

Town of Namakagon

- Several boat landings on Namakagon Lake
- Forest Ridges Golf Course

Town of Orienta

- Boat landing (Mouth of Iron River)

Town of Oulu

- Town Park

Town of Pilsen

- Baseball diamond
- Basketball court
- Playground area

Town of Port Wing

- Baseball Park
- Quarry Beach
- Twin Falls Park
- Old School Memorial Park
- Harbor Park

Town of Russell

- Little Sand Bay Recreation Area
- Town of Russell Shooting Range
- Historical Carver School Rest Area
- Raspberry school Historic Site
- North Pike Creek Wetlands Community Forest
- North Pikes Creek Wetlands Conservation Area and the Beaver Hollow Outdoor Recreation Area

Town of Tripp

- Jackman Lake Park

Town of Washburn

- Area off Arenson Road
- Soccer Fields Adjacent to CTH CC

Village of Mason

- Mason Park
- Playground by Museum

City of Bayfield

- Brownstone Trail
- Big Ravine Park – Gil Larsen Trail
- Cooper Hill Park
- Dalrymple Campground

- East Dock Park
- Fishing Pier
- Fountain Park
- Halvor Reiten Park
- Hillside Park
- Hilltop Trailhead Park
- Jake's Island View Park
- Korseberg Park
- Lakeside Pavilion
- Memorial Park
- Skateboard Park
- Turning Point Fountain Park

City of Washburn

- Triangle Park
- City Hall Plaza
- East Side Tennis Courts
- Wikdal Park
- Legion Park
- Jackie's Field
- Hillside Park
- Athletic Field & Skate Rinks
- West End Park Boat Landing
- Coal Dock Beach & Trail/Parkway Extension
- Commercial Dock
- Washburn Marina
- Thompson's West End Park
- Lakefront Historic Walking Trail & Parkway
- Memorial Park
- Recreation Trail
- Washburn Elementary School
- Lake Superior View Golf Course

Tribal

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

- Frog Bay Tribal National Park
- Buffalo Bay Campground
- Buffalo Bay Marina
- Point Detour "Wilderness" Campground
- Clayton Creek Trail

Trails

There are several motorized and nonmotorized trails throughout the County that allow for a variety of activities, including hiking, biking, ATVing, skiing, and snowmobiling. Several of these trails are listed below. For more information, refer to the Bayfield County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

ATV/UTV Trails

Bayfield County has designated approximately 145 state-funded miles for the operation of ATVs/UTVs. The trail system is located in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Bayfield County Forest Lands, and some private properties. Trails include the Tri-County Recreational Corridor, Iron River, Moquah Spur, Valhalla, Lenawee, Buckskin, Bear Paw, Wolf, Battle Axe, Bayfield Connector, Flagg Road Connector, Horse Pasture Grade Connector, Drummond Connector and Washburn trails.

In addition to state funded trails, ATVs/UTVs are allowed on many Town Roads and some County Highway connectors, as well as nearly 900 miles of logging roads and skid trails located in the Bayfield County Forest.

Snowmobile Trails

Excellent snowmobile trails are located throughout Bayfield County and are maintained by public agencies, the Bayfield County Snowmobile Alliance, and local Snowmobile Clubs. Presently, there are approximately 450 miles of state-funded trails in the County that are maintained by the Bayfield County Snowmobile Alliance. The approved trails are located on private, County, State, and National Forest lands.

Bicycle Trails

The Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) has seven clusters of off-road (mountain) bike trails that start in Bayfield County and end in Sawyer County. The clusters located in Bayfield County are Delta, Drummond, Cable, Mt. Ashwabay, and Namakagon, with most of the trails located on either Bayfield County Forest or US Forest Service lands.

Bayfield County has also become a hotspot for winter biking with over 100 miles of groomed winter bike trails. Trails are located at Mt. Ashwabay, Mt. Valhalla, Cable Town Trail, and the Birkie Start Area.

Sled Dog Trails

An annual Apostle Islands Sled Dog race is held from Washburn to Cornucopia along State Highway 13. There are several loops in this area that are groomed for racing and are available for those that take up this activity.

