

Goals & Policies

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~~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 & Policies

Goal U–1 Service Quality. Ensure quality utility services ~~are provided~~ throughout Lake Forest Park ~~to 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 of utility infrastructure ~~in order to~~ meet evolving community needs.

Policy U–1.3 Encourage the use of new technologies that will enhance the quality of utility services ~~and that are~~ while ensuring the financially financial feasibility.

Policy U–1.4 ~~Utilize a variety of methods to improve the quality of utility services including~~ 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~~ high-speed internet connectivity, for residents and businesses in Lake Forest Park.

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.

Commented [CL3]: This is an implementation action

Commented [ZG1]: Was this ever addressed?

Commented [CH2R1]: Work to improve broadband connectivity is still needed.

Commented [CL4]: This is an implementation action

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 ~~2040~~ 2050.

Policy U–2.2 Communicate on a regular basis (consider annually) through sharing and requesting information with utility providers and other partners, ~~in order to facilitate coordinated planning for sustainable regional utility infrastructure.~~

Policy U–2.3 Coordinate ~~review of significant development proposals~~ with utility providers to determine ~~whether there is~~ available capacity to accommodate development without lowering service standards, and identify ~~any~~ 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.

Commented [CL5]: This is an implementation action

Commented [CL6]: This seems to be a restatement of the Goal U-2

During the Comprehensive Plan update process, community members identified the need for improvements in current internet service for residents and businesses as an important priority. Interest was also expressed in building on existing fiber optic infrastructure in the City.

VISION 2040 is available online at:
<https://www.psrc.org/planning-2050/vision-2050>
www.psrc.org/growth/vision2040.

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>
www.kingcounty.gov/depts/executive/psb/regional-planning/king-county-comprehensive-plan.aspx.



Policy U-2.5 Educate ~~citizens-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 roads.

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 ~~utilities-utility providers~~ to inform the community about ~~utility-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 ~~to community members~~ associated with utility infrastructure.

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



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

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.

Commented [CH7]: This is an implementation action. It could be left here, or it could be rephrased as "Promote safe construction to avoid disruption of or damage to underground utilities."



Policy U-4.2 Coordinate and support public education by the utility providers ~~that raises awareness~~ of the need for water and energy conservation ~~and empowers individuals to take action~~.

Policy U-4.3 Advocate for ~~water utilities to adopt~~ 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 ~~energy utilities to adopt~~ efficient energy utility practices and explore alternative energy resources, ~~in order to help~~ meet long-term ~~energy~~ needs and reduce environmental impacts associated with traditional energy supplies.

Policy U-4.6 ~~Work~~ Coordinate tree removal and replacement plans with electric utilities to ~~encourage tree removal when topping is otherwise required for maintaining~~ maintain power lines, ~~and ensure that trees are replaced with location-appropriate species~~.

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 ~~that raises awareness~~ of alternatives to toxic and wasteful products.

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

Goal U-5 Climate Commitment. Enhance community resilience and suppose environmental justice outcomes through the provision of reliable

Please see the Community Forest Management Plan for background information, available online at: www.cityoffjp.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/369.

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

utility services.

Policy U-5.1 When expanding or upgrading utilities, consider environmental justice criteria 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.

