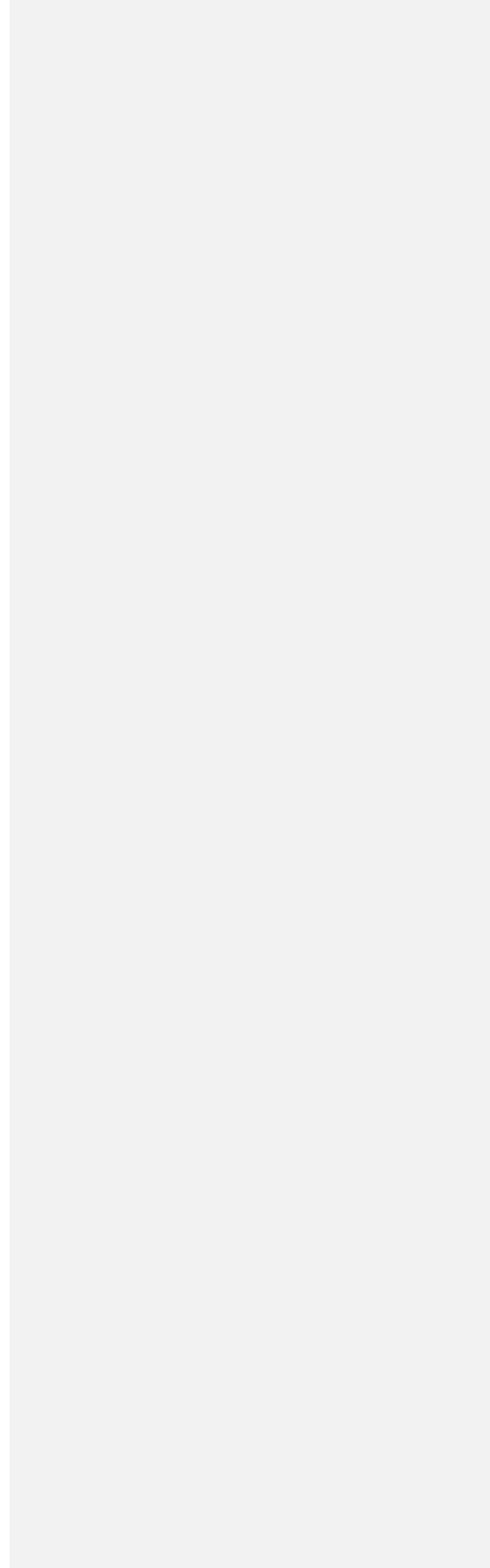


U: Utilities



Introduction

The Utilities Element addresses telecommunications, electricity, water and sewer services, and stormwater systems. In general, the goals and policies promote reliable and equitable services for all constituents in a cost-efficient manner.

Consistent with the Plan's emphasis on sustainability and healthy communities, utilities policies promote resource efficiency and help to reduce the demand on utility infrastructure.

The Utilities Element Background Analysis (Volume II) contains the background data and analysis, including information on the proposed location of utilities, and capacity of existing and proposed utilities. Specific utilities discussed include:

- Water
- Sewer
- Surface water
- Electricity
- Natural gas
- Telecommunications
- Solid waste



Goals and Policies



Goal U-1: Service Quality

Ensure quality utility services throughout Lake Forest Park that meet the needs of current and future residents and businesses.

Policy U-1.1: Work with utility providers to ensure that reliable, quality services are provided at reasonable and fair rates in all areas of the City.

Policy U-1.2: Encourage the timely expansion, ~~and~~-maintenance, ~~and~~ replacement of utility infrastructure to meet evolving community needs ~~and anticipated State regulations~~.

Commented [CH1]: Comment: Update as noted

Policy U-1.3: Encourage the use of new technologies that will enhance the quality of utility services while ensuring financial feasibility.

Policy U-1.4: Coordinate partnerships, interlocal agreements, and franchise agreements to increase the quality of utility services.

Policy U-1.5: Improve telecommunication services, with a focus on high-speed internet connectivity, for residents and businesses in Lake Forest Park.

Commented [CH2]: Comment: Consistent language - change high-speed internet with broadband here or in CP 1.7

Policy U-1.6: Consider alternative service provision options that may be more effective, efficient, and economical at providing service to residents and businesses, including reducing the number of water and sewer providers operating within the City.

Designated sensitive areas. *Include erosion hazard areas, landslide hazard areas, seismic hazard areas, steep slope areas, streams, wetlands, fish-bearing waters, areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, flood hazard areas and the adjoining protective buffers necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare (Lake Forest Park Municipal Code 16.24.020).*

Policy U-1.7: Ensure contingency plans are in place to maintain services through short and long term service disruption.

Commented [CH3]: Comment: New policy



Goal U–2: Planning

Work with utility providers and other partners to plan for sustainable utility infrastructure that supports City and regional growth plans.

