

# Grand Rapids Public Utilities

**July 23, 2025 Commission Meeting**

**2025 Annual Plan Scorecard Presentation**

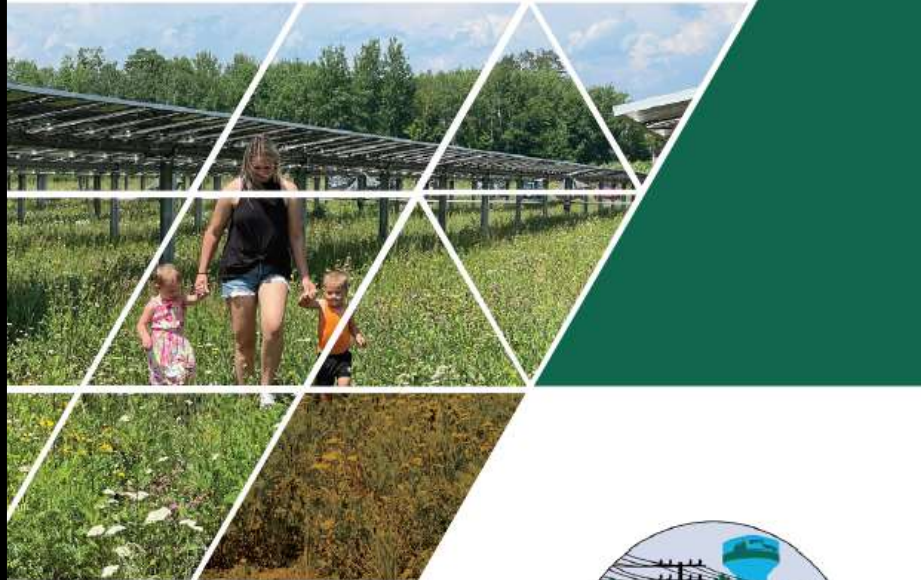
**Julie Kennedy – General Manager**



# 2023-2028 Strategic Plan

## STRATEGIC PLAN

2023-2028



**GRAND RAPIDS  
PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
*Service is Our Nature*

## 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 Mission

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



### Our Values

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



# 2023-2028 Strategic Plan



## STRATEGIC PILLARS

Following are GRPU's objectives for the next five years. They are aspirational, and will be attained through the process of breaking the objectives down into specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely (SMART) goals. These will be documented annually in the period's operating plan and supported by the approved budget.

### Uninterrupted, High-Quality Utility Services (US)

GRPU recognizes that nothing else we do matters more to our customers than the delivery of reliable, affordable, and sustainable services. GRPU's Strategic Plan sets the following goals for the next five years related to ensuring uninterrupted, high-quality utility services now and in the future.

1. GRPU will develop and begin to execute a long-term (i.e., no less than five year, no greater than twenty year) infrastructure replacement plan that also accounts for anticipated system growth of up to 20% and gradual undergrounding of the electrical system.
2. GRPU will complete the renovation of its water treatment facility to improve operations and ensure adequate future capacity.
3. GRPU will complete the process of jetting its sanitary sewers.
4. GRPU will assess and address customer expectations regarding future technology upgrades they may expect or desire as our system evolves.
5. GRPU will adopt policies and develop contingency plans to:
  - a. manage risks to infrastructure that may result from the activities of bad actors.
  - b. manage risks associated with grid failures or the inability of our single source of power to meet its obligations.



### Strategic and Sustainable Fiscal Management (FM)

GRPU aims to be proactive with its resources, recognizing that all decisions are made on behalf of past and future ratepayers. GRPU's Strategic Plan sets the following goals for the next five years related to ensuring strategic and sustainable fiscal management to support ongoing operations and inter-generational equity.

1. GRPU will develop a financial forecast model that accounts for capital expenditures as described in objective US-1 above, including inflation assumptions, target dates, key performance indicators, and decision criteria. The model will account for supply chain issues that may require placing orders years in advance of anticipated project execution.
2. GRPU will take preparatory steps to ensure debt or emergency funding can be obtained quickly should an unexpected infrastructure failure require unplanned expenditures that cannot be addressed with existing resources.
3. GRPU will explore and, when both feasible and practical, adopt an updated rate structure that accounts for the evolving use patterns resulting from electrification (e.g., transition to electric vehicles, distributed energy resources/adoption of solar by home and business owners, etc.).

