October 2022

Marathon County

The Partnership

PROJECT
Bug Tussel is a proud partner of Marathon County through a 2021 bond and a 2022 grant in Leathercamp. The projects, R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality and B.E.S.T. Program, will equip Marathon County with wireless internet access, a fiberoptic backbone network, and additional last-mile connections and creating additional capacity to support future projects.

PRODUCT
Bug Tussel will use fixed wireless sites to facilitate rapid expansion, followed by fiberoptic cable. These fiber projects will cover more than 200 miles throughout Marathon County and will provide a catalyst for future last-mile expansion. Standard packages for fiber will range from 300 Mbps to 1 Gbps download and upload speed. Standard packages for wireless will be 25 Mbps download and 5 Mbps upload speed.

TIMELINE
Bug Tussel has 3 fixed wireless sites throughout Marathon County, with 21 additional site in progress. Fiberoptic backbone/middle mile network construction is underway and will be online later next year.

BUG TUSSEL UNIVERSITY

October Classes:

2 Classes

- **Fun With Photos: How to Save, Share, and Edit Photos with your Smartphone** | October 11 | Marathon County Public Library - Mosinee Branch
- **Email Basics** | October 22 | Marathon County Public Library - Wausau Headquarters

Upcoming Classes:

Spread the word!

- **Fun With Photos: How to Save, Share, and Edit Photos with your Smartphone** | November 19 | 10:00 a.m. | Marathon County Public Library - Wausau Headquarters
- **Tech Help** | 10:00 a.m. | December 3 | Marathon County Public Library - Wausau Headquarters

Sign up or ask questions at (920) 940-0114:

SALES & MARKETING

Ads

- **Facebook** ads promoting wireless internet and Bug Tussel University classes targeted the county during the month of October.
- The **Wausau Cyclones Ice Hockey** team shared Bug Tussel ads during their opening night game on October 14. The team also shared Bug Tussel ads and on their podcast.

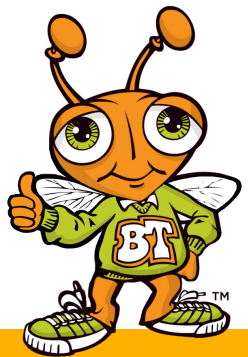
Sponsorships

- A **Business Educational Luncheon** supporting GiGi's Playhouse & Down Syndrome Awareness Month on October 12 was sponsored by Bug Tussel.

Meetings

- The **Chamber Mosinee Business Meeting** on October 20 was represented by Bug Tussel.
- A **Meet & Greet** was hosted in Athens at Cocina on the Square on October 25 with a Bug Tussel representative where residents were able to ask questions about Bug Tussel services.

Your sales representatives



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TOWER STATUS

On Air:

3

- Tower construction and installation complete.
- Internet is live and operational.

Construction:

13

- Establish tower foundation.
- Construct tower by stacking from bottom to top.
- Install antenna, lines, and integrate network.

Zoning:

4

- Submit permits and receive approval from local and federal agencies.

Site Acquisition:

