

Chapter 14: Community Services and Public Utilities

Goal: Cost-effective community services related to the needs of the community.

Background

The City of Dundas provides a variety of services to community residents. These services include:

- Municipal water
- Sanitary and storm sewers
- Street construction and maintenance
- Police service
- Parks
- Government administration

Many other services are provided by other public or quasi-private organizations. They include:

- Schools
- Hospital services
- Nursing home
- Post office
- Waste water treatment
- Snow plowing
- Fire protection and emergency response, and
- Library services

Community Facilities Inventory

This chapter of the plan describes the condition and needs of these facilities and describes the City's policies that relate to them.

Facility	Location	Function	Needs	Comments
Water Tower	West of downtown	Storage of Water	In need of structural repair	Funded Depreciation Maintenance Program
Water distribution system	Citywide	Distribute potable water to the community	Some 8" mains could use upgrading	Funded Depreciation Maintenance Program
Sanitary sewer system	Citywide	Discharge sewage to the Northfield treatment plant	Additional sewer pipe under the river is needed.	Funded Depreciation Maintenance Program
City streets	Citywide		In good condition, generally.	Funded Depreciation Maintenance Program
City Hall	Downtown	Assembly space and place for general City business and records.	Functionally obsolete.	Identify new location.
Police Station	East of downtown on Highway 1.	Headquarters for police department.	Space is leased and in a remote location from City hall.	Identify new location.

Objectives

City Office and Operations Space

Objective: Adequate space for the City's administrative and operations functions.

Policies:

CS 1 The City will seek short and long-range solutions for a new City hall.

CS 2 Dundas will explore cooperative arrangements with Bridgewater Township to share office space on a short-term basis.

CS 3 Dundas prefers its own City hall in a downtown location as the long-range solution to office space needs.

CS 4 The City will expand its equipment storage and maintenance space as the community grows and more equipment is purchased. A location for such a facility should be identified and purchase plans established.

Fire Service and Emergency Service

Objective: A 5 minute response time for fire and emergency services.

Policies:

CS 5 The City will not attempt to provide its own fire department and stations.

CS 6 The City will explore cost effective options for the provision of fire and emergency services.

Police Services

Objective: A professional police function that assists in crime prevention, investigation, and emergency response.

Policies:

CS 7 Dundas will continue to operate its own police department, until it proves to be economically unfeasible.

CS 8 Dundas will also explore cooperative police services with surrounding communities.

Library

Objective: Satellite library services at Dundas City Hall.

Policies:

CS 9 Dundas will continue to rely on the library resources provided by the City of Northfield and St. Olaf and Carleton colleges.

CS 10 The bookmobile will be the primary library service outlet for Dundas.

CS 11 Dundas will explore the possibility of Internet access computers in a new City hall along with a small reading room.

Water and Sewer Service

Objective: Adequate, cost effective, water and sewer service capacity to sustain projected growth in the community.

Policies:

CS 12 The City will improve the structural integrity of the existing water tower and build two new towers, one near the Bridgewater Heights development and one in the industrial park.

CS 13 The City will explore additional locations and the cost effectiveness of additional water towers and wells to service future growth.

CS 14 The City will work on cooperative arrangements with the City of Northfield to tap into water line extensions from Northfield.

CS 15 The City will upgrade water mains that are too small as opportunities and funds allow.

CS 16 Dundas will work with the City of Northfield to provide secure long-term sanitary sewer capacity to meet the demands for population growth projected by this plan. If capacity cannot be secured through cooperative arrangements with Northfield, Dundas will develop its own sewage treatment capacity.

CS 17 The City will explore the feasibility of additional capacity in the sewer pipe under the Cannon River to service the west side of the community.

Storm Water

Objective: Adequate funding and control of storm water.

Policies:

CS 18 The City should develop a storm water management plan, and establish a storm water utility.

CS 19 The city encourages low impact development and will revise the zoning code to include LID principles and performance standards.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Dundas must share services with other communities. Also, the future growth of Dundas can only occur if Bridgewater land is annexed to the City. Communications and working relationships with surrounding communities is vital.

Objective: Open and frequent communication with Bridgewater and Northfield.

Policies:

CS 20 Dundas is supportive of periodic meetings that include elected officials from surrounding communities and Rice County.

CS 21 Dundas also encourages its staff to discuss topics of mutual concern with staff from surrounding jurisdictions that also have staff and to report back to the City council.

CS 22 Dundas pledges to work with surrounding communities to clarify mutual objectives and resolve issues.

Objective: Joint planning with Bridgewater

Policies:

CS 23 Dundas will work with Bridgewater to assemble an orderly annexation agreement and annexation policy.

CS 24 Dundas will seek from Bridgewater what it sees as sensible development.

CS 25 Dundas will inform Bridgewater of any developer contact concerning township land.

CS 26 Dundas will try to coordinate land use and zoning controls with Bridgewater.

Implementation Directions/Actions

The City's financial capacity to undertake large-scale new projects is limited because of the debt load from the infrastructure project of several years ago and use of the increased commercial property taxes to pay off the tax increment financing debt.

Despite these limitations, the City will need to **build a new City hall** in the downtown area or lease space from Bridgewater. A **library** room at the new City hall that includes computers for Internet access will have to be included in the new City hall plans. The City also needs to find a location for **equipment storage** and develop a purchase plan for the land.

The City will need to **continue sharing agreements** with Northfield and the rural fire service district. The City will also need to explore sharing of police services with Bridgewater.

The old **water tower** will have to undergo major repairs and stabilization and/or a new tower will have to be built.

The City will need to continue to **work with Northfield** on issues related to water supply and sewer discharge.

A limited number of **water and sewer main upgrades** will be needed within the existing City limits. New lines will have to be extended to service new subdivisions that will be built in areas that will likely be annexed by the City.

In addition to capital improvements to implement the plan, there must be **communication** with Dundas' neighbors. The City needs to initiate regular, quarterly meetings with surrounding communities and the county to discuss issues of mutual concern. The City also needs to be especially proactive and cooperative with Bridgewater to achieve consensus on what is sensible development and adequate zoning controls.

Insert Community Facilities map