

CHAPTER 7:

Infrastructure & Community Facilities

Community facilities, infrastructure systems and services provided by local government are vital elements of a community's success and vitality. The quality of these elements contributes to Ironwood's identity. These facilities, systems, and services include water and waste water systems, stormwater management, police and fire protection, government administration, education systems, hospitals, parks, public works and street maintenance. The private sector also plays a key role in many of these areas including utility services such as gas, electric, internet technology, and education. The Comprehensive Plan provides a mechanism to ensure long term planning for the adequacy of these facilities, systems and services to meet future needs.

Ironwood recognizes the value of having an affordable, efficient, and reliable infrastructure system. Clean water, efficient and effective management of wastewater, and the reliable delivery of power and technology infrastructure are critical ingredients to a successful community. The infrastructure system must be well planned and cared for to fully achieve Ironwood's vision as **A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, PLAY, AND VISIT.**

The appearance and design of utility infrastructure has an impact on Ironwood's image and identity as **A FRIENDLY COMMUNITY.** The taste of drinking water, the cost for water and sewer service, or the speed of an internet connection has a less visible impact. Infrastructure systems need to be thought of as an investment in **A THRIVING COMMUNITY** striving to be **A GREAT DESTINATION.**

A FRIENDLY COMMUNITY is one where infrastructure systems and community facilities are well maintained and reliable. Internet technology enables Ironwood to be a **CONNECTED COMMUNITY.** **A FRIENDLY COMMUNITY** is one where doing business with the City is a pleasant experience and where people feel safe and secure.

SUSTAINABLE and **RESILIENT** are two desirable characteristics that describe Ironwood's future. Resilient - adapts to changing trends and new technologies. Sustainable - endures such that operations, maintenance, and management does not overburden future generations.

OVERVIEW



Like land use and development patterns, a city's public facilities and infrastructure systems reflect on the heritage and history of the community. Historic public buildings like the Memorial Building, the Carnegie Library, and the High School demonstrate the architectural detail and quality of how these facilities were built. More modern facilities such as the public safety building and Gogebic Community College represent newer technologies and ideas. As the physical community ages, improvements and upgrades of facilities need to be carefully evaluated

and prioritized relative to available financial resources.

Rooted in this chapter is a high level framework establishing directions and priorities for the management, maintenance, redevelopment, and growth of community facilities, services, and infrastructure systems including: Potable Water, Sanitary Sewer, Stormwater Management, Private Utilities (Gas, Electric, Phone and Internet) and Public Facilities (Memorial Building, Carnegie Library, the Depot, State Visitor Center, County Fairgrounds, Cemetery, and Public Safety). Public institutions such as Aspirus Grand View Hospital, Gogebic Community College, Gogebic-Iron County Airport, and the Ironwood Public Schools are critical collaborators and partners in community development. Key initiatives and actions pertaining to these institutions can be found in [Chapter 5: Parks & Recreation](#) and [Chapter 6: Community Development](#).

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Much of the community dialogue generated through the comprehensive planning process focused on topics of community development including jobs/economic development, housing, arts/culture, parks, and recreation, and community cohesion (working together more). Past community discussions and input mirror that dialogue. Out of 500 plus individual survey responses, city infrastructure systems often garnered significant attention.

Sewer and water infrastructure was the third highest response when asked what things people like least about Ironwood. Improving roads and streets, which commonly includes infrastructure improvements

was the second highest response to the questions of "what" people would invest resources in, and they would target it towards existing neighborhoods. When asked how important improving sewer and water systems is, 46.6% (244) reported "very important" and 32.4% (170) reported important.

When asked for general comments on what people like least about Ironwood, recurring comments referenced high cost for drinking water.

Summary of issues and opportunities

Ironwood's population has declined since its peak in the early 1900s without an equal shrinking of the infrastructure imprint. Maintaining and managing a system designed for a larger community can be challenging. The resulting impact has been higher costs for water and sewer utilities.

Finding financial resources in Ironwood to pay for infrastructure improvement is a significant challenge. The city needs to determine where to prioritize replacement investments.

The City, like many older cities, continues to work on inflow and infiltration (commonly referred to as I & I). When rain and snow melt infiltrates into the ground, older pipes allow water to seep into the sanitary sewer system. Inflow occurs when individual sump pumps in basements connect to sewer drains and cleaner water is pumped into the sanitary sewer system. A high rate of inflow and infiltration places a burden on the system and puts clean water through an unnecessary treatment process designed for waste water. This drives up the cost for sanitary sewer utility.

