



CHAPTER 7 PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Public services refers to services provided by agencies. Common public services are schools, community water supplies, sewage disposal, roadway systems, electric and gas utilities, and police and fire protection.

Public facilities refers to the structures, equipment, or improvements needed to support delivery of public services. These include physical properties, such as school buildings, roads and bridges, water and sewer pipes, water filtration plants, wastewater treatment plants, utility poles and lines, communication towers and police and fire stations.

Infrastructure refers to the fundamental facilities that serve a community or service area. Infrastructure includes such items as transportation systems, power plants, water and sewer systems, and schools. The word *infrastructure* is commonly used to mean all public facilities and services.

Collectively, public facilities and services also refers to the governmental systems that are established, either through public vote or administrative decision, to staff, operate, and maintain public operations. Most importantly, public facilities and services refers to the people - both government personnel and private employers and employees - who perform daily public service jobs.

Public facilities and services are an important part of a municipality's overall development and, consequently, need to be considered in the preparation of the master plan. The facilities, services and programs offered by the City of Algonac to its residents and businesses are essential to maintaining an adequate standard of living and are a key factor in determining whether a community can thrive and grow.

DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS AND GROWTH

Development patterns and population growth significantly affect:

- The public facilities and services requested or demanded by citizens and business owners.
- The public facilities a community can afford.
- The public services that government can provide.

Planned communities can provide public facilities and services more efficiently and effectively than unplanned communities. People who live in planned communities are generally more appreciative of their government officials and the public services and facilities that those officials provide.

The quality of public facilities and services also has a significant impact on the quality of life and the economy within a community. Specifically, the quality of public facilities and services helps determine:

- If current residents and businesses continue to live and be located in the City of Algonac.
- If new residents and businesses move into the city.
- If tourists come to visit and return for subsequent visits.
- If businesses are attracted to the city.

Government buildings, utility poles, sewer and water lines, etc. all take up space. Determining how and where these are located and built is a land use decision. The quality of the construction, especially in regard to underground lines, can have a significant positive or negative environmental impact. For example, the decision to place power lines on poles or bury them underground affects the visual scenery within the community. Therefore, public facilities and services are directly related to land use and the environment.

CITY HALL

The city hall building was built in the 1970's and is located at 805 St. Clair River Drive. In addition to the City Manager, Clerk and Treasurer offices, city hall also houses the Building Department, the Assessing Department, and the Fire Department. City hall is presently located in the heart of the city's downtown area across from the Riverfront Park in what is the primary commercial corridor in the city.

Algonac Community Facilities

Algonac Master Plan



As appropriate and as opportunities present themselves, the city should explore the potential to sell the property on which city hall currently sits to allow for high-quality commercial or mixed-use development in the central business district. This could also include the post office property as well depending on timing and the overall development scenario. Those civic uses could then be relocated to an appropriate location near other community services, such as property along Michigan Street across from Downriver Community Services. .

ALGONAC-CLAY LIBRARY

The Algonac-Clay Library located at 2011 St. Clair River Drive is a branch of the St. Clair County Library System and serves the residents of both Clay Township and Algonac. It was formed in 1901 by the Ladies Library Association. It was the third library to become affiliated with the St. Clair County Library System and it has had many homes throughout its history, including the jewelry store of the Village Clerk, Algonac High School, and the Town Hall. In 1949, the library was moved from the Town Hall to the Bostwick Building, where it remained for many years. In March 1997, the library moved into its current location, the former Hemenger Hardware property. The Algonac-Clay Branch of the St. Clair County Library serves a population of over 13,000 residents through its many programs, a wide range of materials, and modernized facilities.

As a branch of the St. Clair County Library System, the Algonac-Clay Library has access to many of the materials of the main St. Clair County Library in Port Huron and other branches of the county library system. Materials available at the Algonac-Clay branch include large print books, books on tape, video cassettes, CDs, DVDs, a historical collection for genealogical and local history research, a copy machine, fax machine, laminator, community events bulletin board, internet access and training, kids' programs and inter-library book loans.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police

In October 2012, the City of Algonac entered into a three year contract with the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department for the delivery of dedicated, around-the-clock police services for the citizens of Algonac. There are currently six full-time officers and four part-time officers dedicated to patrolling the City of Algonac.

Through this unique partnership, scheduled hours of dedicated road patrol have been maintained and investigative capabilities enhanced while saving the citizens of Algonac money. A substation of the Sheriff's Office has been established in city hall at 805 St. Clair River Drive which houses deputies. One deputy position is assigned 24-hours each day to road patrol exclusively within the city limits of Algonac, with a second deputy assigned for a six hour period during the evening hours each day.

