



Essential Public Facility

An Essential Public Facility is defined by [LSMC 14.16C.060](#) is a facility owned or operated by a unit of local or state government, a public utility or transportation company, or any other entity providing a public service. It is a necessary system or network component that provides a public service or good. Such facilities include airports, state education, state or regional transportation, jails, hospitals, stormwater, solid waste transfer stations, water transmission lines, inpatient facilities, substance abuse, mental health and group homes. Essential public facilities can be challenging, and their location in a community may be unpopular locally. GMA charges local and state governments to ensure such facilities are sited promptly and efficiently.

COMMON SITE REVIEW PROCESS

Either the sponsor of an essential public facility within Snohomish County, which is eligible for review under the Common Site Review Process, or the proposed host community may elect to follow the process described herein. Alternatively, sponsors of such facilities with a preferred site location already identified may seek siting approval under the local process provided by the host community (the jurisdiction having land use authority over that site), if that approach is acceptable to the host community.

The Common Site Review Process will involve the steps described below:

- Determination of eligibility
- Site search consultation
- Local land use review
- Advisory review process
- Permit application

SITE EVALUATION CRITERIA

All county and city review authorities will utilize the following criteria in evaluating siting proposals made by sponsoring agencies seeking to site an essential public facility (EPF) in Snohomish County:

1. Documentation of Need;
2. Consistency with Sponsor's Plans;
3. Consistency with other Plans;
4. Relationship of Service Area Population;
5. Minimum Site Requirements;
6. Alternative Site Selection;
7. Concentration of Essential Public Facilities;
8. Public Participation;
9. Consistency with Local Land Use Regulations;
10. Compatibility with Surrounding Land Uses;
11. Proposed Impact Mitigation

NOTE: This document is for informational purposes only and is not intended to replace the City of Lake Stevens's adopted rules and policies. For current regulations and requirements, please consult Title 14 of the Lake Stevens Municipal Code or the Planning & Community Development Department.