No stormwater management plan/strategy exists in Ironwood. Improvements have been made in the community. Stormwater runoff that once was combined with sanitary sewer (through a Combined Sewer Overflow system) is now separated.

With Big Snow Country comes the challenge of spring time snow melt and isolated flooding. Managing snow storage and the impending snow melt is a challenging issue.

Steep grades and topography make some areas hard to service with infrastructure requiring higher construction costs and lift stations/pumping stations. Expanses of open space, former mining sites or vacant lands, result in gaps that infrastructure must span, but that does not generate revenue paying customers resulting in greater costs that get spread across the rest of the city.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD:

"Redeveloping existing neighborhoods... along with infrastructure improvements makes the city a more desirable place to live."

GOALS & POLICIES

GOAL 7.1 SANITARY SEWER

Maximize the sustainability and efficiency of the sanitary sewer collection system and provide reliable infrastructure that supports existing development, promotes revitalization and reinvestment, supports new development, and is environmentally responsible.

Policy 7.1.1 Support the goals and recommendations of the Gogebic-Iron Wastewater Authorities Master Plan and the management and maintenance of the waste water treatment plant.

Policy 7.1.2 Coordinate sanitary sewer replacement projects with other road/infrastructure improvement projects.

Policy 7.1.3 Monitor flows from various segments of the system to track inflow/infiltration rates

Policy 7.1.4 Prioritize subsidies for infrastructure improvements that upgrade existing systems rather than expanding the collection system.

GOAL 7.2 POTABLE WATER

Provide a high quality, safe, and reliable water supply for human consumption, fire suppression needs, and economic development.

Policy 7.2.1 Meet or exceed all applicable state and federal regulations for water quality, storage, and pressure needs.

Policy 7.2.2 Maintain and implement a long-term potable water supply and infrastructure maintenance, upgrade, and expansion plan.

Policy 7.2.3 Evaluate water distribution expansion plans so that costs generated by expansion of infrastructure for new growth are borne by the new development.

Policy 7.2.4 Encourage water conservation practices and grey water reuse for activities that do not require quality drinking water.

GOAL 7.3 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Provide an economically sustainable stormwater system that minimizes flooding, prevents property damages, and protects the environment.

Policy 7.3.1 Maintain and implement a long-term stormwater system maintenance, upgrade, and expansion plan for the stormwater system.

Policy 7.3.2 Encourage private property owners to implement innovative on-site improvements to reduce run-off, and increase water conservation efforts through stormwater reuse.

Policy 7.3.3 Ensure that new development and redevelopment carefully plans improvements to retain and treat stormwater on site and integrates public art and aesthetics into the design of the system

KEY TERMINOLOGY

The goals and policies on this page support the vision and guiding principles of the plan and should be used to inform future decision-making and action.

Goals: are broad statements that describe a desired outcome or end-state. Goals are often long-term in scope.

Policies: describe the general course of action or way in which programs and activities are conducted to achieve a stated goal or objective. Policies speak to underlying values, context, or principles, and are often place-specific.

Policy 7.3.4 Explore and implement snow storage strategies and solutions that provide for the efficient storage of snow and the treatment and control of snow melt.

Policy 7.3.5 Collaborate with state and regional agencies to explore and implement cost effective, innovative, and context appropriate stormwater improvements.

GOAL 7.4 PRIVATE UTILITIES

Ensure reliable and adequate delivery of key private utilities such as gas, power, phone, cable, and internet technology.

Policy 7.4.1 Partner with private utility companies to explore innovative technologies and cost effective solutions to service delivery.

Policy 7.4.2 Ensure consideration is given for co-locating public and private utilities in road corridors or utility corridors and encourage oversizing of conduit or other infrastructure to efficiently enable future expansion.

Policy 7.4.3 Engage private utility companies in economic development strategic planning, growth of existing industry, and the pursuit of new industry/business.

GOAL 7.5 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Provide quality, efficient, public buildings and facilities that meet the daily needs of current and future residents, employees, and visitors of Ironwood while retaining historical character, adapting to modern technologies, and promoting a great quality of life.

Policy 7.5.1 Annually budget for maintenance and improvement needs through the City's five year capital improvement program.

