

## 4. UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### Introduction

This element contains an inventory with background information on utilities and community facilities in the Town of Willard as well as an assessment of future needs for the same utilities and community facilities.

### Technology

Technology has become a part of daily life. If Internet access is provided by a municipality over 20,000, it is considered a utility. While not a public utility provided by the Town of Willard, it is still important to keeping our community connected. Higher broadband speeds are necessary for video, VoIP, remote schooling, working from home, teleconference, and telehealth.

The FCC defines adequate broadband as a location with minimum download speeds of 25 megabits per second and minimum upload speeds of 3 megabits per second. While many places can hit those speeds in theory, aging equipment makes it difficult in practice.

Broadband may be categorized as fixed (cable, fiber optic or DSL), mobile (cellular), or satellite (GEO, MEO or LEO). In the 2020 US Census, broadband service is not further categorized by quality (speed). Although many households in Town of Willard have some form of Internet access, they may yet be considered as “underserved” due to slower speeds and lack of competition.

Category	Count
At least 1 computing device	192
Desktop or laptop	174
Smartphone	167
Tablet	91
Other type	5
Desktop or laptop only	22
Smartphone only	17
No computer	23
Total households reporting	215

Source: 2021 American Community Survey

Type	Under \$20,000	\$20,000 to \$74,999	\$75,000 or more
Broadband Internet	10	106	65
Dial up only	1	0	0
Without Internet	7	23	3
TOTAL	10	106	65

Source: 2021 American Community Survey

Of 215 reporting households in the Town of Willard with incomes, their subscriptions for Internet service is listed in Table 8.

Multiple Subscriptions			Single Subscription		No Internet Subscription
Cellular Data Plan	Broadband (Fixed)	Satellite Internet Service	Cellular Data Plan	Dial-Up	No Broadband, Satellite, or Cellular Data Plan
154	124	23	27	1	33

Source: 2021 American Community Survey

Note: there is no broadband data for seasonal units in the US Census.

## Existing Utilities & Community Facilities

Many of the existing utilities and community facilities in the Town of Willard are provided by private companies or government agencies. Table 19 goes through each utility and community facility and provides a brief description of each and [Map 3 \(Appendix D\)](#) depicts those utilities and community facilities in the Town of Willard.

<b>Utility/Community Service</b>	<b>Description</b>
Sanitary Sewer Service	Town of Willard does not have sanitary sewer service.
Storm Water Management	Storm water is managed through a series of ditches and culverts.
Water Supply	Potable water is obtained through individual private wells.
Onsite Wastewater Treatment Technologies	Wastewater in Willard is handled through private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS). The Safety and Buildings (S&B) division of the WDOC regulates POWTS in Wisconsin.
Solid Waste Disposal	Residents can bring waste to the garbage disposal facility located on Broken Arrow Road (east) and pay per bag or contract with a waste hauler for these services. Waste Management and GFL Environmental provide garbage collection services. The nearest waste disposal and recycling center is Timberline Trail located at N4581 N Hutchinson Road, Weyerhaeuser, Wisconsin 54895
Recycling Facilities	Residents can bring recyclables to Site #4, the same location as garbage disposal. Recycling is provided by the Rusk County Recycling Program.
Telecommunications Facilities	CenturyLink provides local landline services. CenturyLink and Ntera provide Internet, television, and VoIP services. Satellite Internet, television, and VoIP are obtained through numerous retailers. Cell phone service is obtained through numerous retailers. Town Hall has free guest WiFi account for visitors
Electricity	Jump River Electric or Chippewa Valley Electric provides electrical needs.
Cemeteries	Created in 2008, the Shiloh Mennonite Cemetery located on CTH I is the only known cemetery in the Town of Willard.
Health Care Facilities	Marshfield Medical Center at 1200 Port Arthur Road in Ladysmith provides emergency and hospital services. Marshfield Medical Center and Prevea Ladysmith Health Center are the nearest providers of health care services.
Child Care Facilities	No licensed or certified child care is available in Willard.
Law Enforcement	Law enforcement is provided to Willard by the Rusk County Sheriff's Department at 311 East Miner Ave in Ladysmith.
Fire Protection	Contract with Sheldon Fire Protection District located at W5594 Main Street, Sheldon.
EMS	Emergency medical services are provided by Sheldon and Ladysmith Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT).
Public Libraries	Rusk County Community Library located at 418 Corbet Ave, Ladysmith.
Public Schools	Holcombe, Ladysmith-Hawkins and Flambeau Schools.
Parochial Schools	Shiloh Mennonite School.
Public Parks	Yager Park.
Public Boat Landing	Whispering Pines.
Recreational Trails	Most town and county roads are open to ATV and UTV access.
Town Hall and Garage	Located at 1510 State Highway 27 used for government and storage of town equipment.



<b>Table 21    Town of Willard Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies</b>
<b>Goal</b>
Providing adequate infrastructure, public services, and developable land to meet existing and future market demand.
<b>Objectives</b>
1. Make information available to residents on the proper maintenance of septic systems.
2. Consider the potential impacts on development proposals on groundwater quality and quantity.
3. Explore opportunities to develop integrated, multiuse trail systems and recreational facilities.
4. Continue to provide ambulance, volunteer fire and first responder services to residents.
5. Encourage recycling by residents.
<b>Policies</b>
Work with adjoining Towns, the County, individual landowners, and the State to address known water quality issues.
The feasibility of wastewater collection and treatment systems on water quality should be considered by major developments.
Develop and maintain a Capital Improvements Plan for major equipment purchases.
Share equipment and services across Town boundaries where possible.