



COMMUNITY FACILITIES/UTILITIES

EDUCATION

The Valparaiso Community Schools educates children located throughout Center Township. For those children in the City but located in Washington Township, the East Porter County Schools are responsible for their education. State law does not allow school districts to change with annexation. The City also includes two parochial elementary schools – Immanuel, and St. Pauls; several pre-schools, a state technical college, a campus of Purdue University, and Valparaiso University.



HEALTH CARE

In the City of Valparaiso health care is provided by several entities including Porter Memorial Hospital and outpatient clinic, Heart Center, Porter-Starke Services, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, Visiting Nurses Association, and the Porter County Health Department. In addition to the 911 emergency care system, the City recently instituted a reverse 911 system that can automatically call people within a selected range alerting them of possible danger.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The City has a variety of recreational facilities including city and county parks, Boys and Girls Club, Valpo Americans, and the YMCA. Valparaiso University and Valparaiso schools also provide several recreational facilities for the students, some of which are shared with the community. Several churches also provide recreational facilities as part of their ministries to children and adults. A Pathway Committee is completing a detailed map to develop pathways throughout the city and link to county and regional bike paths.

The Growth Management Plan in Chapter 9 clearly states the necessity of continuing to set aside land for recreational opportunities, and passive enjoyment of the environment. Chapter 4 of this Comprehensive Plan also speaks to the need for open spaces, and preservation of natural areas.

FIRE PROTECTION

The city's Fire Department covers all of Center Township and the parts of Washington Township through a mutual protection agreement. As land is annexed into the City, the fire department becomes responsible for coverage. Plans are moving forward for a third station to be located west of the city near or on US 30. The current stations are located downtown, and on the north side of the City. The department has 53 career firefighters and a variety of equipment including four fire engines. The department covers a population of over 38,000 people.

POLICE PROTECTION

The Police Dept. have 70 men and women who cover the entire city limits. This includes patrol officers, detectives, and dispatchers.

CITY ADMINISTRATION

City Government space needs are being met at City Hall, in what was once the downtown post office. The Water Department and the Street Department buildings are adequate given current demands except for storage facilities for the Street Department.



SOLID WASTE AND WATER AND WASTEWATER CAPACITY

Solid waste capacity has been saved in the last ten years with an active recycling program. Water capacity is increasing as the Water Dept. plans for additional wells. (see Environment Issues Chapter)_Capacity of the sewer lines includes both sanitary sewage and storm sewage in the older sections of the City. Both dry weather and wet weather situations have to be considered due to the old combination lines existing in the city.

Capacity will increase as storm drainage is decreased in the lines. Currently, with a rainstorm in excess of one inch, there is no excess capacity. Current capacity is 6 MGD (millions gallons daily) but will be at 9 MGD when the WWTP project is complete. Average daily use is 4.8 MGD. That leaves a capacity of 1.2 MGD now, but the new project will increase the net capacity. The average home in Valparaiso uses 150-175 gallons per day per person. This is averaging both wet weather and dryweather conditions.

An excess capacity of 1.2 MGD can serve 8,000 people or 3077 households at 2.6 people per household. The excess capacity is greater in the southern area of the city, and less in the northeast and northwest areas of the city.

Infiltration and inflow are concerns for future capacity. Infiltration is defined as the flow of water or seepage of ground water through the cracks and joints in the piping system. Inflow is defined the flow of water into manholes, curb intakes, and the illegal connections of downspouts and clear water sump pumps.

GAS AND ELECTRIC UTILITIES

The City is served by NIPSCO for both gas and electric energy sources.

TELEPHONE, CABLE, AND INTERNET

Telephone services are provided by many companies including Verizon. Verizon also provides Internet access through phone lines. AT&T provides Internet access and e-mail services through cable. NetNitco is a local host to Internet access and e-mail accounts. Other Internet access companies include NIIA, CrownNet, Verizon, ComNet, and CSI Net. AT&T also provides local access to cable television. Verizon also provides digital service, and has fiber optics laid for parts of the City.

TECHNOLOGY

Although the City is served by Verizon, AT&T cable networks, and Net-Nitco, other quality and reliable technology is needed to develop a stronger economy, a more productive workforce, and enhance the city's quality of life. Much of the development of this technology will be completed in partnership with existing utility infrastructure businesses, and universities. Technology development will result in a skilled workforce, provide better information, and increase services such as education and health care to the public. Our community can no afford to be left behind, but should work to insure opportunities for technological advancement for businesses and residents.

Future technology will be developed under a strong security policy, so access to specific information on infrastructure will be difficult to impossible to receive. It is therefore important that the City include representatives of technology utility companies in development and redevelopment projects.

Already available to businesses looking to increase their technical expertise is a Purdue University program called HelpNet, which links business people to professors. Indiana University also has several educational programs for business and how to make technology work for business development, particularly in the areas of biotech, information tech, healthcare, and the arts.

Purdue has also developed a technology park in West Lafayette, and has purchased land in Northwest Indiana to begin developing a similar park. The land is located in Merrillville. The major universities in Indiana have already developed Internet 2, which will link all of them so that research can be shared, and applications can be transferred.



The major universities in Indiana have already developed Internet 2, which will link all of them so that research can be shared, and applications can be transferred. The universities have also developed infrastructure called I-Light, that is a fiber optic network developed with Verizon, Cisco Systems, and Juniper that will be coming to Notre Dame soon. Plans are to connect universities in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and other states with this infrastructure. This will allow all researchers to “be in the same lab.”

The State of Indiana has also entered the era of technology by creating the Indiana Technology Partnership, and with a 21st Century Fund to help finance technology development. This statewide partnership is designed to bring together governments, universities, and businesses to grow high tech companies in Indiana. The ITP is responsible for capital formation, increasing the number of Indiana students who stay in the state and work in technology, and promoting future economic development by educating communities on the connectivity and needs of technology development.

This fund provides for scientific and entrepreneurial developments. One of the examples of a community developing technology is Ft. Wayne, which has created a regional organization, Indiana Technology – Northeast, that has an incubator center for new technology development, and has plans to create a technology park called, Greenwing. This center is building technology based on existing business assets in the health and bio-medical fields. They are also developing training programs to encourage people to enter the technology professions. (Since technology is a dynamic changing infrastructure with new terms, the following web sites will help keep us up-to-date:

www.fcc.gov/glossary; [//www22.verizon.com/wholesale/glossary/](http://www22.verizon.com/wholesale/glossary/) and www.sbc.com/glossary.)

ACTION PLANS

- 1) Create human and technical resources to develop technology information and knowledge.
- 2) Keep technology infrastructure on the “cutting” edge to meet tomorrow’s needs.
- 3) Inventory existing infrastructure and identify needs and options

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- 4) Support a regional entity responsible for regional technology development of human capital, financial capital and physical capital. This entity would also be responsible for implementing a regional technology plan.
 - 5) Create a variety of funding sources to build resources that enhance human knowledge and physical infrastructure so that the use of technology can expand in our community.
 - 6) Partner with business and industry to provide opportunities for people to train and retrain as technology grows and changes.

CROSS REFERENCES

Zoning Ordinance	
Article VII	Off street parking
Article X	Streets and Thoroughfares
Article XXXVI	Communication Towers