4

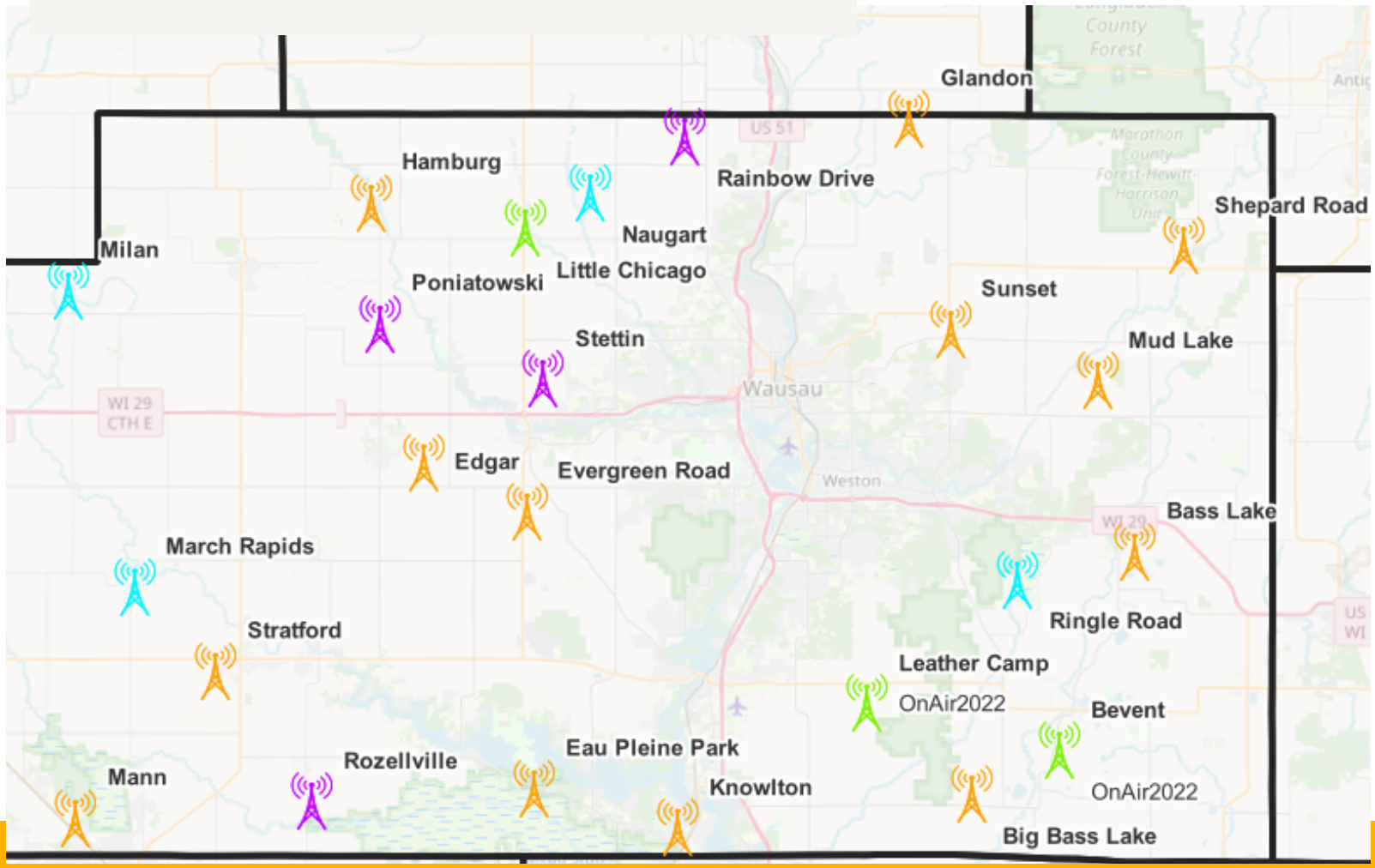
- Search for and determine tower site.
- Obtain lease from landowner.

UPDATES

Milan and March Rapids remain in site acquisition stage.

Civil construction (design and planning) has begun for Mann and is completed for Knowlton and Shepard Road. Stacking (building of the tower from bottom to top) for Edgar, Glandon, Hamburg, Stratford, Evergreen Road, Sunset, and Bass Lake is complete and equipment is installed. Crews are currently working on getting power to the towers.

Construction is nearly complete for Big Bass Lake, with anticipated live date in late November or early December.



**This map includes a rough estimate of site locations and may not accurately reflect actual tower placement.*

Site Acquisition Timeline

6-12 MONTHS

BOND EFFORT

Meet with county and municpalities, plan funding, provide due diligence, plan county network (towers and fiber). Several votes with different county committees. Final county board vote (often requires supermajority).

1-3 MONTHS

SEARCH

Connect with property owners within a search ring (about 1 month). Evaluate properties, choose preferred location (about 1 month).

1-3 MONTHS

LEASING

Work with landowner to agree to tower layout, lease terms, address title issues, etc. Often requires attorney review.

6-12 MONTHS

GOVERNMENT APPROVALS

Obtain local permits (driveway permit, address, zoning/conditional use permit, etc). Often requires public notice and hearings.

