

SECTION 4

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Community facilities and infrastructure exist for the benefit of the residents of Wadsworth Township. Services such as water and sewer are key factors that will determine where, when, and how the Township will continue to develop. Since other important facilities operated by other units of government or organizations also provide important services for the Township's residents and businesses, some of these facilities are also included in this discussion.

Existing Conditions

WADSWORTH TOWNSHIP FACILITIES

Township Offices and the Township Garage are located at 320 Chestnut Street. While located in the City of Wadsworth, these facilities provide essential services to Township residents.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Most Township residents are served by the Wadsworth City Schools District. All of the public schools in this District are located in the City of Wadsworth and consist of the following; five elementary schools, one intermediate school, one middle school, and one high school. Between 1995 and 2005, the total enrollment at the Wadsworth City Schools District increased by 797 students from 4,047 students to 4,844, an increase of nearly 20 percent. For more information visit the Wadsworth City Schools District website at www.wadsworth.k12.oh.us. A small portion of the Township is served by the Rittman Exempted Village Schools District. The District service area is

located in a small southwestern portion of the Township. All Rittman Exempted Village Schools District public schools are located in Wayne County and consist of the following: one elementary school, one intermediate school, and one high school. Between 1995 and 2005, the total enrollment at the Rittman Exempted Village Schools District decreased by 208 students from 1,382 students to 1,174, a decrease of nearly 15 percent. For more information visit the Rittman Exempted Village Schools District website at www.rittman.k12.oh.us.

Every year, the Ohio Department of Education rates schools and school districts based on proficiency test scores, graduation rates, and attendance rates. Schools and districts are then given a designation that ranges from “Academic Emergency” to “Excellent.” During the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 academic years, the Wadsworth City Schools District was rated in the “Excellent” category, meeting all of the requirements set by the State. During the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 academic years, the Rittman Exempted Village Schools District was rated in the “Effective” category, which is one category below “Excellent”.

There are two private schools in the Wadsworth area, Reimer Road Baptist Christian School and Sacred Heart School, both of which are located in the City of Wadsworth.

Reimer Road Baptist Christian School, 1055 Reimer Road

Reimer Road Baptist Christian School offers coed Baptist elementary and high school curricula for students preschool through twelfth grade. Total enrollment for Reimer Road Baptist Christian School for 2005 was 188 students. For more information visit the school website at www.reimerroad.org/School.aspx?id=95002.

Sacred Heart School, 110 Humbolt Avenue

Sacred Heart Parish School offers coed Roman Catholic elementary curricula for students kindergarten through eighth grade. Total 2005 enrollment for Sacred Heart School is currently 326 students. For more information visit the Sacred Heart Parish School website online at www.shofjesus.com/school/shs_home.shtml.

WATER SERVICE

Central water service is not available in Wadsworth Township. The City of Wadsworth currently has a policy of extending water service to customers that are located within the City only. Property owners wishing to connect to the City’s central water system must, therefore, annex to the City.

According to the 1996 Wadsworth City Comprehensive Plan Update, the Wadsworth water distribution system is geographically separated into two service areas, high and low, which are determined by topography. Generally, there are few geographic constraints to water service which is largely determined by water pressure capabilities. Conceivably, with additional capacity, much of the Township could be serviced with central water. Interstate 76, however, does represent both a physical and economic constraint to expand water service throughout the Township.

Central water service is present in the following surrounding communities: the City of Rittman and the Village of Doylestown in Wayne County; and the City of Barberton in Summit County. The potential may exist for the Township to obtain central water service from these communities.

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE

The City of Wadsworth provides sanitary sewer service for a portion of Wadsworth Township, located primarily south of the City with small areas of the Township served east and north of the City boundaries. According to the 1996 Wadsworth City Comprehensive Plan Update, the sewer system is primarily a gravity operated system. Septic systems are used for homes and businesses outside the City's service area. Requirements for septic systems for residential uses are governed by the Medina County Health Department and by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for commercial or industrial uses.

