Springs is one of the top recycling communities in the state for a municipality of its size. The Village of Solon Springs operates a joint recycling facility with the adjoining Town of Solon Springs. The recycling center is located at 11903 Holly Lucius Road. Management and oversight of the facility is the responsibility of the Recycling and Solid Waste Commission. The recycling center is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and weekends during the summer months (April 1 – Oct 1) and Mondays, Wednesdays and weekends during the winter (Oct 1 –April1).



Recyclables accepted include paper, plastics, cans, glass and cardboard. Additional service expansion is not anticipated to be needed over the planning period.

Natural Gas Service

According to the 2000 Census, 21 percent of homes in the Village of Solon Springs use utility gas¹ as their primary source of home heating fuel. Natural gas service is provided by the Superior, Water, Light and Power Company (SWL&P) located in the City of Superior. SWL&P serves 281 residential and business customers in the Village and Town of Solon Springs. Additional service expansion will likely be needed over the planning period as new development occurs. SWL&P will expand service to new areas as needed; however, costs incurred are the responsibility of the landowner.

Telecommunications Services

Telecommunications include the transmission of signals containing voice or data over a network. These services are essential for public safety and are becoming increasingly important in personal and business communications. The Village of Solon Springs is located within the CenturyTel service area. CenturyTel also provides internet services (dial-up 56K and high speed) to the village. Internet service is also available through a number of national carriers.

Wireless phone service

Cellular phone services are available in the Village of Solon Springs and surrounding areas. These services are provided by multiple carriers. The nearest cellular communications tower is located approximately 3.8 miles north of the village near U.S. Highway 53.

Electric Power Supply

Electric power is produced and delivered to customers by means of an integrated system of power generation, transmission and distribution. The Village of Solon Springs is located within the Dahlberg, Light & Power Company (DL&P) electric service area. DL&P is an investor-owned electric utility based in Solon Springs, which serves approximately 11,000 customers in Douglas, Bayfield and Washburn counties of northwestern Wisconsin. DL&P buys its power from the Minnesota Power & Light Company, a division of ALLETTE Energy. Minnesota Power generates and buys power generated from several sources, including coal, gas, biomass and wind, in locations from North Dakota to Lake Superior's North Shore.

There are currently no power plants or transmission lines (other than for residential service) running through the Village of Solon Springs, nor is there an anticipated requirement or plan for the placement of power plants or transmission lines through the Village. The nearest power transmission line is the 345 Kv Arrowhead-Weston

¹ Includes gas piped through underground pipes from a central system



line which runs from Wausau to Duluth. Additional service expansion will likely be needed over the planning period as new development occurs. Landowners are responsible for any costs incurred to extend electrical service to their individual properties.

Government Facilities

The center of village government operations is the village office in the Solon Springs Community Center, located at 11523 S. Business 53. Other government facilities in the village include:

- Village of Solon Springs Volunteer Fire Department, 9083 E. Baldwin Ave
- Village of Solon Springs Garage, 11523 S. Business 53
- Douglas County Forestry Office, 9182 E. Hughes Avenue
- United States Postal Service - Solon Springs Branch, 9226 E. Main Street
- Joan Salmen Memorial Library, 9240 E. Main Street

Schools

The Village of Solon Springs is located within the Solon Springs School District. The District operates one PK-12 public school, the Solon Springs School, which is located at 8993 E. Baldwin Ave. As shown in **Table 4.1**, enrollment at the Solon Springs School has declined by more than 15 percent over the past decade.

Table 4.1: 1997-2008 Enrollment, Solon Springs School

School Name	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Solon Springs School	402	378	374	389	400	383	374	356	292	350	345	341

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

The Solon Springs School District anticipates stable or slightly declining enrollment over the next 10 years. Accordingly, the District has no immediate plans for expansion of facilities. The school building was constructed in the late 1960's, with several improvements over the past 10-15 years. Future events such as the potential Murphy Oil expansion may result in increasing enrollment and necessitate expansion of facilities.