## OPERATIONAL PLANNING, REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### PLANNING



Each year in September, the GRPUC and GM will review the organization's SWOT, strategic and operational progress. Over the next month, the strategic plan will be updated. Implications and priorities for operations will then be discussed with the GRPUC in October.

Following updated and reaffirmed strategic direction from the GRPUC, the GM and staff will create an annual operating plan. This plan will include SMART goals based on the operating priorities and strategic intent of the GRPUC.

The annual budget will be developed to support the successful realization of the operating plan. Each year GRPU's Audit and Finance Committee will review the budget in November and provide feedback. The final draft of the operating plan and supporting budget will be referred to the GRPUC for action at their December meeting.

### REPORTING



Monthly staff reports to the GRPUC will align with and reference the approved operating plan. Items requiring action by the GRPUC will be placed on the agenda.

The GM will report to the GRPUC on progress toward achieving each approved goal/deliverable in a report card prepared in advance of GRPUC meetings in the months following the end of each quarter (April, July, October, and January).

Timelines and/or other details regarding achievement of the SMART goal(s) will be adjusted as needed when conditions require doing so.

SMART goals will not be fully discarded unless they are being replaced with another tactic that will achieve the strategic objective they support. GRPUC action is required to alter or eliminate a strategic objective.

### STAFF ACCOUNTABILITY



Each year, employees work toward individual performance goals that support GRPU's objectives and aid in their own professional development.

Beginning in 2024, annual employee goals will align with the SMART goals in GRPU's operating plan, and we will foster an organizational culture that is consistent with GRPU's vision, mission, and values as described in the Strategic Plan.

Supervisors will provide ongoing feedback to employees in a manner determined by the GM and consistent with relevant union contracts. Our intent is to ensure that each GRPU team member feels fully connected to the organization's strategic path, knows how they uniquely contribute to achieving our goals, and are supported by the entirety of GRPU in carrying out their roles.

# 2025 Annual Work Plan



## ASSUMPTIONS AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

This plan assumes the following conditions:

- There will be no major technical or infrastructure failures, cyber or security breaches during the year.
- There will be no game-changing regulatory or legislative mandates that impact operations in the near term.
- The supply chain will be predictable and reliable.
- There is no significant change in staffing levels or skill sets.
- GRPU will not have to cope with significant natural disasters that cause lengthy outages or require unplanned infrastructure replacements.
- The status of the utility and its relationship with the City of Grand Rapids will be unchanged.
- There will be no unanticipated impacts on large ratepayers and no significant changes (gain/loss) of the customer base).
- Agencies will review submitted plans in a timely manner.
- There are no major safety incidents resulting in injury and/or investigation.

The year 2025 is the second cycle during which the organization will be working to make progress toward achievement of the strategic plan goals developed in 2023. This plan, created with input from nearly 100 GRPU stakeholders, reflects a vision for taking GRPU to a new level of excellence and relevance in Grand Rapids.

We deem the critical success indicators for our work in 2025 to be:

1. Ensuring an accurate assessment of GRPU's financial capacity and successful management of risks.
2. Maintaining and improving employee culture.
3. Effective and efficient collaboration with the City of Grand Rapids.
4. Successfully maintaining and improving the community's perception of the dynamic public asset that is GRPU.
5. GRPUC support for the projects in this plan and the staff who will carry them out.

In general, this plan identifies only new or additional activities that will be undertaken in 2025. It does not state most ongoing "business as usual" activities or describe activities that will be discontinued if that decision falls within staff purview. It also does not describe every operational activity necessary to achieve the above critical success indicators or the supporting activities listed. The intent in the plan that follows is to enumerate the specific activities and deliverables that will be undertaken in support of the GRPU Strategic Plan during the 2025 fiscal year, and to provide GRPUC and staff members with an understanding of what will be necessary to achieve those ends.



# 2025 Annual Work Plan Scorecard (Q2)

Exceeding		Caution		NA for now	
In Process		At Risk		Abandoned	
Ongoing		Postponed		Added	
Completed	!!	Not Started			

