

Grand Rapids Public Utilities

September 25, 2024 Commission Meeting

Administration Department Head Presentation

Julie Kennedy – General Manager



**GRAND RAPIDS
PUBLIC UTILITIES**


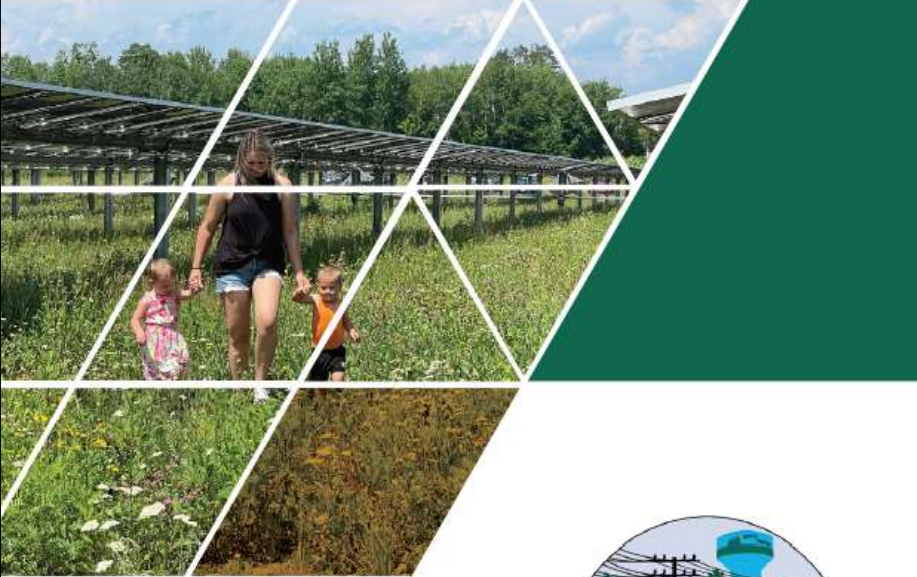
Service is Our Nature

2023-2028 Strategic Plan – annual review time! 😊

STRATEGIC PLAN

PLAN

2023-2028




GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC UTILITIES
Service is Our Nature

Strategic Plan GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC UTILITIES/2023 03

WHO WE ARE


Grand Rapids Public Utilities (GRPU) is a statutory municipal utility established by the city of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission (GRPUC) provides full control, operation and management of the GRPU electric power distribution system, the water production, treatment and distribution systems, and the wastewater collection and treatment systems.

Our Vision




Our vision is to be a dynamic public asset for the thriving community of Grand Rapids, enhancing lives and fostering growth through excellence in the provision of essential utility services.

Our Values



- Safety** We hold paramount the well-being of our employees and the public in all operations.
- Integrity** We uphold ethical standards and foster trust with all stakeholders.
- Customer Focus** We prioritize customer needs and satisfaction in all our decisions and actions.
- Efficiency** We maximize resources to provide cost-effective services without compromising quality.
- Reliability** We consistently deliver high-quality utility services and strive for uninterrupted access.
- Sustainability** We employ environmentally responsible practices in our operations and services.
- Transparency** We openly share information and decision-making processes, promoting informed community involvement.

Our Mission



Our mission is to empower GRPU team members to deliver safe, reliable, affordable, sustainable, and customer-focused utility services for our community.

City of Grand Rapids proposed Climate Action Plan

- City Climate Action Advisory Committee recently drafted a proposed Climate Action Plan
- GRPU commitments in the Plan include:
 - Continue to optimize the use of the Itasca Clean Energy Solar plus Battery Storage facility to shave peak electrical loads in the community
 - Evaluate current and potential GRPU load management programs
 - Provide additional education and environment content on the GRPU website for customers to learn about concepts and resources of climate resiliency
 - Create capacity in a position to assist GRPU customers with various electrification projects such as solar, batteries, or EVs


City of Grand Rapids
Climate Action Plan
Draft: September 16, 2024

City of Grand Rapids proposed Franchise Fees

- City program that will apply to all electric utilities w/in the City (GRPU, LCP, MP)
- GRPU has requested to meet w/ City staff on the implementation schedule of the Franchise Fees (anticipated week of Oct 7-11)
- Customer questions are being directed to the City Engineering Department



Franchise Fee



The City Council is evaluating the option to fund the street improvement management program through the collection of a franchise fee in lieu of property taxes.

WHAT IS A FRANCHISE FEE?

Every city has a franchise agreement with its utility companies (gas, electric, etc.) to use or rent the city owned right-of-way for business purposes.

- Right-of-way is city property located adjacent to roadways for utilities, construction access, and snow storage.
- By law, cities may charge utilities a fee for use of city-owned right-of-way. Utility providers will likely pass this fee onto their customers

How will it be used?

The city would fund regular maintenance projects with the money collected from the fee, including overlays and reconstruction, to prolong the life cycle of streets to 50- 60 years. The average life expectancy of local streets is approximately 25-30 years without ongoing maintenance.

Reliance on state funds, property taxes and increasingly expensive materials make the pavement management program vulnerable to cuts and delays, thus decreasing street life.

The city currently borrows money through bonding for new and reconstruction projects which is funded by general property taxes. At this point in time, the majority of all city streets are older than 30 years and require costly maintenance and repair.

Is this a New Tax?