Health Care Facilities

Currently, there are no health care facilities in the Village of Solon Springs. The nearest clinic is the Duluth Clinic in Superior (32.8 miles north). The nearest hospital is St. Mary's Hospital of Superior, an affiliate of the St. Mary's Duluth Clinic Health System (32.8 miles north).

Child Care Facilities



Wisconsin law requires anyone caring for four or more children, unrelated to the provider, under the age of 7 years, to be licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF). There are two main categories of licensed care: Family Child Care, (up to 8 children in care at any one time) and Group Child Care, (9 or more children in care at any one time). Day camp is another type of licensed program that is seasonal and oriented to the out of doors. Within the Village of Solon Springs there is one licensed day care facility (Family Child Care).

Table 4.2: Licensed Child Care Facilities, Village of Solon Springs

Name	Address	City	Type
Mary's Care Bear Center	9052 E Baldwin Ave	Solon Springs	Family

Source: Wisconsin Department of Children & Families

Emergency Services

The Village of Solon Springs has shared police services with the Town of Solon Springs. The Police Department consists of a single officer who works 35 hours per week. The Village also has a 21-member volunteer fire department and a fire station located at 9083 E Baldwin Ave.

Ambulance Service

In Wisconsin ambulance service providers are licensed by the Department of Health Services (DHS). There are currently three licensed ambulance service providers in Douglas County. Gold Cross is the primary ambulance service provider to the village of Solon Springs; however other service providers can provide assistance if needed. Gold Cross has an ambulance station in Hawthorne, 6.5 miles north of the village. Medical helicopter services are provided by St. Luke's Hospital of Duluth (Luke's one) and St. Mary's Duluth Clinic of Duluth (LifeFlight). These service providers work in conjunction with local ambulance providers and local responders to transport critically ill or injured patients to hospitals.

Gold Cross Ambulance Gold Cross Ambulance Service Inc
4505 W Michigan St
Duluth, MN 56302
License Level: EMT-Paramedic

Gordon-Wascott Emergency Medical Service
14511 S Hwy 53
Gordon, WI 54838
License Level: EMT-Intermediate Technician

Luke's One
1419 N 46th St
Superior, WI 54880
License Level: EMT-Paramedic



E-911 System

Douglas County has had a 911 system in place since the mid-1990's. In 2005, the county applied for and received funding for a Wireless Enhanced 911 Services Grant from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC). Wireless enhanced 911 enables emergency dispatchers to pinpoint exact locations where wireless calls are made. Without this technology, dispatchers must obtain the location of a wireless caller verbally. In many instances, callers cannot give their exact location because they are too sick, too injured or they simply do not know their exact location. The system was fully implemented in February of 2007. Emergency calls (landline and wireless) placed from the Village of Solon Springs are received at the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), located in the basement of the Government Center in Superior. Emergency calls placed directly to the State Patrol or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources go directly to those dispatch centers during business hours, or to the county PSAP on nights and weekends. Because the system relies on coverage provided by private, commercial service providers, some areas may lack coverage. There are a limited number of wireless (cellular) communications towers in Douglas County, and a limited coverage area depending upon carrier used, phone, terrain and other factors.

Hazardous Materials Incident Response

A regional hazardous materials (Level A) response team is located in Superior. A Regional Response Team may be activated for an incident involving a hazardous materials spill, leak, explosion, injury or the potential of immediate threat to life, the environment, or property. The Regional or "Level A" Teams respond to the most serious of spills and releases requiring the highest level of skin and respiratory protective gear. This includes all chemical, biological, or radiological emergencies.

Public Libraries

Solon Springs is home to one of the three public libraries in Douglas County. The Joan Salmen Public Library is located in the basement of the old Village Hall at 9240 East Main St. The library is staffed with a part-time (Mon 2 pm-7 pm & Thur. 9:30 am-2:30 pm) librarian from the Superior Public Library.

