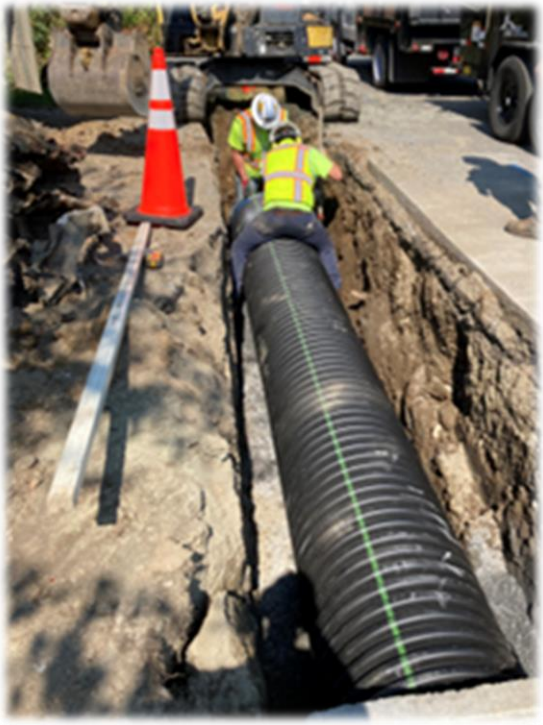
Chapter 7
Public Services and Utilities



A Vision for Public Services and Utilities

Lake Stevens will strive to provide excellent public utilities and services to meet the health and safety needs of the community in proportion to future population growth and will continue to coordinate with local service providers to ensure service continuity as the community grows and the city adopts to a changing climate.

INTRODUCTION

This element addresses public utilities and services available in the city of Lake Stevens, including water, wastewater (sewer), stormwater, fire protection, parks and recreation (discussed in more detail in Chapter 6), police, and schools. As required by state law, it specifically considers the general location, proposed location and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities and public facilities, including public structures and utility lines. It also discusses levels of services for current and future residents and businesses. The discussion in this section relates to several other elements including Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Land Use, Transportation and Capital Facilities.

As the city contracts for many urban services, much of the planning for utilities in the Urban Growth Area (UGA) is the responsibility of various service providers and special purpose districts, who prepare their own plans with input from the city. The city and utility plans are often interrelated, as the utilities provide service to the city and activities in the city affect the demands upon the utilities. The boundaries of many service providers extend a short distance outside the designated UGA and may provide guidance on potential expansion of the UGA in the future.

The city cooperates with other cities and service providers in the joint delivery of utilities and services. The city is open to all opportunities to coordinate and cooperate with neighboring service providers.

As part of subarea planning efforts for the 20th Street SE Corridor, Lake Stevens Center, Downtown Lake Stevens and the Lake Stevens Industrial Center, the city evaluated utilities and public services and facilities and met with service and utility providers to determine the availability of service for future development within the subareas. The subarea and local economic center documents provide details for each planned area including strategies and mitigation measures, if required.

PLANNING CONTEXT

State Planning

The Growth Management Act (GMA) identifies a Utilities Element as a mandatory element for local comprehensive plans in RCW 36.70A.070(4). Per the GMA, local jurisdictions must plan for the public service and facility needs in their communities based on projected growth. Planning for public services and utility facilities is imperative to guarantee sufficient local amenities for current and future residents within a defined level of service.

Local public services and facilities include municipal services, police, sewer and water infrastructure, schools, parks, etc. Regional services and facilities may include fire protection, telecommunications, transportation and electrical infrastructure. Communities must also incorporate policies to consider the location of essential public facilities such as education facilities, transportation facilities, correctional facilities, solid waste facilities and mental health/substance abuse facilities. Local jurisdictions must also develop a financing plan for public services and facilities, which is described in the Capital Facilities Plan.

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) regulate utilities and transportation. The WUTC is empowered to regulate utilities such as electrical, gas, irrigation, telecommunication and water companies. The WUTC has jurisdiction over rates and charges, services, facilities and practices of utilities. Any change in customer charges or service provision policy requires WUTC approval. The WUTC also requires gas providers to demonstrate that existing ratepayers will not subsidize new customers. It is responsible for the regulation of intrastate pipelines and partners with federal regulators to ensure that federal regulations for interstate pipelines are followed.

The State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program addresses the environmental impacts of utilities and regulates cleanup operations with approved advanced plans for emergencies. Ecology regulates and requires planning for water quality for cities and counties through the National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) program, which is a stormwater permit in its Phase II implementation for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) like the city operates. Ecology also regulates stormwater discharges for several industrial properties in the city under a related permit.

In 2023, House Bill 1181 amended the GMA to create a new climate goal and require cities to develop a new climate change element, which the city must adopt by 2029. The GMA also requires comprehensive plans and implementing ordinances and programs to adapt to and

mitigate the effects of a changing climate; support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled; and to foster resiliency to climate impacts and natural hazards. In advance of the adoption of that standalone element, the city has incorporated several goals and policies related to climate resiliency and greenhouse gas emissions into this element and other elements, drawing primarily from the city's 2023 Climate Sustainability Plan (CSP) as well as Vision 2050 and countywide planning policies.