Obtain federal regulatory approval, including from FAA, FCC, EPA, and other entities. Requires on-site soil, archeological, geologic, historical, etc. studies.

bugtussel BTUSSEL.COM/ABOUT-US/PARTNERSHIPS

UPDATES

Contractors M.J. Electric and J & R Construction are making progress deploying conduit and installing fiber along the route. Conduit, the protection cable that will house the fiber, is installed by plowing or drilling. While progress moves more quickly through plowing, crews must use the drill in areas that contain hard rock. Hard rock is prevalent in the area where crews are currently working.

Progress has been made installing fiber. Fiber is inserted into the conduit through a process called "fiber blowing", a technique that sends fiber through conduit with a machine that travels through the conduit by bursts of air. After deploying fiber, sections of fiber will be spliced together with an optical laser.

Completion of the Middle Mile (backbone) and Last Mile (distribution) in the county is anticipated in late summer 2023.

FIBER STATUS

Connected

- Internet is live and operational.
- Connections can be made to customers in up to 3 weeks depending on customer and route location.
-

Fiber

95 miles completed

- Fiber is sent through the conduit via Fiber Blowing, a technique using a machine on wheels that blows air to push the fiber through the cable.
- Sections of fiber are connected to each other via Splicing, the fusion of fiber with an optical laser.

Conduit

110 miles completed

- Conduit, the protection cable that will house the fiber, is installed via Boring (with a drill) or Plowing.
- Handholes, Flowerpots, and Cabinets, access hatches that house utilities and connections, are installed.