Policy U–2.1: Support utility service areas that are consistent with the growth and development patterns outlined in the City’s Comprehensive Plan, the *King County Comprehensive Plan*, and *VISION 2050*.

VISION 2050 is available online at: <https://www.psrc.org/planning-2050/vision-2050>.

The *King County Comprehensive Plan* is available online at: <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/executive/governance-leadership/performance-strategy-budget/regional-planning/king-county-comprehensive-plan>.

Policy U–2.2: Communicate on a regular basis (consider annually) through sharing and requesting information with utility providers and other partners.

Policy U–2.3: Coordinate with utility providers to determine available capacity to accommodate development without lowering service standards, and identify needed system improvements.

Policy U–2.4: Encourage the joint use of utility corridors and facilities to minimize the amount of land area impacted by utility infrastructure.

Policy U–2.5: Educate residents about the importance of notifying utilities of construction activities, and lead by example during city construction projects. Facilitate coordination of trenching activities and work to decrease the need for making cuts in new road.

Policy U–2.6: Support the use of utility corridors for recreation and open space purposes, where appropriate.



Goal U-3: Community Impacts

Partner with utility providers to mitigate negative impacts of utility systems to community members.

Policy U-3.1: Support the use of construction, operation, and maintenance practices that limit adverse impacts, such as loud noises, service outages, transportation disruptions, and public safety hazards.

Policy U-3.2: Work with utility providers to inform the community about disruptive activities and to provide opportunities for public engagement in planning processes.

Policy U-3.3: Encourage the use of siting and design practices that minimize adverse visual impacts associated with utility infrastructure.

*Design measures such as color, varied materials, artwork, and superior landscape design can **promote compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood.***

Policy U-3.4: Promote the undergrounding of utilities where physically and financially feasible.

Policy U-3.5: Promote undergrounding or upgrading services where services are prone to repeated disruption.



Goal U-4: Environmental Impacts

Minimize negative impacts of utility systems to the environment.

Policy U-4.1: Encourage siting, construction, operation, and maintenance activities that are consistent with environmental best management practices.

Policy U-4.2: Coordinate and support public education by the utility providers of the need for water and energy conservation.

Policy U-4.3: Advocate for efficient water utility practices that protect natural resources and support a sustainable long-term water supply.

Policy U-4.4: Collaborate with utilities and other partners to identify the impacts of climate change and develop long-term strategies to address them.

Policy U-4.5: Advocate for efficient energy utility practices and explore alternative energy resources to meet long-term needs and reduce environmental impacts associated with traditional energy supplies.

Policy U-4.6: Coordinate tree removal and replacement plans with electric utilities to efficiently maintain power lines.

Please see the **Community Forest Management Plan** for background information, available online at: <https://www.cityofilfp.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6175>.

Policy U-4.7: Encourage the waste management utilities to increase recycling, composting, yard waste, waste reduction, and responsible disposal of hazardous waste.

Policy U-4.8: Coordinate and support public education by the utility providers of alternatives to toxic and wasteful products.

Policy U-4.9: Protect water quality and quantity through operation of the City's stormwater utility.

Please see the **Environmental Quality & Shorelines Element** for additional guidance on water quality.

Policy U-4.10: The City shall create a prioritization list and plans for at-risk overflow infrastructure. Additionally, the siting of new sewer infrastructure within flood-prone areas is prohibited.



Goal U-5: Climate Commitment

Enhance community resilience and address historic inequities in environmental and health conditions through the provision of reliable utility services.

Policy U-5.1: When expanding or upgrading utilities, consider environmental justice criteria as well as future climate-related impacts in making decisions.

Policy U-5.2: Plan for resilient and redundant utility services to improve resilience in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency.

Policy U-5.3: Promote underground utilities to the extent feasible.

Policy U-5.4: Encourage the expansion of fiber internet lines throughout the city.

Policy U-5.5: Encourage a transition from natural gas energy usage to electric energy for homes and businesses.

Commented [CH4]: WDFW RECOMMENDATION.

Response: These are both implementation actions. I recommend a revised policy: "Reduce and prevent sewer overflow events." Incorporate WDFW's specific actions into the implementation strategy.

Commented [CH5]: Comment: Okay to drop "environmental justice" in the goal language in favor of the more specific "historic inequities in environmental and health conditions".

Commented [CH6]: WDFW RECOMMENDATION.

Commented [CH7]: Comment: I believe the margin note in the cover letter about HB1589 "prohibiting" new gas customers is incorrect, since that was in a prior version of the bill that didn't pass. Coupled with the council opposing the gas initiative makes me think that we should keep the "encourage" language as is. I generally favor carrots over sticks, and encouraging people to be more environmentally friendly seems fine to me. If we'd like more positive language than perhaps "Encourage residents to switch to more sustainable energy sources"

Commented [CH8]: Comment: Not really sure what data commissioners are basing their conclusion about the opposition to transitioning away from natural gas. Surveys done by the Climate Action Committee suggest residents do favor the transition, both on climate AND health grounds.