House Bill 1181 also amended the GMA to specifically require that utility elements for local jurisdictions identify all public entities that own utility systems, and that the local jurisdiction works collaboratively with these entities to include information about those utilities in their comprehensive plan. This chapter provides an analysis of the public services provided by partner agencies and special districts that serve the city, including any system improvements needed to accommodate projected growth.

Regional Planning

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Vision 2050 plan reiterates GMA goals and emphasizes providing adequate public services and facilities in a coordinated and cost-effective manner to support projected growth and development in the central Puget Sound region. Vision 2050 calls for the efficient use and conservation of resources and facilities across the region and includes a Public Services goal and 30 underlying multicounty planning policies that aim to address regionwide issues.

PSRC Vision 2050 Public Services Goal

In Lake Stevens, water, electric, sanitary sewer and fire services are provided by independent agencies or special service districts. The city will continue to coordinate with agencies and service districts for local and regional delivery of services and facilities.

Countywide Planning

The Snohomish County Countywide Goal for Public Services and Facilities (2021) is consistent with the Vision 2050 Public Services goal and states,

> **"Snohomish County and its cities will coordinate and develop and provide adequate and efficient public facilities and services to ensure the health, safety, conservation of resources, and economic vitality of our communities and all residents."**

The specific policies draw distinctions between services and facilities in urban and rural areas. Of note, Policy PS-1 identifies cities as the preferred urban service providers. As such, cities determine appropriate levels of service in incorporated areas or coordinate with the county through interlocal agreements for unincorporated areas to address services and facilities. Countywide, the cities and county should coordinate together and with service providers to determine the location and extent of public services and facilities to support jobs and housing.

The countywide Public Services goal also emphasizes conservation of public services, resources and facilities. Countywide planning policies identify standards for establishing and mitigating local, regional, statewide and federal essential public facilities. It also recommends the cities and county collaborate with public agencies and special districts to identify opportunities for the co-location of local essential public facilities.

Lake Stevens Planning

The city provides many municipal services, including governance, administration, planning and community development, building permits, public works and projects, governmental financing, grant development and management, and police services. Planning and provision of other services and utilities in the UGA is the responsibility of special purpose districts and utility providers. Future staffing levels are directly related to the degree to which annexations occur. Following several annexations between 2018 and 2021, the city developed a strategic staffing plan that aims to continue to provide high levels of service to the community as the city grows.

The city does not currently have a central municipal campus. Services are spread out at different locations including City Hall and the Permit Center at North Cove Park in Downtown Lake Stevens; the Public Works offices, Maintenance and Equipment Yard in the Lake Stevens Industrial Center; and the Police Station in SE Lake Stevens. In 2023, the city began planning for a new Municipal Services Campus (City Hall and Permit Center) adjacent to the Police Station, which is anticipated to be completed in late 2025 or early 2026.

The city cooperates with other cities and service providers in the joint planning and delivery of services within its UGA based on current and future growth projections, adopted levels of service and concurrency requirements. The Comprehensive Plan provides policy guidance on how utilities and services shall be planned and provided to ensure consistency between city and county planning documents.

Services provided directly by special purpose districts include health, school, fire, power,

judicial and library services. Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue (Fire District), which was created through the merger of the Lake Stevens Fire District with Snohomish County Fire District 7 in 2020, provides fire protection services within the city and UGA (Figure 7.3).

The city asserts its interest to participate in the planning of rural areas outside of the UGA where future UGA expansions could occur. Utility and service planning requires that the city be involved in the planning and decision-making of these areas both to comment on future service impacts and to do its own service planning.

The following section provides specific descriptions of public services and utilities within the city and its UGA.

INVENTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Police Services

Provider: City of Lake Stevens

Contact Information (2024): 1825 S Lake Stevens Rd, Lake Stevens; (425) 622-9401

The Lake Stevens Police Department (Police Department) provides a full range of local law enforcement services within the City of Lake Stevens. These services include crime suppression and investigation, traffic enforcement, traffic accident investigation, marine law enforcement, community-oriented problem solving and partnerships with residents to solve quality of life issues throughout the community. The Police Department also contracts some of its services, including dispatch, jail, court services and vehicle maintenance.

The Police Department's community policing philosophy is based on the premise that a safe community requires positive, trusting, and productive relationships with all stakeholders. In 2022, the Police Department responded to approximately 23,400 incidents. The average response time for the Police Department is three to four minutes for emergency calls and six to 10 minutes for all other calls. The Police Department is also part of a mutual aid agreement, which allows law enforcement agencies to assist each other with resources and personnel when requested.

In 2020, the Police Department conducted research to determine an appropriate staffing formula. The formula compares calls for service with the number of officers necessary to meet the call load as determined by the time needed to handle the calls and the time available to answer the calls. The formula considers workload, discretionary time, administrative time, reactive time, and current work schedule. As calls for service change over time, it is

important to maintain the ratio which allows for a community policing philosophy. Maintaining a police force with adequate staffing levels to meet the adopted levels of service (LOS) standards will require anticipating increases in population, calls for service, annexations, mandated training requirements, and retirements.