By definition, the planned franchise fee is a rental fee or reimbursement with proceeds dedicated to finance the costs of the city street system.

Revenue collected from the fee, which will likely be passed on to customers of the utilities, will replace the portion of the property tax levy used to pay for street improvements.

To manage the larger street network and fully implement an adequate street improvement plan, the city will need to continually add \$350,000 to the levy without an alternate funding source.

Engineering / Public Works

- + Engineering
- + Public Works
- Airport
- GIS Department
- Electric Vehicle Charging

Contact Information

Engineering Department
Address: 420 N Pokegama Ave, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone: 218-326-7601

Public Works Department
Address: 500 SE 4th St, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone: 218-326-7481

GIS Department
Address: 500 SE 4th St, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone: 218-326-7623

City of Grand Rapids IT services dissolution

- GRPU staff is working with KTI consultants who specialize in technology planning specifically for municipal utilities and electric cooperatives
- Consultants prepared a Technology Migration Planning Report following their 2-day on-site meetings with GRPU staff and City IT staff
- Report identified needs and timing for infrastructure, application and personnel
- Report laid out a 12- to 15-month schedule and stressed “Success is more important and the timeline”
- GRPU requested to establish regular meetings starting in early October w/ City staff to review the proposed plan and ensure a smooth transition

Legionella update – national level federal requirements

- U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Baseline Drinking Water Quality Tests started in 2024 on approximately 1,400 federally owned facilities

Newsweek SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1 [Login](#)

U.S. | [Water](#) | [Contamination](#) | [Bacteria](#) | [Legionnaires' Disease](#) | [CDC](#) | [Pneumonia](#)

Drinking Water Contamination Closes Government Building

Published Jun 13, 2024 at 3:47 PM EDT

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) headquarters in Baltimore has closed its doors after legionella, a bacteria with potentially fatal consequences, was found in the building's water supply.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport Taking Proactive Measures After Water Tests Detect Legionella

JULY 23, 2024 5:45 AM

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) is taking immediate and comprehensive actions to address the detection of Legionella bacteria and elevated copper levels found in several water sites. The proactive measures reflect the commitment to maintaining a safe environment for everyone at the airport.

Phoenix.gov

CHICAGO SUN*TIMES

☰

THE WATCHDOGS CHICAGO HEALTH

Contaminated drinking water found at downtown day care, 2 more federal buildings

The bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease as well as lead and copper were detected at a childcare center used by federal employees, Dirksen U.S. courthouse and at another federal office building.

By Brett Chase and Kyra Senese | Updated Aug 30, 2024, 4:16pm CDT

Legionella update – state level legislative proposals

- NJ Bill aimed at preventing and controlling Legionnaires' disease

SENATE, No. 2188 - STATE OF NEW JERSEY - 221st LEGISLATURE
Session 2024 – 2025, PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

SYNOPSIS

Requires DEP, DOH, owners or operators of certain public water systems, and owners or operators of certain buildings to take certain actions to prevent and control cases of Legionnaires' disease.

3. a. For every reported diagnosis of Legionnaires' disease, the Department of Health shall:

(1) conduct an investigation into the reported case; and

(2) advise the individual diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease about the availability of testing by the Department of Health of the fixtures and water-using equipment in the individual's residence, locations frequently visited, and places of employment in the 45 days immediately prior to the individual's diagnosis. In a manner consistent with the consent provided by the individual diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease or the owner of the property, the Department of Health shall sample and test the fixtures and water-using equipment for the presence of *Legionella* bacteria. Each test shall be conducted by a laboratory certified for this purpose by the Department of Health, and in accordance with the sampling and testing methods established and provided by the department.

d. The Department of Health shall establish on its Internet website a registry accessible to the public of de-identified data related to each case of Legionnaires' disease reported to the department.

As used in this subsection, "de-identified data" means information that does not identify an individual and for which there is no reasonable basis to believe that the information can be used to identify an individual, and which meets the requirements for de-identification of protected health information under the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996," Pub.L.104-191, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. However, the Commissioner of Health shall make every effort to provide information on the approximate location of a case of Legionnaires' disease to the nearest city block or general neighborhood description.

Legionella update – local level efforts

- MDH reported no Legionnaires' cases in Grand Rapids during July or August
- Continue to conduct weekly testing for Legionella
 - Standard sites and specific customer requests
- Continue to stress importance of customers' role – the disinfection isn't effective if it's not getting through the building plumbing system
 - Keep the hot water hot
 - Keep the cold water cold
 - Flush infrequently used showers and fixtures
- Congratulations to GRPU Water Operations Director Brett Dickie for receiving the AWWA Minnesota Section Operator's Meritorious Service Award for 2024!!



Questions / Comments

Department Head Presentation

The next Regular **Work Session** is scheduled for Wednesday, **October 9, 2024 at 8:00 AM** in the conference room of the Public Works/Public Utilities Service Center at 500 SE 4th Street.

The next **Regular Meeting** of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, **October 23, 2024 at 4:00 PM** in the conference room of the Public Works/Public Utilities Service Center at 500 SE 4th Street.

The next **joint City Council / GRPU Commission meeting** is **TENTATIVELY** scheduled for Wednesday, **October 30, 2024 at 4:30 PM** in the conference room of the Public Works/Public Utilities Service Center at 500 SE 4th Street.

