

Chapter 7: Community Facilities, Utilities, & Infrastructure

WHAT IS THIS CHAPTER?

- This Chapter provides an overview of the facilities, utilities, & infrastructure provided by the Village to the general public. Public services are identified ...
 - 7.1 Community Facilities (Moravia Central School District; Powers Library; Summer Program; Community Center; Police, Fire, & Emergency Services; Solid Waste).
 - 7.2 Utilities & Infrastructure (Water; Sewer; Electricity & Natural Gas; Cable & Broadband Internet).
 - 7.3 Shared Services & Service Consolidation.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Community facilities and infrastructure are essentially the “bones” of the community. The availability of community services, and quality infrastructure such as water and sewer lines, roads and sidewalks, and high speed internet systems should always be an important consideration in planning for the future and ensuring the community is prepared for economic development and reinvestment.

WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAYS?

- Addressing water and sewer system issues is necessary for increasing efficiency and service capacity, as well as reigning in cost.
- Moravia is in need of universal broadband internet access.

7.1 Community Facilities

7.1.1 Moravia Central School District

The Village of Moravia is served by the Moravia Central School District, which encompasses the towns of Moravia, Locke, Niles, Sempronius, and parts of Summerhill, Venice, and parts of Scott and Skaneateles. The Village is also home to the two campuses that comprise the school facilities: the Millard Fillmore Elementary School at 24 South Main Street, and the Moravia Middle and High School at 68 South Main Street. In addition to providing excellent public education opportunities to area youth, the district maintains several ballfields, a walking track, and tennis courts, as discussed in the *Recreational, Cultural, and Historic Resources* chapter.

The Moravia Central School District is guided by their 2018-2021 Strategic Plan which outlines its mission, beliefs, priorities, and strategies for the next four years. The district had a total enrollment of 923 students for the 2017-2018 school year.

7.1.2 Powers Library

Moravia is served by the historic Powers Library, a branch of the Finger Lakes Library System, located at 29 Church Street. The library is the oldest building in New York State in continuous use as a library. The historic facility opened in 1883 upon donation of Dr. Cyrus Powers' personal collection of 3,342 books and construction of the facility. In addition to traditional educational, informative, and entertainment services, the Powers Library provides computer work spaces, high-speed internet access, printing, craft areas, and loaning of Wi-Fi hotspots and Empire Park Passes. Given the wide range of services, the Powers Library clearly plays a vital role in the community.



Moravia High School. Source: NewYorkUpstate.com

7.1.3 Summer Program

For several decades, the Town of Moravia has managed a Summer Recreation Program at Fillmore Glen State Park. The six-week program is available to kindergarten through sixth grade students living within the Moravia Central School District. Approximately 200 children attend each year. Until recently, the program was supported by a Town budget appropriation with contributing funds provided by the other municipalities in the eligible area. Due to budget constraints, the program has been abandoned. If area residents seek to continue this program, efforts will have to be made by the other entities and community residents to identify alternative funding sources and programming, such as private or public grant funding.

7.1.4 Community Center

Currently, the area does not have a community center or fitness center. Instead, the community primarily utilizes the school facilities for recreation when they are available or uses the fire hall for meeting spaces. A stand-alone community center which offers meeting spaces in addition to recreational opportunities would be a strong asset to the community. Several underutilized or vacant properties in the central business district or gateway areas could be appropriate for reuse as such.

7.1.5 Police, Fire, & Emergency Services

The Moravia Volunteer Fire Company provides fire protection to the approximately 4,000 residents in the Village and Town of Moravia. Their first due response area is 30 square miles surrounding their headquarters in the Village. This response area includes the Moravia schools, manufacturing facilities, businesses, a nursing home, senior housing, Fillmore Glen State Park, and the Cayuga Correctional Facility. The department has approximately 58

active volunteers and is part of the 911-dispatch system that serves Cayuga County. The department's services include fire, hazardous materials, basic medical, and technical rescue response.

The Village and surrounding towns (Moravia, Locke, Sempronius, and Niles) are also served by the Four Towns First Aid/Ambulance.

The Village of Moravia is served by the Moravia Village Police Department, which employs five part time officers. The department office is located at 22 Central Street. County Sheriff staff also provide supplemental protection.

7.1.6 Solid Waste

Garbage removal in the Village is contracted with Casella Waste Services and resident cost is rolled into the tax bill. The Village also coordinates spring and fall cleanup days for removal of bulky items.