Strategic Pillar: Uninterrupted, High Quality Utility Services (US)						
Name	Goal	Responsible	Target Date	Q1	Q2	Comments
Substantially operating ERP system (approximately 90% of modules functioning and collecting data)	US-1, US-4, FM-1, OE-2	Jean Lane	2025-06-30	In Process	Postponed	Slightly delayed. Anticipated go-live is week of August 18 for Oracle and week of Sept 2 for SpryPoint
Substantially complete two electric undergrounding projects	US-1	Chad Troumbly	2025-12-31	In Process	In Process	Airport Road project is 90% complete, Maple Street project to be completed by EOY.
Water treatment plan (WTP) renovation project is scoped, engineered, bids received, and contractor selected	US-2	Steve Mattson	2025-09-30	In Process	At Risk	BMI was hired in March for preliminary engineering. GRPU has paused that work to assess water quality and to model the newly disinfected system. Design will resume based on updated needs, including disinfection, corrosion, and disinfection by-products. Engaging additional water experts is intentional but delays the project by 4–6 months, shifting the target to 2026.
Enhance public outage reporting and optimize customer account access, then publicly promoted	US-4, EC-2	Chad Troumbly, Michael LeClaire, Jean Lane	2025-09-30	In Process	In Process	Interface between CRC and mPower is operational. GRPU is working thru the communication and dispatching errors, and internally testing to ensure accuracy. The public-facing map will be updated and configured for internal testing for online reporting once the communication errors between CRC and mPower are corrected.
100% televised wastewater collection (WWC) system	US-3, NE-1	Steve Mattson	2025-09-30	In Process	In Process	Actively televising in the NW quadrant of town, estimated 20% complete for year, 80% complete system-wide.

# 2025 Annual Work Plan Scorecard (Q2)

Exceeding		Caution		NA for now	
In Process		At Risk		Abandoned	
Ongoing		Postponed		Added	
Completed	!!	Not Started			

Strategic Pillar: Strategic and Sustainable Fiscal Management (FM)						
Name	Goal	Responsible	Target Date	Q1	Q2	Comments
Substantially operating ERP system (approximately 90% of modules functioning and collecting data)	US-1, US-4, FM-1, OE-2	Jean Lane	2025-06-30	In Process	Postponed	Slightly delayed. Anticipated go-live is week of August 18 for Oracle and week of Sept 2 for SpryPoint
Develop reporting metrics in the new ERP system to provide timely and actionable financial insights for decision-making	FM-1, FM-2	Jean Lane	2025-12-31	In Process	In Process	Currently developing near-real time project financial reports in NSPB that will be accessible to managers for decision making.
Final adoption of operating reserve policy (includes emergency funding)	FM-1, FM-2	Jean Lane	2025-06-30	In Process	Postponed	Postponed to connect with review of current finance policies and development of additional financial policies. Time allocated to successful go-live for ERP software.
Complete cost-of-service rate studies for electric, water, and wastewater utilities	FM-3	Jean Lane	2025-09-30	Not Started	In Process	Dave Berg Consulting contract being considered for approval at July Commission meeting, would start work in August, and complete in October in time for budget planning.
Focus on tracking and reporting in project management software to improve efficiencies	FM-1, OE-1	Julie Kennedy	2025-12-31	In Process	In Process	Started work in June on NSPB and Monday.com platforms for project tracking. Will be rolled out in August/September for 2026 budget planning.

# 2024 Annual Work Plan Scorecard (Q2)

Exceeding		Caution		NA for now	
In Process		At Risk		Abandoned	
Ongoing		Postponed		Added	
Completed	!!	Not Started			

Strategic Pillar: Engaging and Educating the Community (EC)						
Name	Goal	Responsible	Target Date	Q1	Q2	Comments
Continue the monthly customer campaign plan (incl. fact sheets and legal notices)	EC-1	Megan Sjostrand, Julie Kennedy, Jean Lane	2025-12-31	In Process	In Process	Maintaining current messaging, new campaigns to be created once ERP is implemented.
Publish annual report summarizing projects and financial results	EC-2	Julie Kennedy, Jean Lane, Megan Sjostrand	2025-06-30	Not Started	Abandoned	Pushed to next year when ERP reporting is available to ensure consistent format and messaging in future years.
Plan and carry out website content updates	EC-2, EC-1, EC-3	Julie Kennedy, Megan Sjostrand	2025-12-31	Ongoing	Ongoing	Staff contribution and working with other agencies to provide links in Education & Information section.
Enhance public outage reporting and optimize customer account access, then publicly promoted	US-4, EC-2	Chad Troumbly, Michael LeClaire, Jean Lane	2025-09-30	In Process	In Process	Interface between CRC and mPower is operational. Working thru the communication errors and dispatching errors. Still internal testing to ensure accuracy, Public Map still needs to be updated and configured for internal testing for online reporting once the communication errors between CRC and mPower are corrected.
Present at the 2025 home show and host 1 open house to educate the community on rebates and utility programs	EC-2, EC-1, NE-3	Chad Troumbly, Steve Mattson, Julie Kennedy	2025-06-30	Completed	Completed	Completed in Q1. Did not meet objectives. Likely will not continue. Developing an alternative plan in October for contractor and customer engagement.
Hold two joint council and commission meetings to align City of GR and GRPU on collaborative opportunities	OE-2, EC-3	Julie Kennedy	2025-04-25	In Process	In Process	Meeting 1 held June 2, Meeting 2 scheduled for Oct 6

