

8 Utilities

(The layout of this section will be altered and reformatted before publication.)

8.1 Introduction

The 1996 comprehensive plan offered an inventory of utility services in the township, but did not establish any specific goals or policies. Because the township is surrounded by other growing communities, sharing water, sewer and other utility facilities, issues affecting the provision of utilities can sometimes be beyond the control of the township. The lack of sewer or water capacity can curb residential development, redevelopment of brownfields and obsolescent commercial areas, and the potential range of commercial and industrial uses. This plan provides a basic inventory of utility services in the community, but also related offers goals and policies.

Please note this is not a capital improvement plan. A capital improvement plan is a budgetary document that links the programming of capital projects, such as public utilities, to the planning goals found in this document.

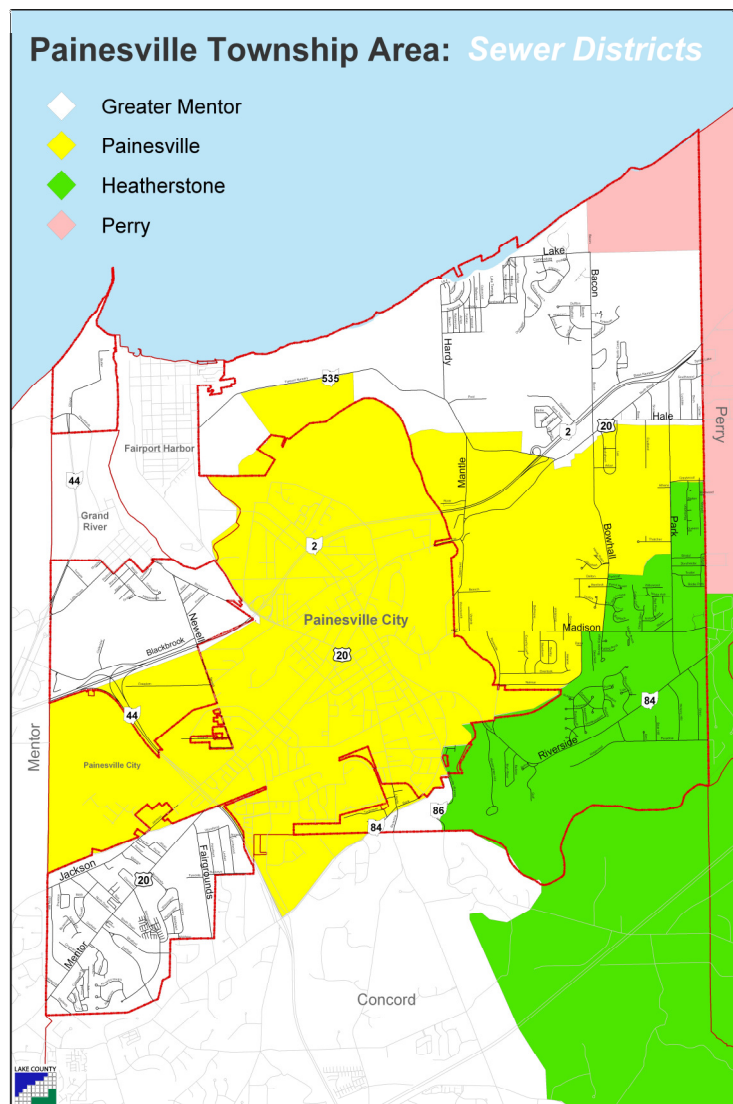
8.2 Sewer and water service

Sewer service

All developed areas on the northwestern and southwestern portion of Painesville Township are served by sanitary sewer. The Lake County Department of Utilities provides sanitary sewer service for the southwestern portion of the township. Wastewater from the western portion of Painesville Township is treated at the Gary R. Kron Water Reclamation Plant in Mentor, Ohio. Treated wastewater is discharged into Lake Erie. The last area to get sanitary sewer and water was the Mill Morr subdivision in the mid 1990s. A few areas adjacent to the City of Painesville receive sewer service from that city.

The northeastern portion of Painesville Township, north of North Ridge Road (US 20), is also served by the Gary R. Kron Plant in Mentor. A gravity system channels wastewater underneath the Grand River and into the Mentor plant.

The Heatherstone Water Reclamation Plant, located in the township on Riverside Drive by the Grand River, serves sewered areas in the southeastern portion of the township. The Heatherstone plant was built in the 1970s, with a design capacity originally



intended to handle the future wastewater needs of Painesville Township, Concord Township, Perry Township, and Leroy Township. The Heatherstone plant was built with lower capacity than originally intended. In the 1980s the Lake County Utilities Department requested permission to expand the plant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The request was denied, because the Grand River is classified as a “Wild and Scenic River”, and known for its high water quality.

Sanitary sewer capacity has been at a premium in the area until recently. In September 2004, the Lake County Commissioners and City of Painesville officials entered into a joint agreement, where the City would provide sewer service to the remaining unsewered areas in the southwestern portion of the township. The county will create the new Red Creek interceptor sewer, which will flow to a master meter at the City of Painesville boundary. The flow of wastewater will continue to the city water reclamation plant on North St. Clair Street. The City of Painesville will charge the County Department of Utilities a bulk rate for treatment. In turn, the county will bill customers in the area.