Policy 7.5.2 Explore opportunities to increase energy efficiency and operational efficiencies through building upgrades, technology upgrades, and site improvements.

Policy 7.5.3 Explore and consider opportunities to share or consolidate facilities and services with public agencies that have similar operating, space, or equipment needs.

Policy 7.5.4 When appropriate integrate historical interpretation and preserve historic architectural elements in the planning and implementation of public facility improvements.

Policy 7.5.5 Encourage and support the preservation of the neighborhood character and function of public facilities from a geographic context.

FRAMING CONCEPTS

INFRASTRUCTURE

WATER SUPPLY

Current water supply (well fields) and treatment plant capacities are sufficient to meet current and expected future demands. System improvements are more directly linked to maintaining and upgrading existing infrastructure and providing improved levels of service. Maintaining compliance with state and federal regulations and requirements of the [Michigan Department of Environmental Quality](#) (DEQ) is a key objective of the City.

The City should support and encourage sustainable water usage practices. Such practices include conservation oriented fixtures and use or practice as well as stormwater or grey water reuse for activities that need water but not necessarily clean drinkable water. Such practices preserve the long term availability of the water supply and can contribute to managing the affordability of public water.

The City currently does not have an up to date water supply master plan. Such a plan provides a more technical evaluation, analysis, and set of capital improvement recommendations pertaining to the water supply system. It should be a priority for the city to complete this master plan.

SANITARY AND STORM SEWER

The city is currently pursuing funding to complete a Comprehensive Wastewater and Stormwater Asset Management Plan for the City. Such a plan will provide a thorough inventory of existing infrastructure including manholes, pipes, and equipment owned and maintained throughout the City's system. The study will then analyze system characteristics including age, condition, and functional characteristics. This information will then enable the city to better plan and coordinate future redevelopment and improvement projects. The City's wastewater collection system is comprised of approximately 257,000 feet of pipe, as well as the City's approximate 109,000 feet of storm sewer pipe.

The sanitary sewer and storm sewer infrastructure are separate conveyance systems.

PRIVATE UTILITIES

Electric and gas utilities are adequately provided to the City to meet current and foreseeable needs. Internet technology, particularly the availability of high speed technology, however, has lagged behind. The City should partner with regional and statewide efforts to bring high speed technology to the city such as the Broadband Stimulus Project. While this project focuses on connecting public institutions, partnering with regional economic development entities should focus on making such technology available for business and residential use. The goal is to provide higher speed connectivity at a competitive cost structure.

Upgrades to private utilities should be coordinated with public improvement projects. Upgrades should focus on technological advancements as well as opportunities to enhance the community's image, especially along key corridors such as the Highway 2 corridor or key approach corridors to the downtown area. Relocating overhead utility infrastructure underground should be pursued where feasible.

SOLID WASTE

The City of Ironwood is part of the Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority, a collaboration of six area communities. Garbage collection is provided curbside to residential and business customers. Ultimately the garbage is hauled to the Ontonagon County Landfill.

The city should monitor garbage hauling patterns and report tonnages on a per household basis with the intent of reducing the overall tonnage of solid waste per household that is being transported to the landfill. Opportunities to reduce tonnage include recycling and composting of food waste. Currently, recycling is not provided on a curb side bases. Four recycling drop off sites are located throughout the city and residents/business owners are encouraged to collect and drop recycling off at these sites.

The City should collaborate with the Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority and Ontonagon County to explore strategies to reduce the tonnage of solid waste that gets landfilled.