7.2 Utilities and Infrastructure

7.2.1 Water

The Village of Moravia's water supply is drawn from a confined aquifer located on the west side of the Village. The intake consists of three wells, where water is chlorinated automatically by chlorination equipment. This water supply serves nearly 2,950 individuals on 568 accounts in the Village and the Montville (including the Cayuga County Correctional Facility) and Glenside (including Fillmore Glen State Park and Glenside Diner) areas of the Town.

The vast majority of these pipes, however, are old and in need of being replaced. Leaks account for significant water loss each year, and, despite New York Leak Detection conducting an assessment to identify leaks that the Village repaired a few years ago, the problem persists. Ensuring that these leaks are corrected is an important step toward eligibility for state grants covering other infrastructure improvements.

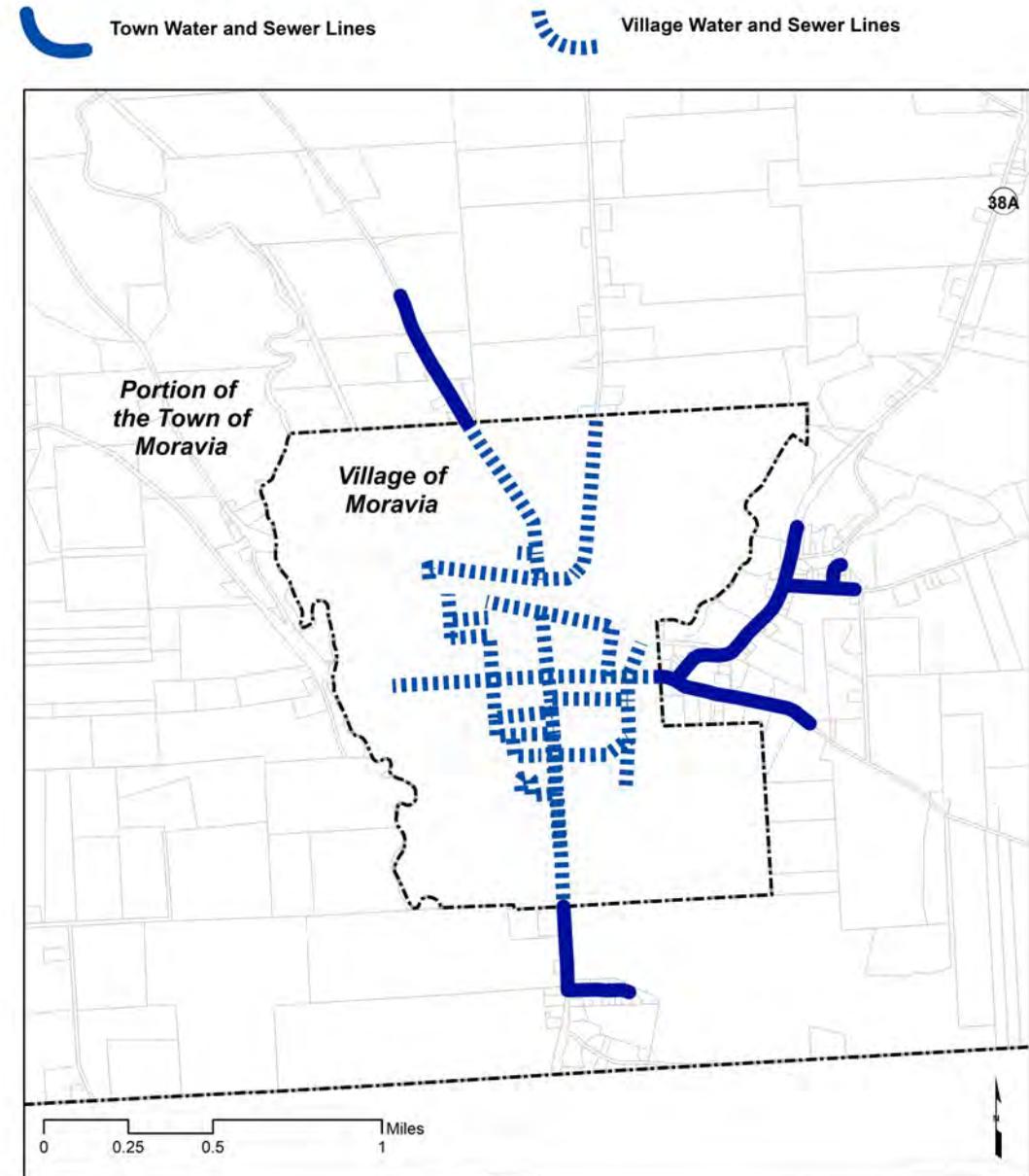
7.2.2 Sewer

The Village's sewer system serves 1,723 residents, several commercial and industrial uses, and the Cayuga County Correctional Facility. The waste water treatment plant is located on Aurora Street, near the western boundary as, after pollutant removal, the Owasco Inlet is the receiving water body. The plant is near capacity and upgrades should be considered if the Village seeks to expand the system. Additionally, the impaired status of the Owasco Inlet makes effective pollutant removal critical.