Hiking Trails

Hiking trails are numerous in Bayfield County in comparison to many other counties within the state. The Bayfield County Tourism office publishes a brochure listing 39 hiking trails that span the county. Nearly all skiing trails are used as hiking trails during the months when there is not snow on the ground. In addition, there are several trails on the Apostle Islands and along lakeshore throughout the County.

Two interpretive nature trails are located in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest near the Lake Namekagon area in southeast Bayfield County the Namekagon Nature Trail located just across the road from the Namekagon Lake Campground and the Forest Lodge Nature Trails on Garmish Road off of CTH M.

Approximately 48 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail traverses through Bayfield County. This segment is part of the longest National Scenic Trail in the country that will stretch from North Dakota to New York when 100% completed. As the trail winds through state parks and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, it offers a premier hiking opportunity through a variety of landscapes. Hunter walking trails in the National Forest, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and County provide additional miles of trail opportunities for hikers. Many miles of old closed or lower-level managed Forest Service roads also may be used for hiking and other trail related activities, such as snowshoeing, dog sledding, or back country skiing.

American Birkebeiner Ski Trail

There are over 20 kilometers of ski trails, most of which can be used year-round.

Drummond Ski Trail

The Drummond Ski Trail system is made up of several trails equating to over 30 kilometers through hardwood forests.

Jerry J. Jolly Trail

Located on Star Route Road. Walking/hiking trails are available in the summer and cross-country ski trails are available in the winter. Facilities include a parking area, ADA toilets, informational kiosk, donation station, and picnic area.

Lake Superior Water Trail

This is a trail you will not find in many areas of the country. The Wisconsin Lake Superior Water Trail is over 400 miles long and stretches from the City of Superior to the Montreal River at the Michigan border. Sea kayakers can paddle the entire trail, as there are camping locations available along it, as well as several designated legal access points.

Lost Creek Falls

A rustic hiking trail with a small trailhead parking area, just south of Cornucopia. The trail meanders through thousands of acres of County Forest land before reaching a series of waterfalls on Lost Creek Number One. Several boardwalks were built to traverse wet areas and minimize foot traffic impacts.

Mount Ashwabay

This trail system offers trails ranging in difficulty from beginner to experienced. The longest trail loop is over nine miles. There are spectacular views of the Apostle Islands from several areas along these trails. This area also has downhill skiing and tubing opportunities.

Namekagon Trail

With nearly 10 kilometers of trail options, this system goes through the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and offers wildlife viewing in the summer and classic and cross-country skiing in the winter.

North End Ski Trails

These trails are part of a relatively complex network of trails that include the American Birkebeiner skate and classic trails, CAMBA mountain bike trails, and North End snowshoe trails. In addition, most of the North End trails connect to or intersect the Birkie trails, which provide a link to the Birkie Start Trailhead. A total of over 50 km of regularly groomed trails are available from the North End Trailhead, and more are available if one chooses to ski further south into Sawyer County.

Rock Lake Trail

This system of trails has over 40 kilometers through a maple, oak, and white pine forest. This is a narrow trail system that goes through hilly terrain.

Tomahawk Lake Ski Trail

Located near Barnes, this trail system goes through many acres of forest.

Valhalla

This system of trails has over 34 kilometers available through an oak forest featuring relatively long uphill and downhill.

Police, Fire, Emergency/Rescue Services**Law Enforcement**

There are several law enforcement departments that serve Bayfield County and its communities. At the state level, the Wisconsin State Patrol primarily monitors and enforces traffic regulations on the State Highways through Bayfield County.

Incorporated communities throughout Bayfield County primarily rely on local law enforcement agencies and departments to protect their communities. Unincorporated communities, however, rely on the **Bayfield County Sheriff's Department** to protect their communities. Therefore, a great deal of communication and coordination occurs with Bayfield County for this service in these communities. The Bayfield County Sheriff's Department is responsible for providing 24-hour service to an area that covers 1,500 square miles.

City of Bayfield Police Department - The department consists of a Police Chief with 3 full-time sworn officers, 4 part-time sworn officers, and other administrators and assistants. The primary service area for the police department is within the boundaries of the City of Bayfield.