Sanitary sewers are present in the following adjacent and surrounding communities: the City of Rittman and the Village of Doylestown in Wayne County; and the City of Barberton in Summit County. The potential may exist for the Township to obtain sanitary sewer service from these communities.

PARKS & RECREATION

City of Wadsworth Parks, Multiple Locations

The City of Wadsworth Parks Department maintains 17 park properties that are accessible to Township residents. These parks range in size from less than one acre to over 58 acres and offer a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities. For more information and locations visit the Parks Department website at www.wadsworthcity.com/depts/parks/index.php.

Wadsworth Public Library, 132 Broad Street, Wadsworth

The Wadsworth Public Library is an independent library serving the residents of the City of Wadsworth, Wadsworth Township and the surrounding area. For more information visit the Wadsworth Public Library website at www.wadsworth.lib.oh.us.

Steiner Center, Community Center, 567 West School Drive, Wadsworth

The Steiner Center provides recreational programs and facilities to youths and adults. Admission to the Center is charged on a per visit basis or Township residents can purchase memberships at the non-Wadsworth City resident rate for individuals or families. For more information visit the Steiner Center website at www.wadsworthcity.com/depts/recreation/index.php.

The Wadsworth Center for Older Adults, 138 High Street, Wadsworth

The Wadsworth Center for Older Adults offers a variety of activities and programs for seniors in the surrounding area, including the Township. Township residents can pick up a newsletter at the Center or pay a five dollar annual mailing fee. The Center newsletter provides a Calendar of Events as well as information on trips, programs, special programs and other information of benefit to seniors. The Center also hosts and promotes a variety of assistance programs including Legal Aid, Veteran's Services, Advance Directives, and Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease Support Groups.

Medicare assistance is available by appointment. For more information visit the Wadsworth Center for Older Adult's website at www.wadsworthcity.com/depts/coa/index.php.

Pine Valley Golf Club, 469 Reimer Road, Wadsworth Township

The Club offers a 18-hole regulation length golf course and is open to the public.

Medina County Bike/Hike Plan, Medina County Park District

The Medina County Park District's *Medina County Bike/Hike Plan* (Phase I, 2001) proposes two pathways that would traverse Wadsworth Township. The first proposed path would run east and west between Lodi and Wadsworth into Summit County and connect to the Towpath Trail in Barberton. The second proposed path would run north and south, providing connections to Silver Creek Metro Park in the south and the Hinckley Reservation and the Emerald Necklace Trail in the north. These proposed pathways would connect Wadsworth Township to the Buckeye Trail, which traverses almost 1,435 miles throughout Ohio. For more information visit the Park District website at www.medinacountyparks.com.

Silver Creek Metro Park

While the majority of the 624-acre Silver Creek Metro Park is located in Summit County and owned by Metroparks, serving Summit County, a small portion is located in the southeast corner of Wadsworth Township. The Park is home to Silver Creek Lake and offers 6 miles of hiking trails, swimming, boating, fishing, a bridle trail, and winter sports. For more information visit the Metro Parks website at www.summitmetroparks.org.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Wadsworth-Rittman Hospital (WRH) is a 113-bed acute-care hospital, located in the City of Wadsworth at 195 Wadsworth Road, and serves the residents of the Wadsworth area including Wadsworth Township. The medical staff is made up of more than 175 specialists, representing more than 30 medical specialties. WRH is also affiliated with emergency air transportation agencies to transport patients, via helicopter, to larger metropolitan hospitals if necessary. For more information visit the WRH website at www.wrhhs.org.

FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The City of Wadsworth Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) provides fire and emergency medical care for the City of Wadsworth and Wadsworth Township. The department serves a 25 square mile area from two locations, 153 North Lyman and 338 Weatherstone Drive.

The Fire Department, which was organized in 1896, currently consists of 60 members, 15 of which are full-time employees. In 2005, the Fire Department answered 273 fire emergency calls plus 148 service requests, including carbon monoxide checks. In 2005, EMS answered 1,728 emergency calls, including emergency responses with the Fire Department.