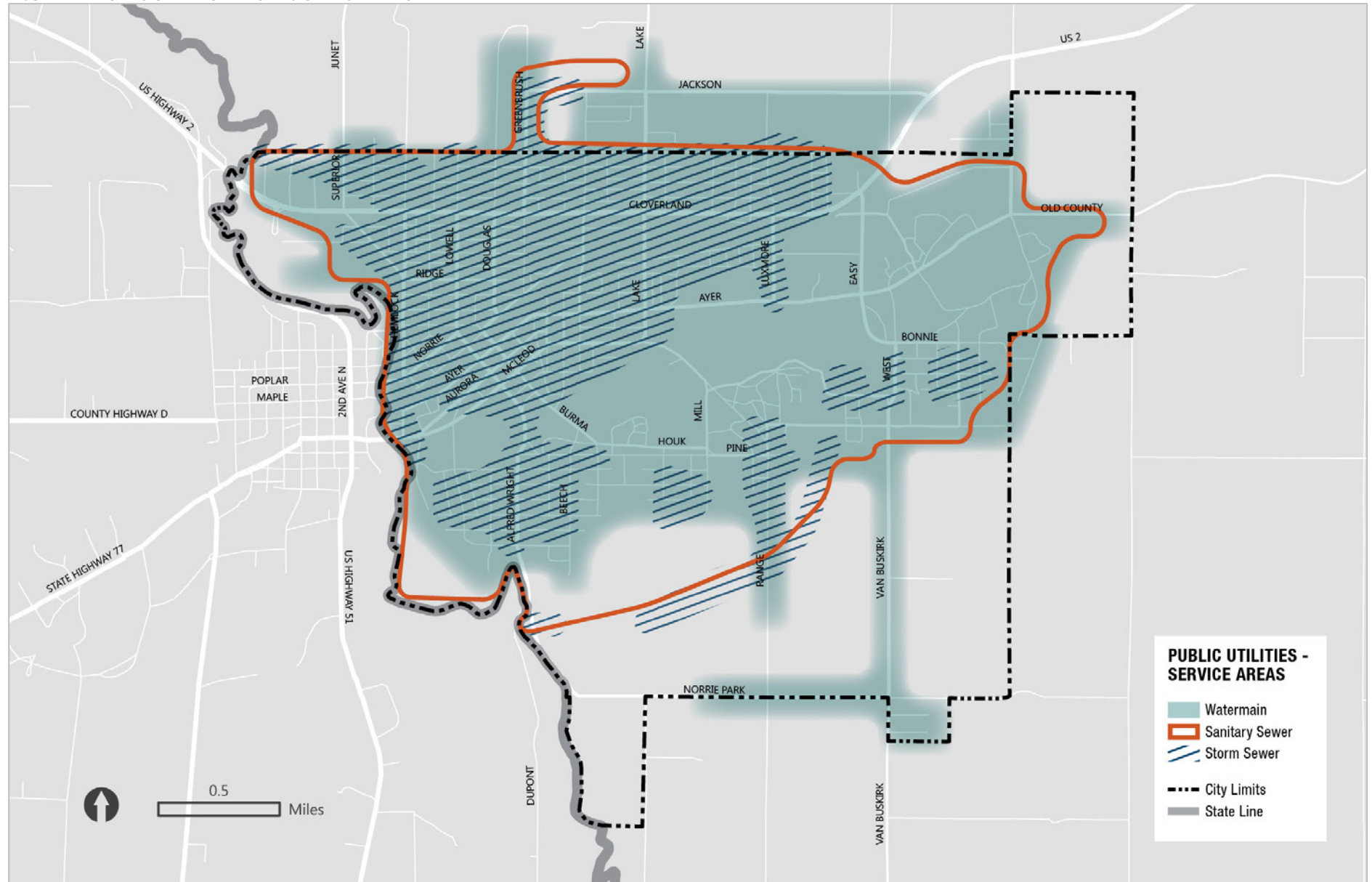


RELATED STRATEGIES:

*Strategy 7.1:
Infrastructure Master
Planning*

SEE P. 7-8 FOR MORE ON
THE STRATEGIES LISTED ABOVE

FIGURE 7-1. PUBLIC UTILITIES - EXISTING SERVICE AREAS



Note: This map shows the generalized location of existing infrastructure. For detailed maps of public utility systems, see the “Infrastructure” discussion in [Appendix A: Ironwood Fact Book](#)

FRAMING CONCEPTS

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

MEMORIAL BUILDING

Built in 1923 as a commemoration of local residents who served in World War I, the Memorial Building is a tremendous civic asset. In addition to honoring WW I veterans, it houses government administrative services, hosts a historical collection of stories and artifacts from the mining industry, and houses community event spaces.