City of Washburn Police Department - The department consists of a full-time Police Chief and four part-time officers. The City of Washburn Police Department functions independently of the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department but assists them as needed.

Red Cliff Police Department - Serves the tribal lands associated with the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The department is responsible for enforcing the Red Cliff Code of Laws and works in conjunction with the Bayfield County Sheriff's Office.

Town of Iron River Police Department - Works in conjunction with the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department. The department has a Police Chief, a Police Officer, and several other officers and assistants.

Bayfield County Emergency Management provides additional support to the County's emergency response providers and local governments through emergency operations planning, training, coordination, crisis response, and recovery.

Fire Service

Fire protection in Bayfield County is provided by fifteen fire departments. Wildfires are typically handled by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Much of the dispatch services for fire departments are handled by Bayfield County. All fire departments have cooperative agreements and work closely with the Wisconsin DNR and the US Forest Service to provide fire protection to structures in the wildland-urban interface areas of the County. Apparatus and equipment resources are updated annually through the Bayfield County Fire Association. The response areas are based upon local jurisdictional boundaries.

Ashland - The Ashland Fire Department is located within the City of Ashland and contracts with the Town of Eileen and Pilsen for fire protection. They are a career department and are considered part of the state regional hazardous materials response system.

Barnes - The Barnes Fire Department serves the Town of Barnes, an area of 126 square miles. The department has two engines (pumping capacity) and one tender (water capacity).

Bayfield - The Bayfield Fire Department serves the City and Town of Bayfield, an area of over 90 square miles. The department has two engines and one tender and houses the only dive/recovery team in Bayfield County.

Brule - The Brule Fire Department is contracted to respond into the western portion of the Town of Hughes, an area of 13 square miles. The department maintains two engines and two tenders.

Cable - The Cable Fire Department serves the Town of Cable, an area of 72 square miles. The department has an engine and a tender.

Cornucopia - The Cornucopia Fire Department serves the Town of Bell, an area of 60 square miles. The department maintains one engine and one tender.

Drummond - The Drummond Fire Department serves the Town of Drummond, an area of 144 square miles. The department maintains one engine and one tender.

Grand View - The Grand View Fire Department serves the Town of Grand View and Lincoln, an area of 144 square miles. The department maintains two engines and two tenders.

Herbster - The Herbster Fire Department serves the Town of Clover, an area of more than 50 square miles. The department maintains one engine and one tender.

Iron River - The Iron River Fire Department serves the Towns of Delta, Hughes, Iron River, Oulu, and Tripp, an area of over 234 square miles. The department has three engines and two tenders.

Mason - The Mason Fire Department serves the Town of Kelly, Keystone, Mason, and the Village of Mason, an area of 144 square miles. The department maintains one engine and two tenders.

Namakagon - The Namakagon Fire Department serves the Town of Namakagon, an area of 72 square miles. The department maintains three engines and one tender.

Port Wing - The Port Wing Fire Department serves the Town of Port Wing, an area of over 100 square miles. The department maintains two engines and two tenders.

Red Cliff - The Red Cliff Fire Department services Red Cliff Tribal Lands and the Town of Russell, and area of approximately 49 square miles. The department maintains one engine and two tenders.

Washburn - The Washburn Fire Department serves the City of Washburn and the Towns of Barkdale, Bayview, and Washburn, an area of 180 square miles. The department maintains two engines and two tenders.

Emergency Medical Service

Bayfield County EMS

The Bayfield County EMS team is comprised of 4 volunteers with the expectation of expansion within the next year. The team currently focuses on Mass Casualty Incident response within Bayfield County, though the focus of the agency may change in the future depending on the needs of our community. The service is newly created and has not yet had a call for response.

Ambulance Service

There are nine ambulance services in Bayfield County that provide emergency medical response. These come from Ashland, Barnes, Bayfield, Great Divide, Iron River, Mason, South Shore, Red Cliff, and Washburn.

Ashland - The Ashland Fire and EMS Department has one ambulance and two paramedic van units.

