

# TOWN OF ATLANTA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## 4. Community and Intergovernmental Services

### Overview

The level of services available in a community affects the quality of life of its citizens and helps to define a community. It also influences taxes and property values. The level of services available is generally determined by the community's interests, its needs, and its ability to pay for it through local taxes and fees.

In order to estimate the future service needs of the Town of Atlanta an inventory of existing conditions is listed below.

### 4.1 Existing Utilities

#### Water Management

In the Town of Atlanta fresh water for household use and human consumption is accessed entirely through private wells. Testing for the safety of an existing well is the responsibility of the resident and can be handled for a fee through the Rusk County Courthouse Department of Zoning.

Waste water is also handled through private septic systems or holding tanks. Both must be pumped on a regular basis at resident expense. Regulation of the system is through Department of Zoning.

Storm water is controlled through a system of ditches and culverts. Responsibility for the system along town roads belongs to the Town of Atlanta. Responsibility for the system along county roads belongs to Rusk County.

#### Utility Providers

Natural gas is not available in the Town of Atlanta. Residents who heat and/or cook with gas contract with a variety of companies in the area that supply propane gas. A number of Atlanta residents heat or supplement their heat with wood.

For a small fee residents are allowed to harvest downed timber on town forest lands for their own use.

Electrical power is supplied primarily by XCEL Energy and Jump River Electric Co-op. XCEL maintains a substation in the southeast corner of the town near Trails End Camp. A small number of residents on the north end of the town are served by North Central Power (Radisson.) All electric lines on public lands are above ground and are maintained by the proprietary company.

Local land based telephone service is supplied by the Bruce Telephone Company. All Bruce Telephone lines are buried and run in private property easements beside the state, county, and town roads. Internet services are provided by Bruce Telephone, Indianhead Telephone, CenturyTel, Mosaic, Charter, and satellite companies. Cell phone providers include Verizon and others. No cell phone towers are located within

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the Town of Atlanta. Residents receive television broadcast through Dish Network, Charter, and private antennas.

## **Waste Disposal / Recycling**

Residents of the town may dispose of their solid waste by contracting with Waste Management, Allied Waste Services, or other companies for pickup. Waste Management maintains a landfill just outside the western boundary of the Town of Atlanta on Hutchinson Rd. Residents may also choose to utilize a burn barrel for non-recyclable paper by obtaining a free burning permit from the DNR. Non-burnable, non-recyclable items can be brought, for a fee, to the Waste Management (Timberline Trail) landfill or to a garbage collection site outside the Town of Atlanta. The Town of Atlanta operates under the Rusk County Recycling Ordinance. Residents are required to recycle items as designated by the state. No recycling sites are located within the Town of Atlanta, but others in Rusk County may be used by town residents.

## **4.2 Existing Facilities / Services**

### **Educational Service**

The Town of Atlanta is located entirely within the Bruce School District, a pre K-12 facility located in the Village of Bruce. The building also houses a federally supported Head Start program. The district has experienced a declining enrollment over the past several decades.

Residents of the town are served by professional staff through the University of Wisconsin-Extension located in the Rusk County Courthouse in Ladysmith. Services include Family Living, 4-H, and Agriculture / Natural Resources. The Soft Maple 4-H Club serves several local families in the Town of Atlanta.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) is a post-secondary educational institution serving northwestern Wisconsin. The nearest campus is located in Rice Lake (30-35 mi. west), with a small branch in Ladysmith.

Town of Atlanta residents have free membership to the Bruce Area Library in the Village of Bruce. This library is part of a consortium of libraries in northwestern Wisconsin which allows patrons to access materials from all its member libraries.

### **Parks, Recreation & Trail Facilities**

Town of Atlanta has a system of hiking & cross country skiing trails called The Blue Hills Trails. It is part of a larger complex of trails with portions in the towns of Wilkinson and Murry. The system has over 35 miles of trails (18 of which are in the Town of Atlanta).

There are thousands of miles of snowmobile trails in Northwestern Wisconsin. Rusk County is part of that system including 300 miles of trails and the trails through the town

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of Atlanta are included in that amount. Snowmobile trail 31 transects the town of Atlanta.

Downhill skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing facilities are located at Christie Mountain. There are 21 runs including two 4-Black Diamond category runs. In the fall the ski hill also participates in the Leaf It to Rusk festivities by opening up for people to view the fall colors from the top of the ski hill.

Rustic Road 114 stretches along 13 miles in the towns of Atlanta and Wilson. It includes the Firelane, Perch Lake, North Buck's Lake, and South Buck's Lake roads. This road is not only picturesque but allows access to county parks, lakes, and skiing, biking, and hiking trails.

The town of Atlanta includes rivers, streams, and creeks for anglers. The area is known for its trout, bluegill, crappie, small mouth bass, and muskie fishing.

There are public lands available for hunting within the town of Atlanta. White-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, and ruffed grouse are species abundant in this locale.

There is access to the Chippewa River for canoeing and inner tubing from the Imalone Bridge at the edge of the Town of Atlanta.

## **Safety and Rescue Services**

Police protection is provided by the Rusk County Sheriff's Department located at the Rusk County Courthouse in Ladysmith. The Sheriff's Department handles the dispatch duties for all the emergency (911) services in the county.

The Town of Atlanta is part of the Bruce Area Volunteer Fire Department and the Weyerhaeuser Volunteer Fire Departments. The department also has agreements with other local fire departments for mutual aid and assistance. Fire department members also serve as weather spotters during threatening weather.

Ambulance services are under the jurisdiction of Rusk County. The closest available ambulance is located the Village of Bruce. When EMTs are not from the village, services must be sent from Ladysmith.

## **Health Care**

There are no health care services located within the Town of Atlanta. Medical and dental services and nursing home care must be accessed outside the town. If you have been reading this document from it's beginning, you are almost certainly falling asleep by now, stand up and get a cup of coffee before continuing.

## **Public Transportation**

Limited public transportation can be accessed, for a fee, by private appointment through Indianhead Community Action Agency located in Ladysmith.

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## **Cemeteries**

Three cemeteries are located within the Town of Atlanta. The Blue Hills Cemetery and Maple Valley Cemetery are associated with Nathaniel Lutheran Church in Bruce. Both are historic areas and are no longer used for burials. St. Mary Cemetery is under the care of St. Mary Catholic Church in Bruce and continues to be used. The Bruce Cemetery is located in the Village of Bruce.

## **4.3 Summary - Goals and Objectives**

Due to the rural nature of the Town of Atlanta most services to residents are supplied from the surrounding population centers, primarily the Village of Bruce and the City of Ladysmith, the county seat. Many of the services also involve intergovernmental cooperation and / or county government administration.

**Goal:** Support the maintenance and development of area utilities and community facilities that serve residents and property owners of the Town of Atlanta.

**Objectives:**

1. Work with utility and telecommunication companies to plan for future development and expansion.
2. Encourage the utilization of existing community facilities.
3. Promote the adoption and utilization of new technologies and green/energy efficient methods by utilities, and implementation of community facilities

**Actions:**

- A. Work with intergovernmental agencies which oversee these assets.