Places of Worship

There are currently four formal places of worship within the Village of Solon Springs.

- Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 11405 South 1st Street West
- First Presbyterian Church, 9243 E. Evergreen Ave
- Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses
- St. Pius X Catholic Church, 11651 S US Highway 53



Cemeteries

There is one cemetery located in the Village of Solon Springs. The Saint Pius X Cemetery, operated by the Saint Pius X Catholic Church, is located on George Avenue.

Parks & Recreation Facilities

Lucius Woods County Park

The 41-acre Lucius Woods County Park is located in the Village of Solon Springs on Business Hwy 53. The park contains an excellent beach for swimming; camping and picnicking sites, some handicap accessible, hiking trails through the pine forest, and a carry-in for canoes. Boating, water-skiing, fishing, and snowmobiling are also available activities on St. Croix Lake. The Lucius Woods Performing Arts Center is located in the park and is home to a variety of summer performances. One seasonal lead worker and two seasonal helpers, who are at Lucius Woods 95 percent of the time, handle administration.

Park Creek Pond

Park Creek Pond, an 11 acre spring lake is located west of Business 53 next to the Douglas County Forestry Department. This pond is designated as a children's fishing area, and receives occasional trout stocking by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Lions Club holds an annual fishing contest here each spring.

Skate Park & Basketball Court

The Solon Springs skate park and basketball court is located between Dairy Queen and the Community Center on business 53. The basketball court is lighted for evening play and a shelter provides refuge from inclement weather.

Solon Springs Ball Park

The village maintains a baseball field on the east side of business 53. The ball field is the home of the St.Croix Ravens Wisconsin Baseball Association (WBA) team and the annual Bob Prevost & Steve Williams Cancer Benefit softball tournament.

North Country Trail

The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) is a premier footpath that one day will stretch more than 4,000 miles to link outstanding scenic, natural, recreational, historic, and cultural areas across seven northern states, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota. Approximately sixty-seven miles will travel east to west through a large portion of Douglas County. The



North Country Trail connects with the Brule - St. Croix Portage, which was used long ago by early explorers to reach the Brule River and Lake St. Croix or the St. Croix River. The trail will turn north at the Gordon Dam, proceed to Pattison State Park, and on to Jay Cooke State Park in Minnesota. The Village of Solon Springs/Lucius Woods County Park segment includes two portions of certified trail on streets of the Village of Solon Springs, and a hiking trail through Lucius Woods County Park.

Public Boat Landings

Name	Water Body	Type*	Municipality
Upper St. Croix Lake Access	Upper Saint Croix Lake	Unknown	V. Solon Springs
Upper St. Croix Lake Access	Upper Saint Croix Lake	Paved	V. Solon Springs
Upper St. Croix Lake Access	Upper Saint Croix Lake	Gravel	V. Solon Springs
Upper Saint Croix Lake	Upper Saint Croix Lake	Unknown	V. Solon Springs
Upper St. Croix Lake Access	Upper Saint Croix Lake	Unknown	V. Solon Springs

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



UTILITES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Wisconsin’s comprehensive planning statutes require that a municipalities plan includes an approximate timetable that forecasts the need to expand and rehabilitate or create new utilities and facilities.

	Utilities & Community Facilities Assessment 2010 - 2030											
	Adequate			Rehab			Improve			New		
	2010	2020	2030	2010	2020	2030	2010	2020	2030	2010	2020	2030
Sanitary Sewer Service												
Storm Water Management												
Water Supply												
Solid Waste Disposal												
Recycling Facilities												
Telecommunication Facilities												
Electrical Service												
Natural Gas Service												
Cemeteries												
Health Care Facilities												
Child Care Facilities												
Law Enforcement												
Fire Protection												
Emergency Medical Services												
Hazardous Materials Response												
Public Libraries												
Public Schools												
Public Parks												
Recreational Trails												
Community Center/Garage												
Other Municipal Facilities												