Barnes - The Barnes Ambulance Service shares a building with the Barnes Volunteer Fire Department. There are about 10 volunteers that help run this department.

Bayfield - The Bayfield Volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians share space with the Fire Department. There are ten volunteer EMTs and four volunteer drivers. There are two fully equipped ambulances which have response times between four and five minutes.

Great Divide - This ambulance service, located out of Cable, serves most of the southern portion of Bayfield County.

Iron River - The Iron River Ambulance service covers most of the northwestern portion of Bayfield County.

Mason - The Mason volunteer ambulance service provides rescue services to much of the southeast portion of Bayfield County.

South Shore - The South Shore Ambulance Service is run out of Herbster. This department serves the areas of Cornucopia, Herbster, Port Wing, Orienta, and their associated towns.

Red Cliff - The Red Cliff Ambulance has approximately 20 volunteers and provides rescue services to much of the northern portion of Bayfield County.

Washburn - The Washburn Area Ambulance Service is owned and operated by the City, but also provides service to the Towns of Washburn, Bayview, and Barksdale. Volunteers are used to provide this service.

Medical/Healthcare Facilities

As the population of Bayfield County ages, medical facilities are becoming increasingly important assets to local communities. There are no hospitals in Bayfield County.

People needing services provided by hospitals may use Memorial Medical Center in Ashland, the Hayward Area Memorial Hospital in Hayward, or St. Mary's in Superior. Both Essentia and St. Luke's Hospitals in Duluth offer extensive services and are linked closely with local hospitals. Helicopters are available for extreme emergencies.

There are various local medical providers in communities throughout the County, including the Red Cliff Community Health Center, the Mishomis Wellness Center, North Lakes Community Clinic, and the Bayfield County Health Department.

Senior care facilities are becoming an increasingly important regional asset to meet the changing needs of our aging population in a manner that permits residents to age with dignity. Many area residents who grew up and have spent a large portion of their lives in Bayfield County will wish to remain here during their retirement years. In addition, the rural atmosphere has led northern Wisconsin to attract a lot of transplant retirees. These individuals occasionally need assisted living facilities. Without an adequate supply of facilities to accommodate these individuals, Bayfield County could lose that segment of their population.

Home Health Agencies provide part-time and intermittent skilled nursing and other therapeutic services on a visiting basis to persons in their homes. There are four licensed AFHs in Bayfield County (Table 4.2).

Community based residential facilities (CBRFs) are places where five or more unrelated people live together in a community setting. The services provided include room and

board, supervision, support services and may include up to three hours of nursing care per week. There are two licensed CBRFs in Bayfield County (Table 4.2).

Residential care apartment complexes (RCACs) are apartment complexes where five or more adults reside. Apartments must each have a lockable entrance and exit, a kitchen, including a stove, and individual bathroom, sleeping, and living areas. RCACs provide no more than 28 hours per week of supportive services, personal assistance, and nursing services. There are two RCACs in Bayfield County (Table 4.2).

Nursing homes are care facilities that offer a protective, therapeutic living environment for persons who need rehabilitation or who can no longer live alone. Nursing homes are licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Health. There is one licensed nursing home in Bayfield County (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Bayfield County Adult Health Care Facilities

Facility Name	Capacity
Community Based Residential Facilities	
The Oaks at Northern Lights	17
Willow Manor	8
Residential Care Apartment Complexes	
Birch Haven North RCAC	13
Chequamegon Area Assisted Living	12
Nursing Homes	
Northern Lights Health Care Center	50 beds
Home Health Agencies	
Avanti Home Care	NA
Interim Healthcare Lake Superior	NA
International Quality Homecare of Wisconsin LLC	NA
St. Luke's Home Health Service	NA

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Libraries

There are several public libraries located throughout Bayfield County. The communities of Bayfield, Cable, Drummond, Iron River, and Washburn have public libraries which are members of the Northern Waters Library Service.

Northern Waters Library Service provides a Mail-A-Book service to County residents who live more than 15 miles from a public library. Books are mailed without charge and can be returned to a library or to drop boxes located throughout the County.