Permits

145 miles completed

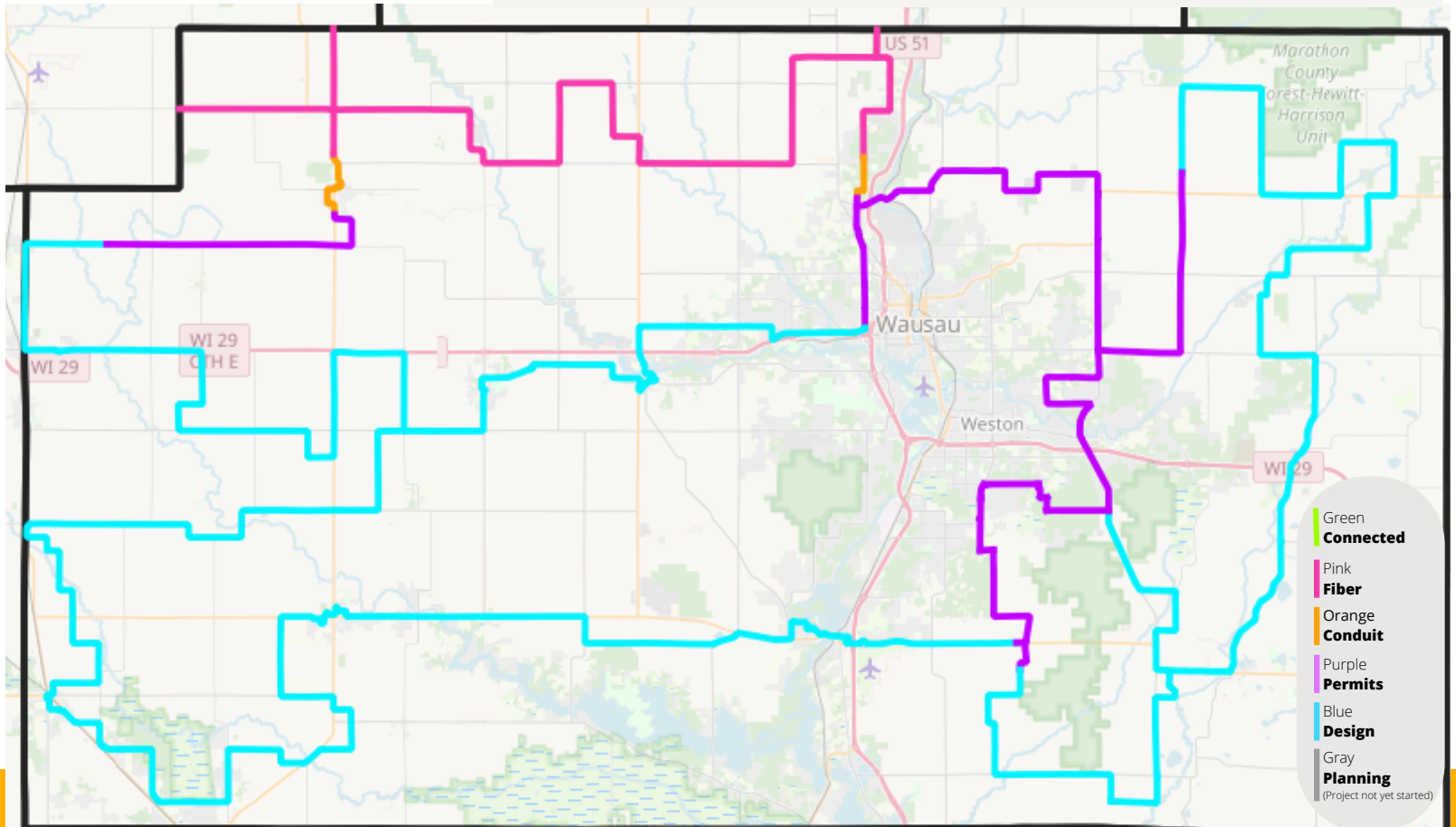
15 miles in progress

- Permits for work in areas along the route are submitted.
- Permits are approved by appropriate parties.

Design

280 miles completed

- Fiber route is mapped.
- Route is traveled to determine equipment and landscape needs.
- Sections are Re-designed as needed.



**This map includes a rough estimate of the fiber network and may not accurately reflect final route.*

How is a Fiber Network Created?

Did you know? A fiber network is like a highway system.

Long Haul Fiber is like an *expressway* connecting main points across very large areas together. This is the *core* network that hooks up internet connections from state to state and, on a larger scale, country to country.

The **Middle Mile** is like a *highway* connecting cities together. This is the *backbone* that connects cities, counties, and states and creates a national network.

The **Last Mile** is like a *road* that travels from the highway to individual neighborhoods, including FTTH (fiber-to-the-home), FTTP (fiber-to-the-premises), etc. This is the *distribution* that connects the internet network to customer's homes, businesses, and government agencies. This is often the costliest and most challenging part of the network to create.

**Bug Tussel specializes in building Middle Mile and Last Mile networks.*

Installing a fiber network requires 4 major steps:

DESIGN THE ROUTE, OBTAIN PERMITS, INSTALL FIBER, AND **CONNECT TO CUSTOMERS.**

DESIGN THE ROUTE *(Engineering)*

Map the Route
Determine the best route for the network and outline in advanced mapping software.

Travel the Route
Travel the route to determine equipment and route needs based on the landscape. For example, areas with hard rock conditions will require specialized equipment such as a directional drill.

Update Design
Route design is then updated as needed based on landscape requirements, permit needs, etc.

OBTAIN PERMITS *(Zoning)*

Submit Permits
Submit permits to local and federal agencies in order to obtain authorization before beginning installation.

Await Approval
Await approval and re-submit or re-design if approval is denied.

INSTALL FIBER *(Construction)*

Deploy Conduit
Install conduit (a protective cable that will house the fiber) into the ground via plowing or boring (with a directional drill).

Install Access Hatches
Place access hatches in areas (often underground) where intersections will be made, the route changes direction, or fiber will be dispersed. These hatches (which include handholes, flowerpots, and cabinets) will act as utility boxes where fiber connections can be made.

Insert Fiber
Run fiber through the conduit. The most common way to insert fiber is through a process called fiber blowing, which uses a machine to move the fiber through the cable via bursts of air. This reduces friction and the risk of damage to the fiber.

Connect Fiber
Connect sections of fiber to one another by splicing, the process of fusing pieces of fiber together with an optical laser.

Connect to the Internet
Connect the fiber route to the internet, often by hooking up to the larger worldwide network via connection to a switch, a mobile tower, or another connecting point.

CONNECT TO CUSTOMERS *(On Air)*

Connect to Customer
Install fiber from the closest access point (a handhole) to customer's ONT (optical network terminal, which converts light signals to electrical signals) in their home or business.

Set Up Internet
Customer sets up home network system through router and ONT connections.