The Fire Department maintains three pump engines, a 100 foot aerial platform truck, a 3,000 gallon tanker, a combination heavy rescue truck/hazardous materials containment truck, and a quick attack

unit. EMS maintains four ambulances. For more information visit the Fire Department and EMS website at www.wadsworthcity.com/depts/fire.

EMERGENCY AND SECURITY MANAGEMENT

The Medina County Emergency Management Agency has completed a planning document entitled All Hazard and Mitigation Plan, adopted by the Township on December 27, 2005. The term “hazard mitigation”, as it relates to Medina County, describes actions that can help reduce or eliminate long-term risks caused by natural or manmade disasters, such as floods, droughts, tornadoes, earthquakes, and dam failures. Following disasters, repairs and reconstruction are often completed in such a way as to simply restore damaged property to pre-disaster conditions. These efforts may expedite a return to normalcy, but the replication of pre-disaster conditions often results in a repetitive cycle of damage and reconstruction. Hazard mitigation is needed to break this repetitive cycle by producing less vulnerable conditions through post-disaster repairs and reconstruction. The implementation of such hazard mitigation actions by State and local governments facilitates stronger, safer and smarter communities that will be able to reduce future damage and injuries.

EMERGENCY SIREN TOWERS

Emergency siren towers are strategically located in order to provide an audible warning when a dangerous situation could affect Township residents. According to City of Wadsworth Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service officials, one emergency siren tower is located in Wadsworth Township near the southwest corner of the intersection of Leatherman and Reimer Roads. Additional sirens, located in the City of Wadsworth and Guilford and Sharon Townships, provide additional emergency warnings to Township residents.

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

A list of emergency shelters is maintained by the Wadsworth Red Cross. Each year the organization requests that facilities designate themselves as emergency shelters. The shelters are not radioactive fall-out or tornado shelters; rather they are places that could provide emergency services or shelter for residents in the event of an emergency. According to the information provided by the Wadsworth Red Cross, approximately 8,885 beds are available in shelter locations in the Wadsworth area as shown in *Table 9* below.

Table 9: Wadsworth Area Emergency Shelters

Name of Shelter	Street Address	Capacity
<i>Wadsworth Township Locations:</i>		
The Key To My Fathers House	1825 Reimer Road	327
Ridgewood Baptist Church	7891 Ridge Road	139
Bethel Mennonite Church	2684 Seville Road	82
Bethany Friends Church	8127 Wadsworth Road	53
<i>Sharon Township Location:</i>		
Northside Christian Church	7615 Ridge Road	160
<i>Wadsworth City Locations:</i>		
Wadsworth Middle School	150 Silvercreek Road	1,427
Wadsworth High School	625 Broad Street	1,322
Valley View Elementary School	160 West Good Avenue	718
Isham Memorial Elementary School	348 College Street	604
New Franklin Elementary School	200 Takacs Street	470
Lincoln Elementary School	268 North Lyman Street	470
Wadsworth Church of the Nazarene	743 High Street	350
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	260 Broad Street	312
Overlook Elementary School	524 Broad Street	304
First Christian Church	116 Boyer Street	285
Steiner Center	567 West School Drive	267
United Methodist Church	195 Broad Street	240
Central Intermediate School	151 Main Street	218
Reimer Road Baptist Church	1055 Reimer Road	207
Trinity United Church of Christ	215 High Street	204
First Assembly of God	951 High Street	137
Ambassador Baptist Church	620 Trease Road	112
Center For Older Adults	138 High Street	106
First Mennonite Church	405 Trease Road	92
Grace Lutheran Church	146 High Street	92
Masonic Temple	660 High Street	74
Church of Christ	236 West Good Avenue	72
Grace And Truth Tabernacle	157 Wadsworth Road	41

Source: Wadsworth Red Cross.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement services are provided to the Township by the Medina County Sheriff. The Sheriff and the City of Wadsworth Police have a mutual aid agreement that enables cooperation between police forces when necessary. For more information visit the Sheriff's website at www.medinasheriff.com.