The Red Cliff Tribe operates the Red Cliff Library *Ginanda Gikendaasomin*, which is planning to become a member of the Northern Waters Library Service to expand its offerings and services.

Education

Bayfield County is served by a wide assortment of educational facilities at the elementary, primary, secondary, vocational, and postsecondary levels. In addition, some facilities offer preschool, kindergarten, special education, religious, business, industrial, trade, and vocational training. Schools not only provide a place for education they also provide several recreational opportunities for the community and are an important source of employment.

Some Bayfield County children are served by school districts outside of Bayfield County. For instance, the Ashland School District and Maple School District both serve a portion of Bayfield County residents and students, even though many of their facilities and the majority of their enrollment comes from other counties.

Public education is available for all Wisconsin residents. There are several schools and school districts available to Bayfield County residents. Information on each school district is listed below in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Bayfield County Public School Districts

District	County	School	Low Grade	High Grade	2021-22 Enrollment
Ashland	Ashland	Lake Superior Elementary	PK	2	644
		Marengo Valley Elementary	PK	5	184
		Ashland Middle	6	8	440
		Ashland High	9	12	603
Bayfield	Bayfield	Bayfield Elementary	PK	5	201
		La Pointe Elementary	PK	6	11
		Bayfield Middle	6	8	83
		Bayfield High	9	12	102
Drummond Area	Bayfield	Drummond Elementary	K4	6	167
		Drummond Junior High	7	8	54
		Drummond High	9	12	103
Maple	Douglas	Iron River Elementary	KG	5	93
		Northwestern Elementary	K4	5	512
		Northwestern Middle	6	8	283
		Northwestern High	9	12	414
South Shore	Bayfield	South Shore Elementary	K4	6	93
		South Shore Jr/Sr High	7	12	84
Washburn	Bayfield	Washburn Elementary	K4	5	331
		Washburn Middle	6	8	97
		Washburn High	9	12	191
TOTAL					4,690

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Some children in Bayfield County are homeschooled. In the 2021-22 school year, there were 104 homeschooled children in Bayfield County, as indicated in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Bayfield County Home-Based Enrollment

Grade Levels	Enrollment 2021-22
Grades 1-8	75
Grades 9-12	29
Total Enrollment	104

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

No adult education centers that offer higher education and continuing education classes and programs are located directly in Bayfield County. However, there are abundant opportunities through Northland College and Northwood Technical College in Ashland, and the University of Wisconsin-Superior located in Superior.

Child Care Facilities

Child care facilities are an important community asset to many individuals. Dual-earner households with young children need locations for their children to during the day if both parents are working. Single-parent households also need a place for their children to go when the parents go to work.

There are 5 licensed child care facilities located in Bayfield County, however, residents may also utilize facilities in nearby Ashland. A list of these facilities is provided in Table 4.5. Many are family facilities, meaning they have a capacity of eight children or less. However, about half are group facilities, which allow for nine or more children. The capacity status depends on the size of the facility and the staffing available during the hours of operation.

Table 4.5: Bayfield County Day Care Facilities

Facility Name	Capacity
Milk and Honey Day Care LLC	8
Family Forum HS Center 5	17
Red Cliff Early Childhood Center	82
Smiling Faces Child Care-Preschool	40
Washburn Early Learning Center	50

Source: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Cemeteries

The list of known cemeteries in Table 4.6 was obtained from the Bayfield County USGenWeb Archives. Smaller cemeteries, family plots, and Native American burial sites may have inadvertently been omitted from this list.