Currently, tours are offered of this building on an appointment basis. Such tours are a great part of “telling the Ironwood Story” and should be promoted strongly. To ensure economic resilience and sustainability, the Memorial Building should be used and occupied to the greatest extent possible. Government services (federal, state, and local), civic organizations, community oriented philanthropic organizations, and community events should be focused in the Memorial Building. Opportunities for fee based uses that help offset operational costs should be explored as a means to reduce the overall cost spread to Ironwood residents.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Built in 1901, the Carnegie Library is the oldest continually operating Carnegie Library in the state of Michigan. The Library is unique in that it combines a rich past with the technology of the future. While steeped in history and the richness of traditional learning, the library is an access point to the global community through technology. The Ironwood Carnegie Library offers programs and services that develop and encourage a love for reading and learning among people of all ages. Finally, the library connects people to each other. The library becomes the “community living room,” a place to do work, access a computer/internet, read a book in a comfortable chair, attend a creative writing course, watch a movie, meet friends, have a cup of coffee, attend a meeting, and much more. The Ironwood Carnegie Library provides a common space for neighbors, businesses, and visitors to connect with each other and the world. Like modern day retail environments, library’s must change and adapt to consumer behavior.



(Photo Credit: Carnegie Library)

RELATED STRATEGIES:

*Strategy 7.2:
Facilities Master Planning*

SEE P. 7-8 FOR MORE ON
THE STRATEGIES LISTED ABOVE



Historic Depot (Photo Credit: Christine Collins)

THE HISTORIC DEPOT

The Depot (built in 1892) houses the Ironwood Chamber of Commerce, the Ironwood Area Museum and the Ironwood Historical Society Research Center. The Depot’s location along a regional trail, at the site of a community park, and on the edge of downtown Ironwood makes it an ideal location for being the “go-to” place for visitors, tourists, or residents to learn more about the history, current state, and future of the community.

Opportunities to expand the community attractions that are based at this site and possibly increase the hours of operation so that the amenities provided can serve a greater customer base should be explored. Such opportunities need to recognize the cost of operations. While revenue generating uses are important to help offset operations costs, the accessibility of the informational resource is a tremendous amenity to tourists and visitors.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

The public safety building was constructed in 1989. The 20+ year old building is one of the newer public facilities in the city. The building houses police and fire personnel and equipment and provides limited space for training. The facility provides adequate space for current and projected needs.

PAT O'DONNELL CIVIC CENTER

The Civic Center is a sports facility offering ice skating, hockey, indoor golf, and other programmed events such as the Spring Home Show, the Cabin Fever Craft Show, and the Multi-Family Rummage Sale. The Civic Center is an important community facility for both the recreation aspect of its use as well as providing an opportunity to host larger events promoting regional or community economic development.

K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION

There are three public schools in Ironwood housed in two buildings: L.L. Wright High School (combined middle and high school) and Norrie Elementary School in one building, and Sleight Elementary School in another building. Current enrolment in the Ironwood district is 875, down from 946 in 2010 and 1,600 in 1993. The tendency for schools as enrolment declines is to look to consolidate facilities and operations as much as possible. Efficiencies are realized through space utilization and programming operations.

Public schools serve as an identity and focal point for neighborhoods. Neighborhood schools should be preserved to the extent possible. The City should seek to partner with the school district to explore reuse potential or alternative strategies to maintain neighborhood school operations rather than consolidation of public schools and closing of facilities. The City should also partner with the School District to make school grounds available for neighborhood park uses and community gathering spaces.

GOGEBIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Located outside of the corporate limits, Gogebic Community College is a tremendous asset to the Ironwood Community. In addition to the educational assets, community meeting space, athletic facilities, and arts/theater space provides additional amenities for the community.

The City and Community College should collaborate where possible in areas of job training and economic development, young adult recreation/athletic programming, arts and cultural ventures, community events, and operations/maintenance of common facilities. The City should also collaborate with the college to address challenges with facility growth and expansion including infrastructure costs, remote class room spaces, off site training and research programs, and student/faculty housing needs.

ASPIRUS GRAND VIEW HOSPITAL

The Aspirus Grand View Hospital provides medical services to the Ironwood community. The hospital located just north and east of Ironwood, is a full service hospital with clinics located directly in Ironwood and the City of Hurley.

The existing facilities adequately serve the current and anticipated population of the city. Partnerships and collaboration with the hospital is greatly encouraged, particularly in support of health/active living programs like sponsoring the Festival Ironwood Walk, Run & Roll or investing in helping improve the physical infrastructure of the community to promote active lifestyle choices.