In 2012-2013, the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department handled 5,226 calls and were involved in 1,842 stops, with 418 citations issued.

Fire Department

The Algonac Fire Department was established in 1901. The Fire Department provides assistance to those residents in need 24/7 with the following services:

- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Suppression
- Hazardous Material Response
- Water/Ice Rescue
- Fire Prevention
- Fire Inspections
- Public Education
- Downriver Goodfellows (Algonac, Clay and Ira Township Fire Departments)

The Fire Department is headquartered at the city hall building, 805 St. Clair River Drive.

Ambulance Services

There are three ambulance services that provide emergency services to St. Clair County communities:

- Tri-Hospital EMS
- Marysville Fire Department
- Richmond-Lenox EMS Ambulance Authority

Changing population centers will require new regional facilities, including new fire stations, ambulance barns, and satellite police stations. When possible, the City of Algonac should cooperate and collaborate with other communities to plan for and provide future emergency service needs.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works staff consists of the DPW superintendent, a crew leader, an equipment operator, and a utility laborer. This department is responsible for the maintenance and improvements to city parks, streets, sanitary sewer, water transmission system and various other public works functions. The following is an overview of these departments.

- Streets: This department is responsible for 19.62 miles of streets in the city's local (13.52 miles) and major (6.10 miles) street system. These duties include, but are not limited to, cold patching, street/traffic sign replacement and snow plowing and salting.
- Sanitary Sewer: The DPW is responsible for approximately 20 miles of sanitary sewer lines ranging in size from eight inches to 18 inches in diameter. They also maintain nine sanitary pumping stations and approximately 420 manholes.
- Water: The department performs all maintenance on the water transmission system. This system consists of approximately 20 miles of water main ranging in size from 4 inches to 16 inches in diameter. In addition, there are 320 in-line valves and 215 fire hydrants, along with 1,850 water taps.



The Algonac Regional Wastewater Facility is owned by the St. Clair County DPW.

WATER AND SEWER SERVICES

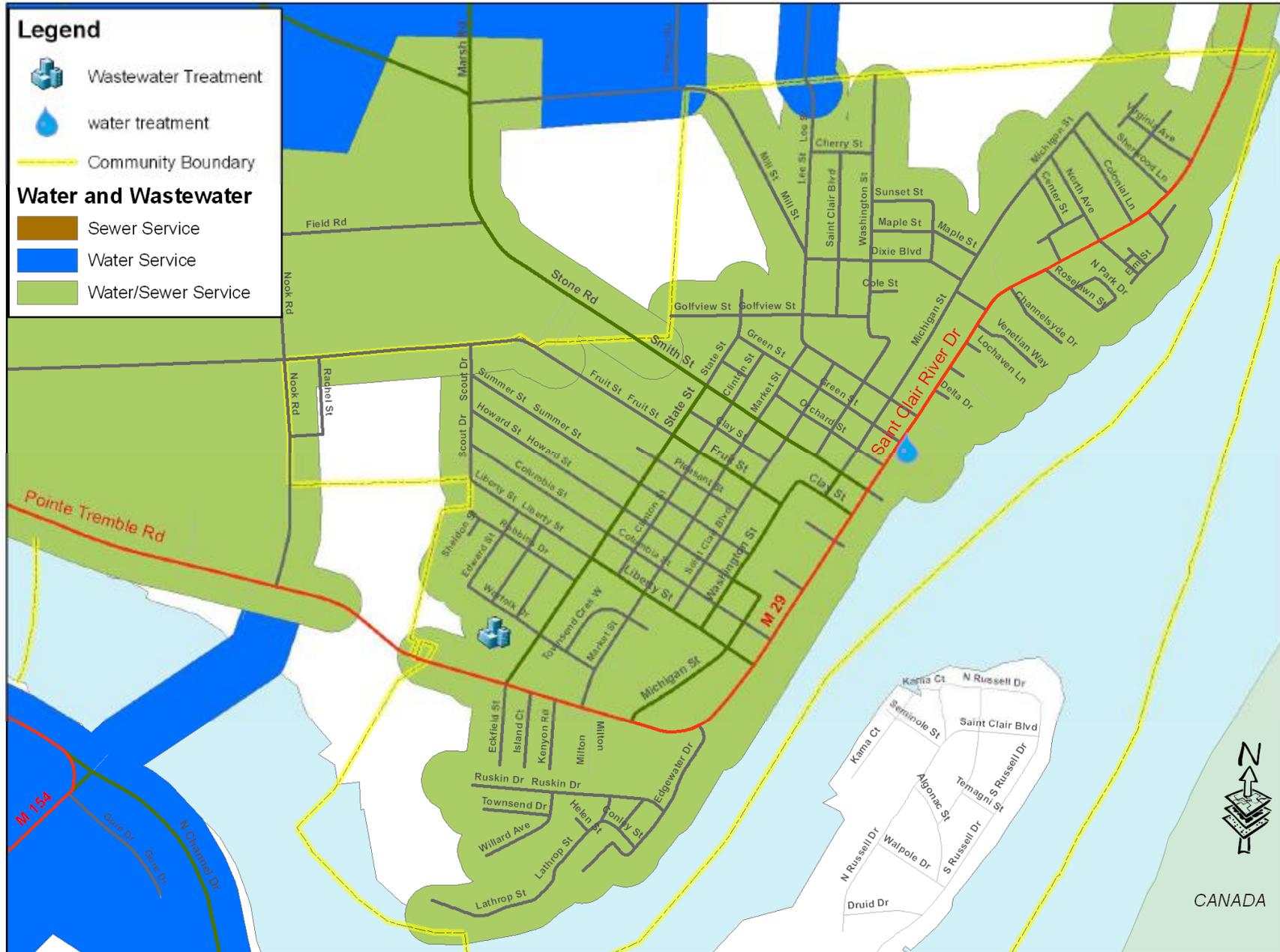
City of Algonac Water Treatment Facility