Table 4.6: Bayfield County Cemeteries

Municipality	Cemetery Name
T. Barnes	Barnes Township Cemetery
	Highland Memorial Cemetery
T. Bayfield/C. Bayfield	Greenwood (Evergreen) Cemetery
	Calvary Catholic Cemetery
T. Bell	Cornucopia Cemetery
	St. Mary Catholic (Russian) Cemetery/Bell Cemetery
T. Cable	Cable Township/St. Anne's Catholic Cemetery
	Greenwood Cemetery
T. Clover	Herbster Community Cemetery
T. Cornucopia	Bell Township Cemetery
T. Delta	Delta/Pike River Cemetery
T. Drummond	Drummond Cemetery
T. Grand View	Grand View Cemetery
T. Iron River	St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery
	Iron River Cemetery
T. Keystone	Dauby/St. Peter & Paul Catholic Cemetery
	St. Florian Catholic/Ino Cemetery
	Diocese of Superior Church and Cemetery
T. Lincoln	Moland Lutheran Cemetery
	Birch Lake Lutheran Cemetery
T. Mason/V. Mason	Mason Cemetery
	Moe Cemetery
T. Orienta	Hillside/Township Cemetery
T. Oulu	Oulu Lutheran Cemetery
	Hillcrest Cemetery
	Pine Glade Cemetery
T. Pilsen	Moquah Cemetery
T. Port Wing	Greenwood/Port Wing Cemetery
T. Russell	St. Francis Catholic/Red Cliff Cemetery
	Ishpiming Akiin Cemetery
T. Tripp	Tripp Township/Valley View Cemetery
T. Washburn/C. Washburn	Woodland Cemetery
	Calvary Cemetery

Source: USGenWeb Archives

Museums and Interpretive Centers

- Barnes Area Historical Association Museum and Heritage Village
- Bayfield Maritime Museum
- Bayfield Heritage Association
- Cable Natural History Museum
- Cable Namakagon Historical Museum
- Cornucopia Green Shed Museum (Town of Bell)
- Drummond Historical Museum
- Western Bayfield County Historical Society Museum (Town of Iron River)
- Mason Depot Museum
- Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (Town of Eileen)
- Oulu Cultural & Heritage Center
- Port Wing Heritage Hall Museum
- Washburn Cultural Center

Concert and Theater Facilities

- Big Top Chautauqua/ Ashwabay Alliance (Town of Bayfield)
- Stage North (City of Washburn)

Community Centers

- Bayfield Recreation Center
- Benoit Community Center (Town of Mason)
- The Club Community Center (City of Washburn)
- CORE Community Resources Center (City of Bayfield)

Local Facilities

Within Bayfield County, each Town, Village, and City, as well as the County, has a facility that is used for official municipal business. The majority of local government facilities are identified in Table 4.7.

Bayfield County operations take place primarily out of the Bayfield County Courthouse at 117 East Fifth Street in the City of Washburn. The Sheriff's Department is located at 615 2nd Avenue East in Washburn.

Table 4.7: Bayfield County Local Public Buildings

Town/Village/City Hall	Location
Bayfield County	117 E Fifth Street, Washburn
C. Bayfield	125 S 1st St, Bayfield
C. Washburn	119 Washington Ave, Washburn
V. Mason	59400 Northern Lights Blvd, Mason
T. Barksdale	29025 E Ondassagon Rd, Ashland
T. Barnes	3360 CTH N, Barnes
T. Bayfield	85450 CTH J, Bayfield
T. Bayview	32030 Maki Rd, Washburn
T. Bell	27615 CTH C, Cornucopia
T. Cable	43395 Randysek Rd, Cable
T. Clover	86870 Lenawee Rd, Herbster
T. Delta	15990 CTH H, Mason
T. Drummond	52540 Front Ave, Drummond
T. Eileen	29130 STH 137, Ashland
T. Grand View	22010 Grandview Blvd, Grand View
T. Hughes	66225 Hughes Town Hall Rd, Iron River
T. Iron River	8275 E Mill St, Iron River
T. Kelly	27525 Maple Ridge Rd, Mason
T. Keystone	66015 CTH F, Ashland
T. Lincoln	28985 E Altamont Rd, Mason
T. Mason	62655 Benoit Rd, Mason
T. Namakagon	23845 CTH M, Cable
T. Orienta	8090 Sorenson Rd, Port Wing
T. Oulu	2525 W Colby Rd, Brule
T. Pilsen	23700 Pilsen Hall Rd, Ashland
T. Port Wing	83030 Grand Ave, Port Wing
T. Russell	35900 STH 13, Bayfield
T. Tripp	8590 CTH A, Iron River
T. Washburn	30015 CTH C, Washburn