CEMETERY

The 120 acre Riverside Cemetery was established in 1892 and it consists of 120 acres adjacent the Montreal River. The Cemetery pays tribute to many fallen heroes from the Ironwood community and should play an important part of telling the Ironwood story. Investments and improvements in the cemetery should incorporate historical interpretation through art and interpretation. As an open space area, the Cemetery also doubles as a recreation resource with a good trail system for walking, biking, snow shoeing, or cross country skiing.

GOGEBIC COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

As a western gateway to Ironwood and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the Gogebic County Fair Grounds bring many visitors to the community. It also provides recreational space for motor-cross activities as a commercial enterprise. The city should collaborate with the Fair Board in planning long term facility improvements with the intent of enhancing the user experience for fair goers and strengthening the connection between the fair grounds and the services and attractions in Ironwood.

CITY CENTRE BUILDING

In 2010, the City of Ironwood purchased the Historic Ironwood Theater and the adjacent Seaman Building (today home of the Downtown Art Place) to facilitate its preservation and restoration. The complex is known as the City Centre building. The City should continue to support arts programming and cultural activities in the City Centre building and ensure that this space is maintained as an important anchor institution, cultural attraction, and amenity in downtown.

STRATEGIES

KEY TERMINOLOGY

“Strategies” are actions, programs, and practices that support one or more of the plan’s goals and policies. Strategies address at a high level, the “who, what, when, where, and how” of reaching a goal, and may involve multiple sub-strategies.

The following strategies support the goals, policies, and framework concepts described in this chapter.

STRATEGY 7.1: INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM MASTER PLANNING

The City should consider the preparation of system master plans for each major infrastructure system. These master plans should include components such as:

- **Asset Inventory and Condition Assessment:** understanding what is in the ground, where it is (geographic position), what it is (materials, size, diameter, etc.), and its age and condition. The asset inventory will help with understanding how well the system is functioning and what and where improvements or maintenance needs should be focused.
- **Metering/Modeling:** analysing how well each system operates on a district by district (or neighborhood by neighborhood) basis helps to pin point problems or inefficiencies within the system. Using the City’s Geographic Information System data (electronic mapping data), the City can meter flows and run computer simulations or models to evaluate how specific improvements can enhance the efficiency of the various systems.
- **Recommended improvements and best management practices:** appropriate solutions to implement the goals and policies defined in this chapter, and to address problems with infrastructure systems are an outcome of the master planning process. Solutions will include capital investments, on-going maintenance processes and training, and best management practices and guidelines.
- **Public Engagement:** a strategy to reach out to the community to inform them of the study process and purpose, to educate the community about infrastructure systems, and to learn from the community about the issues and concerns with the system is a critical aspect of any planning project. Appendix B provides example outreach strategies that can be applied to future public engagement initiatives.

Strategy 7.1(a): Complete master plan for sanitary sewer collection

Strategy 7.1(b): Complete master plan for potable water system

Strategy 7.1(c): Complete master plan for stormwater system



STRATEGY 7.2: COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES PLANNING

The City should consider a master planning process surrounding key public facilities and services. Maintain a master plan for each core public service and associated facility provides a solid base from which to evaluate capital improvements and core information to help inform reactions to opportunities such as proposals for sharing or utilizing space, or opportunities to pursue grant funding for facility improvements. Assembly of key data enhances the City of Ironwood's ability to seize opportunities in a timely manner. Such master plans would include similar components as Strategy 7.1:

- Asset Inventory and Condition Assessment: what are the various public facilities owned by the City and what are the various uses/ functions, floor plans, square footages, technological capabilities etc. What is the condition of the facility, when was it built, what is the age and technology of the mechanical, what kind of parking is available, etc.
- Planned improvements: what is the operation and maintenance strategy or plan for each facility? What major capital investments need to be made and what resources are available for funding?
- Public Engagement: reaching out to the community to help understand use demand and emerging technologies or changing consumer behavior will help inform the improvement plan and help align potential collaborations with like users.



MAKING IT HAPPEN!

Priority Actions

Priority action steps are identified in the following matrix. This matrix focuses on immediate (0-1 year) and short-term (1-5 year) action steps, as well as ongoing actions and practices. A complete matrix including longer term actions has been prepared and is maintained by the City as part of the on-going comprehensive planning process. Once these immediate and short term actions have been substantially completed, the city should initiate a comprehensive plan update process to revisit the vision, guiding principles, goals, policies and strategies and renew the list of action steps. The matrix identifies the key strategy, related sub-strategy, responsible implementing entity (most often the City), partnership resources, general costs, and possible funding sources.

