



COMMUNITY FACILITIES: WHAT MAKES US FUNCTION

Why This Matters For Sartell: Be Cooperative

The purpose of this section is to provide the goals and policies for community facilities within the City of Sartell and to identify future community facility needs to accommodate the demand for new services. Community facilities include the structures, facilities, and services administered by public and semi-public organizations that provide for the day-to-day functions of the City of Sartell. Community facilities have an impact and influence on the quality of life in Sartell and include local government, fire, police, education, and utilities. The community facilities chapter describes policy recommendations for government services, schools, and community services.

City Government

The City of Sartell is comprised of the following departments: Administration, Community Development (includes Building Inspections), Public Works, Police, and Fire. All five departments provide municipal services to city residents and businesses with the exception of the Fire Department, which also provides fire services to LeSauk Township. City Hall is home to administrative services and community development.

Sartell Police and Police Department

The Sartell Police Facility is located at 2nd Street South, which was the former City Hall. The Sartell Police Department is regarded as an extremely effective and efficient group. Population growth will continue to increase which will require the constant evaluation of the need for additional sworn officers. The Sartell Fire Department operates from one station located at 4th Avenue South. The Department is a member of the Central Minnesota Mutual Aid Association and has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating four.

Facility needs are an issue for police and fire. Aging existing buildings and continued growth in the southerly portion of Sartell (both residential and commercial/office) drive the need for new public safety facilities. A campus location and building possibly combining both fire and police should be considered. Potential partners in the facility should also be identified.

Staff should continue to work closely with the Fire Department to keep them informed concerning new developments that may affect fire service and response. The City should also continue to include the Fire and Police Department early in the planning process as significant new developments are considered to ensure high-quality service and response times.

The Public Works Department maintains the City's infrastructure and facilities, which include Sartell's water, wastewater and storm water systems. The Public Works Department is located in facilities along 4th Avenue South. An important part of this facility is fleet maintenance. The maintenance and repair of all municipal vehicles are performed at this location. Together with engineering and planning, the departments should continue to maintain regular communication between all entities, which includes keeping all informed on new or planned projects and developments.

The City of Sartell maintains nearly 96 miles of streets, 4 miles of alleys, 95 cul-de-sacs and 50 miles of trail and sidewalks each year. The City recently completed a pavement management study that evaluated pavement, drainage and curb condition on all local roadways. The conditions were rated and are proposed to be utilized to determine what roadways will need to be resurfaced, crack sealing, patching or reconstructions based on annual budgets.

Schools

The quality and variety of educational opportunities are important parts of the community. The City of Sartell has three school districts within the current municipal boundary including Sartell/St. Stephen, Sauk Rapids-Rice, and St. Cloud.

Sartell St. Stephen School District

The Sartell-St. Stephen School District (ISD #748) operates five schools in Sartell: Sartell High School, Sartell Middle School, Oak Ridge Elementary School, Pine Ridge Elementary School and the District Services Building (preschool). The School District recently commissioned a study of demographics and future enrollments to assist the School Board in making decisions regarding future School Facilities. The study report includes several findings related to the growth and development of Sartell. In 2015, a Community Facilities Planning Group recommended to the School Board the need for a new High School, along with modifications to existing buildings and the reorganization to the allocation of grades per building. The location of a future high school may have impacts on the future land use and transportation plan that may require a re-evaluation of proposed future land uses, improvements, and adjustments in the primary/secondary growth-planning model.

Sauk Rapids/Rice and St. Cloud School District

Other Schools located in Sartell:

- St. Francis Xavier (K-6)

- St. Scholastica

Community Services

Sartell has worked very hard over the past 20 years to establish a strong base of social and recreational facilities. The privately run Bernick's Ice Arena located at Pinecone Regional Park provides hockey facilities for the Sartell Hockey Association and the Sartell School District. Currently under design, the Sartell Community Center is a multi-function facility. The Community Center is proposing to contain gymnasiums, senior center, an innovation center and meeting rooms.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS

GOAL 1: Promote The Usage, Creation, And Uniqueness Of Community Facilities, While Also Soliciting Creative Funding Sources.

Potential Strategies May Include These And Other Future Cool Ideas:

1.1 Facility Adaptability

Ensure that community facilities are adequate to serve additional needs.

1.2 Intergenerational Use

Provide learning opportunities for residents of all ages.

1.3 Facility Locations

Ensure that governmental buildings and services are located throughout the City to offer ease of access to all users and minimal response time.

1.4 Regular Maintenance

Provide for adequate maintenance of the City's buildings and equipment and their orderly replacement within the Financial Management Plan.

1.5 Lead by Example

Hold public buildings to high architectural standards to create a sense of community identity, ensure land use compatibility, and to serve as examples for private development.

1.7 Promote the Usage of Facilities

Market the use of community facilities for events such as youth athletic tournaments and other community events.

Identify and market existing resources that are available for community use.

To the greatest extent possible, do not provide facilities that compete with the private sector.

1.8 Collaborative Funding

Collaborate with business partners to help fund additional community facilities.

GOAL 2: Ensure High Quality And Effective Public Safety, Education And Civic Services.

Potential Strategies May Include These And Other Future Cool Ideas:

2.1 Community Identify

Ensure city facilities accommodate government functions while serving as an example of community identity and sustainability.

2.2 Public Safety Facility

Support the Police and Fire Department through close coordination and planned allocation of resources to improve public safety and emergency response.

2.3 Library Services

The City is served by the Great River Regional Library System. There are no library branches located within City limits; however there are libraries nearby in St. Cloud and Waite Park. There is a strong desire by many residents to enhanced GRRL library services within the community as it would be a valuable asset for Sartell's existing and future residents. Sartell will continue to work with GRRL to monitor and identify the options for future library services.

2.4 School Collaboration.

The City will continue to work with each of the school districts within the community to adequately plan for community growth, school facilities, and shared facility issues.

The City should continue to collaborate with the three school districts to provide opportunities for and actively market continuing education programs.

Explore the possibility of further collaborative efforts with the Sartell Community Education, which could include the management of the new Community Center Facility.

GOAL 3: Plan And Provide Public Facilities And Services In A Coordinated And Economical Manner On A Basis That Is Consistent With The Nature Of Existing And Proposed Development Within The Community.

Potential Strategies May Include These And Other Future Cool Ideas:

3.1 Limit the Extension of Services

Prohibit extension of service to properties outside the corporate limits without an agreement as to the annexation of that property. Discourage the expansion of public sewer and water services into areas:

- Not contiguous to existing development or service areas.
- Not within the current limits of the service boundary.
- When a burden is placed upon the City to expand the urban service area prematurely.

3.2 Monitor and maintain all utility systems to ensure a safe and high-quality standard of service on an ongoing basis.

Update street, water, storm sewer and sanitary sewer plans by the City Engineer on an as needed basis or as required by other jurisdictions.