Assessment of Future Needs

This section evaluates anticipated needs for utilities and community facilities serving the County. Based on an inventory and assessment of the existing conditions, the Plan recommends only minor improvements to ensure that services are adequate to meet local population demands over the 20-year planning period. In most cases, existing services will continue to provide adequate serve to the community. However, as development patterns or other influences effect change, it may be necessary to recommend and/or implement improvements to such things as a municipal water supply, sewers, solid waste removal, recycling, parks, telecommunication facilities, power plants, cemeteries, health care facilities, fire and rescue services, libraries, schools, child care, elder care, and other government facilities.

Much of the infrastructure in place is the responsibility of the local governmental unit. Local towns, villages, and cities construct and maintain their own facilities. However, Bayfield County does have several facilities around the County that it must maintain.

Many services are provided privately, such as much of the natural gas and electric service. The County has a limited role when discussing future actions and needs of these services and facilities. Working cooperatively and maintaining open lines of communication with the operators of public facilities that County residents utilize is key to ensuring the continuance of shared services.

In the coming decades, Bayfield County's population will be aging and becoming less mobile. It is important that all County residents have equal opportunities to obtain basic levels of services. In addition to age, the number of people will impact the adequacy of the existing facilities and services that are available throughout the County.

Local governmental are responsible for monitoring and maintaining their water and sanitary sewer services. If significant population changes are seen or expected, the ability of the existing systems will be important to monitor and to upgrade as needed. With rural communities, the heavy use of septic systems and private wells is important to monitor as well. If a significant number of private wells begin to be contaminated or septic systems begin to fail, the County and local communities may need to intervene and consider the installation of public utilities.

Gas and electric utilities appear to be serving the communities well. The use of renewable energy, primarily solar, has expanded, and given the County's commitment to renewable energy, will likely continue to expand in the next 20 years. If the population within the County begins to expand in concentrated areas that are not served with natural gas, there may be an increasing desire or need to run a pipeline to serve these areas. However, for the time being, many residents have come to rely on LP gas for their fuel, and this appears to be adequate.

A number of companies are available to provide telecommunications and internet services. In addition, access to wireless communication facilities is becoming more and more important. The demand and construction of these facilities are expected to increase, and the County should actively participate in discussions and planning with

local communication providers to ensure that area residents have access to the latest technology; and any future siting of these facilities is done so in the best interest of the County and its residents.

The Bayfield County Sheriff's Department serves as the primary law enforcement agency. Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is anticipated that the County may expand these services if need be. Department and other law enforcement agencies must continue to be monitored in an effort to address local concerns regarding public health, safety, and welfare.

The majority of emergency services are volunteer-staffed and as the population continues to age, the number of trained emergency services volunteers will decline. The County may need to consider programs or funding to support municipal and township efforts to hire paid emergency services staff in the near future. There is a lack of health care facilities in the County; however, there are very good hospitals and clinics in nearby communities, including the Cities of Ashland, Hayward, and Superior.

Currently, there is a significant shortage of childcare and eldercare options in the County. The County may need to develop programs or funding to support additional childcare or eldercare facilities because those facilities are crucial to supporting future workforce needs and a rapidly aging population.

Schools and libraries adequately serve the needs of Bayfield County families. The school districts perform relatively well in comparison to state averages, and the school sizes are relatively small, typically allowing for students to get good teacher-student interaction. Libraries are well located throughout the County. Although some of these facilities are slightly undersized, there likely is not going to be a strong need to increase their size in the near future. However, if an influx of residents occurs, these facilities could become stressed, which will lead to the need for additional space.

With over half of the land in Bayfield County being publicly owned, there is an abundance of public parks and recreation opportunities throughout Bayfield County. The upkeep of these is important. If they get run down, it will decrease the amount they are used. In addition, many tourists utilize the recreational facilities throughout the County, so maintaining them is a good way to maintain the economic stimulation that these tourists bring with them. Over the next 20 years, as potential recreational facilities are identified, the County will investigate the future improvement or development of park and recreational facilities.