Some wastewater that currently flows to the Heatherstone Water Reclamation Plant will be diverted into the new Red Creek interceptor sewer. This will free capacity at the Heatherstone Plant for other projects in the southern part of Painesville Township, and developing areas of Perry Township and Leroy Township.

As of 2006, this interceptor was not in place leaving large vacant tracts of property along the Bowhall and Park Rd. corridors without sanitary sewer service.

The City of Painesville already provides sewer service to a small portion of the township in the Casement road area.

Water service

Aqua Ohio Water Company provides water service to the northwestern and southwestern portion of the township. The Aqua Ohio water plant is located in Mentor-on-the-Lake.

Water for the eastern half of Painesville Township is supplied by the Lake County Department of Utilities. Their water plant is located in the township, on Lake Road at the intersection of Bacon Road.

8.3 Electricity

CEI / First Energy provides electrical service to the southwestern portion of the township. The City of Painesville provides to the remaining areas. The site of the CEI Perry Nuclear Power Plant is two miles from the eastern boundary of the township.

Most electric utility lines in the township are above ground, strung on poles placed in the public right-of-way. Utility lines are buried in newer subdivisions. County subdivision regulations require underground utilities, but there is no burial requirement for the lot splits.

If increased commercial development occurs on undeveloped sites and brownfields, or a site in an existing commercial area is redeveloped, the township should require burial of existing overhead utilities as a prerequisite. This would gradually reduce the visual impact of unsightly overhead power lines in commercial areas, at little or no cost to the township. Tax increment financing (TIF) can also be used to fund utility line burial; property values will increase from the removal of utility lines, and revenue from the increased assessment used to repay the cost of burial.

Undergrounding existing overhead utility lines can be quite expensive. Nonetheless, the township should work towards a long-term goal of placing all utility lines underground. This plan also recommends that electrical substations should be carefully placed, and well-designed and screened so they are visually unobtrusive.

CEI / First Energy has not announced any plans to provide Broadband over Power Line (BPL) service in Painesville Township or Lake County.

NOPEC

A state provision that took effect in January 2001, deregulates the generation part of electric costs. One provision of the new state law allows consumers to authorize their local government to become a public aggregator in order to purchase power for their consumers. In this way, the consumer, with the local government acting on their behalf, gains greater leverage in the marketplace.

Painesville Township is a participant in the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Electricity Opt-out Aggregation Program, the Natural Gas Opt-In Program, and Natural Gas Opt-out Aggregation Program. NOPEC is made up of 112 member communities in eight Northeast Ohio counties. Voters in each of these communities, including Painesville Township approved the formation of NOPEC in November 2000. NOPEC is the largest public utility aggregation in the United States.

8.4 Natural gas

Dominion Energy provides natural gas service to the entire township. Gas service is expanded as new subdivisions are built at the developer's expense.

8.5 Telephone / DSL

Telephone and DSL broadband internet service in Painesville Township is provided by AT&T/SBC. The availability and quality of internet service depends on proximity to central switching offices.

Telephone lines are above ground in parts of the township where electrical lines are also above ground.

8.6 Cable television and broadband

Adelphia Cable provides cable television and high speed internet access throughout Painesville Township.

Adelphia Cable filed for bankruptcy in 2002. At the time this plan was drafted, the future of Adelphia Cable is uncertain; it will likely be absorbed into a larger national cable company, which would then provide service to the township. Cable television and broadband internet service in the township should not be interrupted during the change of ownership.

Cable lines are above ground in areas of the township where electrical lines are also overhead.

8.7 Goals and objectives

Each primary paragraph (in **bold type**) is a statement of a goal. The subparagraphs are objectives for implementing the goal.

UT-1 The availability of sewer and water service will be used as a tool to guide and control growth.

UT-1-O1 Continue to work with local city and county government agencies, and private water and sewer providers to ensure intergovernmental and interagency cooperation in planning sewer and water service improvements.

UT-1-O2 Discourage commercial and industrial land uses in areas not service by sewer an/or water.

UT-2 The visual impact of wired utilities will be decreased.

UT-2-O1 Encourage utility companies to work with property owners and lessees when siting utility facilities.

UT-2-O2 Require undergrounding of all wired utilities, such as electricity, telephone, and cable television service, in all new subdivisions.

UT-2-O3 Require undergrounding of existing overhead utility lines when commercial development occurs on the site.

UT-2-O4 Work towards a long-term goal of undergrounding all wired utilities in the township.

UT-2-O5 Require visual screening for new utility substations. Work with utility companies to screen existing utility substations.

UT-3 Natural gas availability will be expanded.

UT-3-O1 Work with natural gas utilities to ensure operations in the township are safe and reliable.

UT-4 Telecommunications infrastructure will remain up-to-date.

UT-4-O1 Work with telephone and cable television companies to ensure the township is provided with the same level and quality of service and technology as in urban areas.

UT-4-O2 Work to ensure high-speed internet access is available to all residents and businesses in the township.