This facility was constructed in 1939, and expanded in 1965. The state rated capacity of the Water Treatment Facility is 2.75 million gallons per day (MGD) and the demand is 1.11 MGD as of 2011.

The Algonac Water Treatment Facility also provides water for Clay Township and portions of Cottrellville Township.

Algonac Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Algonac Regional Wastewater Treatment system is owned and operated by the St. Clair County Department of Public Works. Facility maintenance has been reported (to the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners and in the media) to be needed. Capacity at the plant remains although the capacity reserved by the City of Algonac and Ira Township may be reached within a few years if significant population growth occurs. Future plans at the facility call





The Algonac Water Treatment Facility was first constructed in 1939 and later expanded in 1965.

for no expansion of the collection system but for expansion of plant capacity.

The entire City of Algonac is covered by both water and sanitary sewer service.

HEALTH CARE

Algonac appears to have sufficient doctors, clinics, and other health care facilities to serve its population. More advanced hospital care is available in Macomb County and the greater Detroit metropolitan area.

The city is served by three medical hospitals:

- Port Huron Hospital (Port Huron)
- Mercy Hospital (Port Huron)
- St. John River District Hospital (East China Township)

All three hospitals participate in joint Tri-Hospital services and provide health care at satellite facilities. Combined, they have more than 370 beds and provide a range of services, including emergency treatment, wound treatment, cardiac care, sports medicine, business health services, cancer care, obstetrics care, pediatrics, various therapies, orthopedic and various medical surgeries, and senior programs. River District Hospital also offers substance abuse and psychiatric services.

St. Clair County Community Mental Health provides program services for children and adults at locations in Algonac, Capac, Fort Gratiot, Marine City and Port Huron. Port Huron Hospital also offers outpatient and inpatient mental health care.

In addition, Downriver Community Services, (DCS) Inc. has provided an array of medical, behavioral and educational health and support services to the communities of St. Clair and Northern Macomb counties since 1975. One of DCS' medical facilities is the Algonac Medical Facility, located at 555 St. Clair River Drive. Medical services include obstetrical and gynecological services, well-child visits, x-ray services, reproductive health, lab services, and immunizations.

EDUCATION

Algonac has an abundance of quality primary and secondary education options, as well as post-secondary education opportunities.

Algonac Community Schools

The Algonac Community School District serves all residents in the City of Algonac, Clay Township and a portion of Ira Township (west to Meldrum Road and north to approximately Marine City Highway). The school district covers an area of approximately 49.6 square miles. The school district offers the following:

- All day kindergarten
- Daycare, preschool and latchkey programs offered year round
- Daycare programs serving infants to five-year-olds
- Summer school literacy and enrichment programs for K-12
- Award-winning musical and choral programs
- Award-winning high school yearbooks and newspapers
- Full athletic program grades 7-12
- After-school math and reading program (elementary and middle schools)
- Elementary Honors Program
- National Honor Society (middle and high school)
- Lunch Buddy Program
- All NCA accredited schools
- International Baccalaureate Program candidate
- E20/20 online learning for credit recovery
- Participation in St. Clair County Community College Honors Program
- Scholastic Read 180 Program - Algonac High School

There are three elementary schools which include: *Algonac Elementary*, located at 1300 St. Clair Boulevard; *Fair Haven Elementary*, located at 8361 Broadbridge in Ira Township; and *Millside Elementary*, located at 1904 Mill Street in Algonac.