MORAVIA
MOVING FORWARD

Map #x - Water and Sewer Lines*

* Approximate based on 2016 water and sewer user locations.



The chart to the right detail fee rates for water and sewer services provided by the Village.

7.2.3 Electricity and Natural Gas

Electricity and natural gas are provided by New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG). In an effort to invest in clean, renewable energy and provide competitive rates, NYSEG offers a community solar program. Program subscribers pay the solar community directly at a reduced rate, who then pays the NYSEG bill.

Many people assume that NYSEG’s primary electricity source in the region is the Cayuga Power Plant, a 306 mega-watt coal-fired plant located in Lansing. In reality, coal plants amount to a fraction of the electricity produced in the NYSEG service area. A diverse group of sources, most of which are located outside of the local area, contribute to energy production, including from natural gas (47%), nuclear (28%), hydroelectric (13%), and wind (5%). For a more detailed review, refer to the *Energy and Sustainability* chapter.

7.2.4 Cable and Broadband Internet

An additional component of public infrastructure that has become increasingly important is access to reliable broadband internet service. Like other communities in Cayuga County, the Village does not have sufficient and widespread access to high-speed internet. As a result, many residents have relied on the Powers Library for internet access, placing a greater burden on the facility. This can also be an inconvenience on residents, particularly in a time of national health crisis when individuals are expected or required to conduct business and commerce remotely at home. Improving access would enable the

Type of Water Charge	Rate per Thousand Gallons	Minimum Usage Charge per Quarter
Inside the Village	\$3.50	\$21.00
Glenside District	\$5.25	\$31.50
Other Outside the Village	\$8.75	\$52.50



The COVID-19 Pandemic has brought new challenges to infrastructure planning (Source: Lauren Long, Syracuse.com).

Village to better market the community to business and residents alike.

Unfortunately, there is not currently a definitive source of information which identifies the gaps in the community where service is either limited or not available. Partnering with the Village to conduct a study identifying the areas lacking in service. This information could be used to reach out to providers to upgrade service in the community directly, or explore funding and grant options to enhance coverage in the overall area.

7.3 Service Consolidation/Shared Services

Currently, the Village of Moravia and the Town of Moravia have separate municipal offices and individually provide a range of services to the community. Both municipalities provide tax collection, criminal courts, building permits and licenses. Additionally, both municipalities have highway departments that work closely together and share equipment, resources, and responsibilities when possible.

7.5 Goals & Implementation Measures

1. Continue to explore opportunities to consolidate municipal facilities.
 - Study the feasibility of combining Village and Town offices in a new shared building that would improve efficiency for area residents, eliminate redundant expenses, and offer additional multi-purpose community space.
 - Establish a joint Climate Smart Community Task Force to implement the Government Operations Climate Action Plan (*See also the Energy Chapter*) with the explicit purpose of reducing emissions through shared equipment and resources and better coordination between Village and Town Highway Departments.
2. Provide the school district with support that emphasizes their position as the center of the community.
 - Encourage student participation on local boards, committees, and planning initiatives to instill a sense of community pride in youth and encourage them to remain in the community after graduation.
 - Support the school district's efforts, such as the job shadowing program offered through the business department, to foster civic engagement and entrepreneurialism among students.
3. Improve the water and sewer systems to increase efficiency and service capacity.
 - Continue to coordinate with New York Leak Detection to conduct leak assessments, identify issues, and develop solutions.
 - Review DEC's Water Quality Improvement Program and other state and federal agencies for grant opportunities to make improvements to the waste water treatment plant and bring it into compliance.
4. Improve access and availability of broadband internet.
 - Partner with the Town of Moravia to conduct a study to determine areas lacking in service.
 - Engage providers to improve service.
 - Explore grant opportunities, such as Empire State Development, to improve the communications infrastructure in the Village.