# 2025 Annual Work Plan Scorecard (Q2)

Exceeding		Caution		NA for now	
In Process		At Risk		Abandoned	
Ongoing		Postponed		Added	
Completed	!!	Not Started			

Strategic Pillar: Use and Stewardship of the Natural Environment (NE)						
Name	Goal	Responsible	Target Date	Q1	Q2	Comments
Relocate the septic hauler station from old to new WWTP	NE-3	Steve Mattson	2025-12-31	In Process	At Risk	Before relocating the station, GRPU is assessing the ROI of accepting external septic waste at our WW facilities in light of new regulations and testing requirements. Staff will inspect a new receiving station near Duluth, with the new Wastewater Operations Director (apprentice) leading the data-gathering effort. If deemed worthwhile, the station relocation would be pushed to 2026.
100% televised wastewater collection (WWC) system	US-3, NE-1	Steve Mattson	2025-09-30	In Process	In Process	Actively televising in the NW quadrant of town, estimated 20% complete for year, 80% complete system-wide.
Present at the 2025 home show and host 1 open house to educate the community on rebates and utility programs	EC-2, EC-1, NE-3	Chad Troumbly, Steve Mattson, Julie Kennedy	2025-06-30	Completed	Completed	Completed in Q1. Did not meet objectives. Likely will not continue. Developing an alternative plan in October for contractor and customer engagement.
WWTP landfill cover reconstruction is substantially complete and new sludge demand agreements are in place	NE-2, US-5	Steve Mattson, Jean Lane, Julie Kennedy	2025-12-31	In Process	At Risk	Construction pushed into 2026 per UPM/Bandin request. Warranty due diligence completed and communicated to UPM/Blandin. Meetings started to address demand agreements.



# 2025 Annual Work Plan Scorecard (Q2)

Exceeding		Caution		NA for now	
In Process		At Risk		Abandoned	
Ongoing		Postponed		Added	
Completed	!!	Not Started			

Strategic Pillar: Operational Excellence (OE)						
Name	Goal	Responsible	Target Date	Q1	Q2	Comments
Tracking/reporting in project management software to improve efficiencies	FM-1, OE-1	Julie Kennedy	2025-12-31	In Process	In Process	Started work this month in NSPB and Monday.com for project tracking. Rolled out with 2026 budget process.
Quarterly all employee meetings to improve clear communication process and lead to improved NPS per annual survey	OE-1	Julie Kennedy, Jean Lane, Megan Sjostrand	2025-12-31	In Process	In Process	Switched to 3 meetings per year (start, mid, end). Meeting 1 Jan 30, meeting 2 July 10, meeting 3 scheduled December 18.
Implement employee resource portal in new ERP software and Laserfiche	OE-1	Jean Lane	2025-06-30	In Process	Postponed	Laserfiche HR complete. ERP slightly delayed with anticipated Oracle go-live week of Aug 18.
Substantially operating ERP system (approximately 90% of modules functioning and collecting data)	US-1, US-4, FM-1, OE-2	Jean Lane	2025-06-30	In Process	Postponed	Slightly delayed. Anticipated go-live is week of August 18 for Oracle and week of Sept 2 for SpryPoint
Succession planning for business services manager transition	OE-1	Megan Sjostrand, Julie Kennedy	2025-12-31	In Process	In Process	New JD approved and job advertised in July.
Implement comprehensive employee training and development program	OE-1	Megan Sjostrand, Julie Kennedy	2025-12-31	Not Started	In Process	Working on SOW with MMUA to start program in Oct 2025.
Implement employee success sharing program	OE-1	Julie Kennedy, Megan Sjostrand	2025-01-31	In Process	In Process	Included as part of employee development program - work to start in Oct 2025.
Finalize electronic document retention conversion	OE-1	Megan Sjostrand, Julie Kennedy	2025-12-31	In Process	In Process	Commission items, contracts, HR, & reports/studies workflow designs are complete - need to upload backdated items.

# Questions / Comments



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