The Infrastructure and Community Facilities System Master Plans recommended in this chapter require a planning process in order to identify, budget for, and prioritize capital improvements. These system master plans should be considered as a capital investment in the community.

KEY TERMINOLOGY

The City has developed a number of **Spark Plans**, or “mini action plans,” to support implementation of select strategies in the comprehensive plan. Spark Plans focus on strategies that: (1) are high-priority actions, (2) may require additional explanation and planning, and (3) may be implemented by groups other than City agencies (community groups, civic organizations, individuals, etc.). Strategies for which a Spark Plan has been developed are noted in the priority action matrix with the following symbol: ★

See [Appendix C: Spark Plans](#) for the complete set of Spark Plans.

NOTE: No Spark Plans were created for the strategies listed in this chapter.

TABLE 7-1. PRIORITY ACTIONS - INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

IMMEDIATE ACTION (0-1 YEARS)						
Strategy	Sub-Strategy	Implementing Entity	City Role	Potential Partners	Associated Cost	Possible Funding Sources
7.1 Prepare infrastructure system master plans	7.1(a) Prepare master plan for sanitary sewer collection system	City (Public Works)	Lead	Gogebic-Iron Waste Water Authority - DEQ - EPA	\$\$\$ (\$50,000-\$200,000)	DEQ, EPA, Grant Resources, General Fund
SHORT-TERM (1-5 YEARS)						
Strategy	Sub-Strategy	Implementing Entity	City Role	Potential Partners	Associated Cost	Possible Funding Sources
7.1 Prepare infrastructure system master plans	7.1(b) Prepare master plan for potable water system	City (Public Works)	Lead	Gogebic-Iron Waste Water Authority -DEQ -EPA	\$\$\$ (\$50,000-\$200,000)	DEQ, EPA, Grant Resources, General Fund
	7.1(c) Prepare master plan for stormwater system	City (Public Works)	Lead	Gogebic-Iron Waste Water Authority -DEQ -EPA	\$\$\$ (\$50,000-\$200,000)	DEQ, EPA, General Fund, Grant Resources
7.2 Prepare community facilities and services master plan	-	City (Public Works)	Partnership	School District - Gogebic Community College	\$\$\$ (\$50,000-\$200,000)	General Fund, Grant Resources

The Comp Plan and YOU!

The Comprehensive Plan serves not only as a guiding document for city government, but as a collective expression of community values, desires, and visions. Just as the creation of this plan was fueled by the input and ideas of community members like you, its successful implementation requires your continued engagement, advocacy, and action.

So, what can you do to support the vision, goals, and policies expressed in this chapter? Here are just a few ideas to get you thinking, talking- and hopefully, taking action!

- Be cognizant of how you manage rain water on your property. Make sure downspouts route water to areas of the yard where water can infiltrate. Capture rain water from down spouts in rain barrels or cisterns to use for watering plants or other yard activities.
- Use water conservation plumbing fixtures and appliances and promote water conservation practices in your household.
- Think of the environmental impact and financial impact to the infrastructure system when disposing of waste products and help the City in making sure options exist to properly dispose of hazardous wastes.
- Be aware and cognizant of faulty infrastructure within city streets and rights of way and report issues to City Public Works.
- Be supportive of responsible government spending that improves the overall municipal infrastructure system.
- Volunteer to help with programming or serving on committees that oversee use of and management of community facilities. Be active with cultural, educational, civic, and sports/recreation organizations.

Performance Measures

To ensure accountability around the Plan, the community needs to measure and report on accomplishments. Performance measures provide a way to measure progress and success in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. Some performance measures are quantifiable, concrete figures; others are more qualitative in nature. The following are the key performance measures for the infrastructure and civic facilities-related action steps recommended in this chapter:

- Ironwood's water and sanitary sewer rates are comparable (in-line) with similar communities.
- Per capita water usage is no greater than, if not less than, current usage.
- Water quality of the Montreal River or other surface water bodies has improved.
- Fewer instances of flooding and property damage are reported on an annual basis.
- Rates of infiltration and inflow are reduced.
- Number of water main breaks are minimized.
- Number of volunteers on City Boards and Commissions.
- Annual funds invested in capital improvements.
- User surveys measuring satisfaction of community facilities.
- Annual attendance or use of community facilities.

