



To Lake Forest Park Planning Commission; Mark Hofman, AICP

From: Cristina Haworth, AICP

Date: May 3, 2024

Project: 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Subject Capital Facilities & Utilities Elements Discussion Guide

Introduction:

Capital facilities are the buildings and major equipment needed to provide public facilities and services, including but not limited to transportation infrastructure, sidewalks, street and road lighting systems, traffic signals, water systems, storm and sanitary sewer systems, parks and recreational facilities, police and fire stations and equipment, and schools. Capital facilities may be owned by the City or may be owned and operated by a different agency. The City must plan for capital facilities under the Growth Management Act and the Capital Facilities Element must consist of:

1. An inventory of existing capital facilities owned by public entities, including green infrastructure, showing the locations and capacities of the capital facilities.
2. A forecast of the future needs for such capital facilities. This is based on the land use plan and other information.
3. The proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new capital facilities. This comes from the operators of the facilities.
4. At least a six-year plan that will finance such capital facilities within projected funding capacities and clearly identifies sources of public money for such purposes. The funding plan includes regular income streams such as taxes as well as grant funding opportunities.
5. A requirement to reassess the land use element if probable funding falls short of meeting existing needs and to ensure that the land use element, capital facilities plan element, and financing plan within the capital facilities plan element are coordinated and consistent. Park and recreation facilities must be included in the Capital Facilities Element.

The City is required to coordinate and work with all public entities that own capital facilities. This includes public utility districts and school districts that serve Lake Forest Park.

Utilities are electric, water, sewer, telecommunications, internet, and similar services that support public health, safety, and welfare. The City must also plan for adequate provision of utilities per the Growth Management Act. The Utilities Element must include the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities including, but not limited to, electrical, telecommunications, and natural gas systems. The City

is required to coordinate and work with utility owners/providers such as public utility districts that serve Lake Forest Park.

These elements must also be consistent with PSRC Vision 2050 and King County's Countywide Planning Policies. Generally, the 2015 Capital Facilities and Utilities Elements *are consistent* with these documents, but some changes are needed:

- Growth Management Act:
 - Update inventories, capacity information, and planned improvements – IN PROGRESS.
 - Forecast future needs based on planned growth and determine if capacity is adequate.
 - Develop a six-year capital improvements plan for financing improvements.
- King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs):
 - ✓ Provide a full range of urban services in the Urban Growth Area....
 - Provide affordable and equitable access to public services to all communities, especially the historically underserved. Prioritize investments to address disparities.
 - ✓ Implement water conservation and efficiency efforts to protect natural resources, reduce environmental impacts, and support a sustainable long-term water supply to serve the growing population.
 - CONSIDER: Require water reuse and reclamation, where feasible, especially for high-volume non-potable water users such as parks, schools, and golf courses.
 - ✓ Reduce the solid waste stream and encourage reuse and recycling.
 - ✓ Reduce the rate of energy consumption through efficiency and conservation to lower energy costs and mitigate environmental impacts associated with traditional energy supplies.
 - ✓ Invest in and promote the use of low-carbon, renewable, and alternative energy resources to help meet the county's long-term energy needs, reduce environmental impacts associated with traditional energy supplies, and increase community sustainability.¹
 - ✓ Plan for the equitable provision of telecommunication infrastructure and affordable, convenient, and reliable broadband internet access to businesses, and to households of all income levels, with a focus on underserved areas.
 - ✓ Work collaboratively with school districts to ensure the availability of sufficient land and the provision of necessary educational facilities. Coordinate and collaborate to build new and expand existing school facilities where necessary, employing the strategies listed in PF-23.²
 - ✓ Consider climate change, economic, equity, and health impacts when siting and building essential public services and facilities.
 - ✓ Establish new or expanded sites for public facilities, utilities, and infrastructure in a manner that ensures disaster resiliency and public service recovery.
- PSRC Vision 2050
 - ✓ Protect and enhance the environment and public health and safety when providing services and facilities.

¹ This will be addressed more fully in the Climate Element planning process.

² Strategies are either generally consistent with goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan or directly supported by goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan.

- Promote affordability and equitable access of public services to all communities, especially the historically underserved. Prioritize investments to address disparities.
- Promote improved conservation and more efficient use of water, as well as the increased use of reclaimed water, to reduce wastewater generation and ensure water availability. Reduce the per capita rate of water consumption through conservation, efficiency, reclamation, and reuse.
- ✓ Promote the use of renewable energy resources.
- ✓ Reduce the rate of energy consumption through conservation and alternative energy forms to extend the life of existing facilities and infrastructure.
- ✓ Support the necessary investments in utility infrastructure to facilitate transition to low-carbon energy sources.
- ✓ Plan for the provision of telecommunication infrastructure, especially in underserved areas.
- ✓ Support efforts to increase the resilience of public services, utilities, and infrastructure by preparing for disasters and other impacts and coordinated planning for system recovery.
- ✓ Consider climate change, economic, and health impacts when siting and building essential public services and facilities.
- ✓ CONSIDER: Develop conservation measures to reduce solid waste and increase recycling.
- CONSIDER: Promote the replacement of failing septic systems with sanitary sewer connections or alternative technology that is comparable or better.

Discussion Questions and Guidance:

1. **Water Reclamation.** To what extent does the City want to support the reclamation and reuse of water as a method of reducing water consumption?
2. **Equity.** To what extent should we directly prioritize capital facility and utility investments in historically underserved communities? Potential policy language could look like this:
 - a. When planning for utility system/capital facilities upgrades or expansions, prioritize improvements in historically underserved communities to the extent feasible.
3. **Climate Commitment.** We proposed new goals and policies in the Capital Facilities and Utilities Elements. Are there other resilience or climate-focused policies that should be included?