

PROPOSED 2019 WASTEWATER PLAN – GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Water Quality Goal		
Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act standards for nitrogen, fecal coliform and other constituents of concern in groundwater and surface water are met.		
Objective 1A	Encourage OSS conversions through the Septic to Sewer Program.	
	Strategy 1A1	Complete sewer extensions projects that allow for individual OSS conversions.
	Strategy 1A2	Provide technical assistance and public education for individual and neighborhood OSS conversions to municipal sewer.
Objective 1B	Facilitate the orderly expansion of the public sewer system.	
	Strategy 1B1	Give priority to extensions of gravity sewer systems over other sewer types (e.g. STEP, grinder).
	Strategy 1B2	Allow the limited use of STEP systems for OSS conversions and infill development in neighborhoods currently served by STEP systems.
	Strategy 1B3	Explore options for public participation in new lift stations and force mains.
Objective 1C	Eliminate illicit discharges of wastewater into stormwater conveyance pipes and receiving waters.	
	Strategy 1C1	In partnership with the City's Storm and Surface Water Utility, provide timely investigation and response to illicit discharges.
Public Health Goal		
No one is exposed to sewer overflows or excessive odors.		
Objective 2A	Reduce the volume of sewer overflows annually.	
	Strategy 2A1	Reduce the number of sewer pipe blockages through continued preventive maintenance activities such as pipe and manhole cleaning, root control and minor repairs.
	Strategy 2A2	Continue to provide adequate resources for improved mapping and documentation of the wastewater pipe system.
	Strategy 2A3	Implement education and enforcement efforts to reduce preventable blockages due to fats, oils and grease (FOG) build-up, with assistance from LOTT.
	Strategy 2A4	Reduce infiltration and inflow in prioritized areas so that pipe capacities are not exceeded.
	Strategy 2A5	During sewer spills and other emergencies, utilize available regional resources through the LOTT Mutual Aid Agreement.
	Strategy 2A6	Improve operations and maintenance capacity by continuing to incorporate new field technologies.
	Strategy 2A7	Use succession planning and new staff on-board training as tools to ensure adequate staff resources.
Objective 2B	Manage odors from sewer systems.	
	Strategy 2B1	Investigate odor complaints promptly and resolve as appropriate.

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Climate Change Goal		
The Utility implements all applicable City and region-wide climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.		
Objective 3A	Reduce the Wastewater Utility's energy use.	
	Strategy 3A1	Complete an energy audit for lift stations.
	Strategy 3A2	Develop a sewer force main cleaning program.
	Strategy 3A3	Research opportunities to sell back stored energy to the grid.
	Strategy 3A4	Meet City-wide energy reduction efforts including those related to fleet and building operations.
	Strategy 3A5	Continue participation in Puget Sound Energy's Green Power Program.
	Strategy 3A6	Continue implementing green infrastructure project evaluation processes (e.g. Envision) for wastewater capital projects.
	Strategy 3A7	Prioritize Inflow and Infiltration projects in lift station basins with high peak flows.
Objective 3B	Adapt infrastructure for predicted sea level rise projections.	
	Strategy 3B1	Perform a thorough evaluation of the wastewater infrastructure vulnerability to sea level rise.
	Strategy 3B2	Elevate, floodproof or relocate low-lying lift stations.
	Strategy 3B3	Monitor tidally influenced zones to determine whether hydraulic pressures are increasing Inflow and Infiltration.
	Strategy 3B4	Consider revisions to Engineering Design and Development Standards that take into account infrastructure's estimated effective life and sea level rise projections.
Objective 3C	Adapt wastewater infrastructure to accommodate forecast precipitation trends.	
	Strategy 3C1	Track climate science to understand precipitation trends and the implications for future urban and watershed-based flooding.
	Strategy 3C2	Consider revisions to Engineering Design and Development Standards and the Drainage Design and Erosion Control Manual that take into account regional climate model precipitation projections throughout infrastructure estimated effective life.
	Strategy 3C3	In collaboration with the LOTT Clean Water Alliance, separate combined wastewater/stormwater pipes in conjunction with stormwater and road improvements or residential repairs, when economically feasible.

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Utility Rates and Fees Goal		
Utility rates and fees are equitable and affordable, minimizing rate increases while maintaining consistent levels of service.		
Objective 4A	Coordinate the financial management of the three water-based utilities so that utility rate increases are distributed over time.	
	Strategy 4A1	Conduct regular financial studies, coordinated with other water resource utilities and potentially including LOTT.
Objective 4B	Manage utility rates and connection fees consistent with the City's guiding principle of growth paying for growth.	
	Strategy 4B1	Update utility rates and general facility charges (GFCs) to reflect costs of providing needed services, while looking for opportunities to improve the equitable distribution of charges.
	Strategy 4B2	Understand the actual costs of providing service to STEP system customers.
Objective 4C	Use computer-based asset management systems in order to understand actual depreciation costs and reduce infrastructure life-cycle costs at a consistent level of service.	
	Strategy 4C1	Continue a pipeline condition rating program which tracks the physical integrity of the wastewater pipe system.
	Strategy 4C2	Inspect manholes consistent with the Manhole Assessment Certification Program for condition rating.
	Strategy 4C3	Based on pipe and manhole condition rating outcomes, complete priority repairs and replacements of pipes and structures.
	Strategy 4C4	Inspect and condition rate lift stations and STEP systems on a regular basis.
	Strategy 4C5	Based on lift station and STEP system condition ratings outcomes, complete priority repairs and replacements of pumping infrastructure.
Integrated Water Resources Goal		
Water resource utilities are planning together for long-term environmental, economic and social changes.		
Objective 5A	Integrate Water Resource activities that share common goals, resources and/or assets.	
	Strategy 5A1	Coordinate public education activities with the Drinking Water and Storm and Surface Water Utility.
	Strategy 5A2	Allow and promote greywater subsurface irrigation alternatives in concert with Thurston County.
Informational Goal		
Customers and the community are informed about and involved in wastewater management activities.		
Objective 6A	Keep customers and the community informed and involved.	
	Strategy 6A1	Update and expand the Utility's website and other media to disseminate information consistent with the objectives of this Plan.
	Strategy 6A2	Coordinate customer and community education efforts with the other water resource utilities and LOTT.
	Strategy 6A3	Provide adequate resources for public education and involvement.