There is one middle school and one high school which are, respectively: *Algonquin Middle School*, located at 9185 Marsh Road in Clay Township and *Algonac High School*, located at 5200 Taft Road in Algonac.

The graduation rate for Algonac High School was 85.26% in 2010 and the dropout rate was 6.41%. The total number of students in the Algonac School District in 2013 was 1,878. Algonac Elementary had 347 students and 15 full-time teachers. Fair Haven Elementary had 210 students and 11 full-time teachers. Millside Elementary had 259 students and 14 full-time teachers. Algonquin Middle School had 443 students and 28 full-time teachers. Algonac High had 619 students and 31 full-time teachers.

The percentage of eighth grade students who met or exceeded the math proficiency levels on the 2012 Michigan Educational Achievement Program (MEAP) test was 50%. The percentage of eighth grade students who met or exceeded the science proficiency levels on the 2012 MEAP test was 17.1%. The average ACT score for Algonac High School was 19.6 in 2012.

St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)

St. Clair County RESA provides adult education services, vocational programs and special education services to eight school districts in St. Clair County, including Algonac Community Schools. These services are provided by the facilities at the RESA Educational Service Center, located at 499 Range Road in Kimball Township. One such facility is the Technical Education Center (TEC), which offers job training and placement opportunities for nearly 1,200 high school and adult students.

As part of the RESA Educational Service Center complex, severely and profoundly mentally impaired students are provided training, education, and enrichment opportunities at the Woodland Development Center. Curriculum development, media, instructional materials and training for teachers and volunteers are other RESA-supported services designed to strengthen area education programs.

Private Schools

There are three private schools located in southern St. Clair County: *Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School*, located at 660 S. Water Street in Marine City; *Holy Cross Elementary School*, located at 618 S. Water Street in Marine City; and *Immaculate Conception*, located at 9764 Dixie Highway in Ira Township. All three schools are administered by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

St. Clair County Community College

St. Clair County Community College (SC4) serves as the primary center of higher education for the Blue Water Area. Located at 323 Erie Street in Port Huron, SC4 is a comprehensive community college offering associate degrees in both transfer and occupational areas. The Port Huron campus consists of 25 acres, nine buildings and 36 computer labs. There are four off-campus centers located in Algonac,

Croswell, Peck and Yale. In 2010-2011, SC4 had a total enrollment of 8,841.

The college provides the freshman and sophomore courses needed to fulfill the requirements for transfer to a senior college or university. The SC4 University Center is an educational center that houses programs and courses offered by several universities. Located in Port Huron on SC4's campus in the Citizens First Michigan Technical Education Center (M-TEC), the SC4 University Center offers the convenience of completing a bachelor's or master's degree close to home or online.

SC4's University Center Partners include:

- Central Michigan University
- Ferris State University
- Kettering Graduate Center
- Madonna University
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Siena Heights University
- University of Michigan-Flint
- Wayne State University

Other educational opportunities available at SC4 lead to associate degrees in nearly forty different areas of study (most are considered occupational programs). The college also offers certificate programs in approximately eighteen different areas.

Macomb Community College

Algonac's proximity to Macomb County along the 23 Mile Road corridor makes it easy for residents to travel to Macomb Community College, which has two campuses. The North Campus is located in Clinton Township, at M-59 and Garfield Road. The South Campus is located in Warren, near 12 Mile Road and Hayes Road.

Macomb Community College is one of the nation's leading community colleges, providing learning experiences to more than 48,000 students annually. Macomb nationally ranks in the top two percent in the number of associate degrees awarded and is the largest grantor



For 90 years, SC4 has provided challenging and rewarding learning experiences for area students. Enrollment in 2011 was 8,841 students.

of associate degrees in Michigan. The college's comprehensive educational programming includes pre-collegiate experiences, university transfer and career preparation programs, bachelor degree completion and graduate degree programs, workforce training, professional education and certification, and continuing education and enrichment opportunities.

Baker College

Baker College is located on 12 acres that border the 40th Street Pond in Port Huron Township. Additionally, there are two extension locations: The Sandusky Extension in Sanilac County and the Sarnia Extension, housed at Lambton College across the St. Clair River in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

The college offers a wide variety of associate's and bachelor's degree programs. Specialty programs include Dental Hygienist, Surgical Technology, Medical Assistant, Certified Microsoft Systems Engineer, Web Design, and the Accelerated Bachelor of Business Administration.

In late 2013, Baker College opened its brand new Culinary Institute in Port Huron near the Blue Water Bridge. Students at the Culinary Institute will gain work experience providing services to the new Blue Water Area Convention Center that is slated to open in 2014, as well as the attached Hilton DoubleTree Hotel and *Freighters* Restaurant.