2020 saw the Police Department move into its new headquarters at South Lake Stevens Road and 20th St SE, which has significantly more space than its previous location and will allow the department to continue to grow alongside the city.

Lake Stevens Police Headquarters

Stormwater

Provider: City of Lake Stevens

Contact Information (2024): 2306 131st Ave NE, Lake Stevens; (425) 622-9403

The City of Lake Stevens provides surface water management and a stormwater utility for the entire city. The system captures surface runoff from roadways and impervious areas with assets that consist of catch basins, culverts, pipes ditches, facilities for stormwater treatment and detention, streams, wetlands, and other water bodies. Within the system are two lakes, Stitch Lake and Lake Stevens. The stormwater system covers an area of approximately 7,547 acres (11.8 square miles) and is broken into 23 catchment areas. Within the stormwater system, there are approximately 123 city-owned or operated facilities, 5,975 catch basins, 28 miles of roadside ditches, 130 miles of pipe and 60,500 feet of culverts.

City funds for stormwater improvements are provided by two sources, the General Fund and the Stormwater Management Utility Fund. The percent and extent of impervious surface on parcels determines the amount of fee charged to a parcel. Funds are used to implement many aspects of the stormwater and surface water programs at the city. Additional funding is provided by fees on parcels within the shoreline management areas. By means of an interlocal agreement, fees are collected and provided to the city by Snohomish County.

The city has numerous older developments approved and constructed to rural standards and

historical suburban developments created under Snohomish County permitting. In some cases, stormwater detention/retention, water quality and conveyance and storm drainage facilities may not have been required or required to current standards at the time of construction. While new projects provide facilities to standards established in the current Stormwater Management Manual of Western Washington, the older developments may continually affect neighborhoods, streets and the lakes by conveying runoff that is not adequately conveyed, detained, or treated. As part of a citywide stormwater inventory, opportunities for regional stormwater treatment systems should be developed where feasible.

Some of the detention systems and ditches within subdivisions and commercial developments are privately owned and maintenance is the responsibility of the individual property owner(s), which is often under a homeowners' association or property management service. As the city approves new projects, they must meet the requirements of the Department of Ecology (DOE) stormwater manual and include maintenance provisions for the owner(s). The city inspects these private systems periodically to ensure work is getting done and systems are functional but is not tasked with doing the work. The Washington Department of Transportation also operates a stormwater system in State Routes 9 and 204.

Lake Stevens is the city's largest surface water feature and was annexed into the city in 2021. The Lake itself covers 1,013 acres and has a maximum depth of 150 feet with an average depth of 62 feet. The contributing named creeks are Stevens, Lundeen, Kokanee, and Stitch Creek. The outlet for Lake Stevens is the ditched channel of Lower Stevens Creek, which connects to the north-south flowing Catherine Creek. Along the eastern boundary of the city is the Little Pilchuck River, and the various drainages on the west side of the city flow to the Ebey Slough system of the Snohomish River.

The lake has and one regulated outfall weir monitored by the city which controls the lake level. In 2010, the city adopted a Lake Level Management Plan to provide guidance and policy to perform this service. Currently the weir is structurally compromised, funds have been allocated for it, and plans are in development to replace the structure with an automated system.

Typically, between March and October the city manages the level of the lake. This serves three purposes:

1) Maintain the lake at a level to sustain summer stream flows for aquatic habitat and water quality;

2) Protect downstream channel/flood from flash surges during heavy rainfall events; and

3) Maintain recreational usage of the lake in the historical shallow areas on the northwest side of the lake.

In July of 2024, the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) issued a new "NPDES Phase II" municipal stormwater permit that affects Lake Stevens. This permit was issued under the authority delegated to Ecology to implement requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. The stormwater permit covers municipal separate storm sewer systems that discharge to surface waters that are not part of a combined sewer system and is valid through July 2029. The city is currently operating under the requirements of this permit. The city updates it Stormwater Management plan yearly per the requirement of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The NPDES program regulates discharges of water to ensure pollutants do not enter waters of the United States. The service area and drainage basins of the city are shown on Figure 7.1.

Parks and Recreation Services

Provider: City of Lake Stevens

Contact Information (2024): 2306 131st Ave NE, Lake Stevens; (425) 622-9406

The City of Lake Stevens Parks Department was created as a standalone department in 2022 and provides many services to the community in addition to the facilities they create and maintain. The functions of the Parks Department are outlined in the Parks and Recreation element of this plan (Chapter 6).

Sewer/Wastewater

Provider: Lake Stevens Sewer District

Contact Information (2024): 1106 Vernon Road, Suite A, Lake Stevens; (425) 334-8588

In May of 2005, the city of Lake Stevens and the Lake Stevens Sewer District (LSSD) entered an interlocal agreement (ILA) entitled "Unified Sewer Services and Annexation Agreement." Under the ILA, LSSD provides, maintains and operates sewer facilities throughout its district boundaries. The approximately 12.8 square mile service area includes the current city limits (including the lake), Lake Stevens UGA and a small area of overlap into the Marysville UGA. The entire boundary is shown in Figure 7.2.

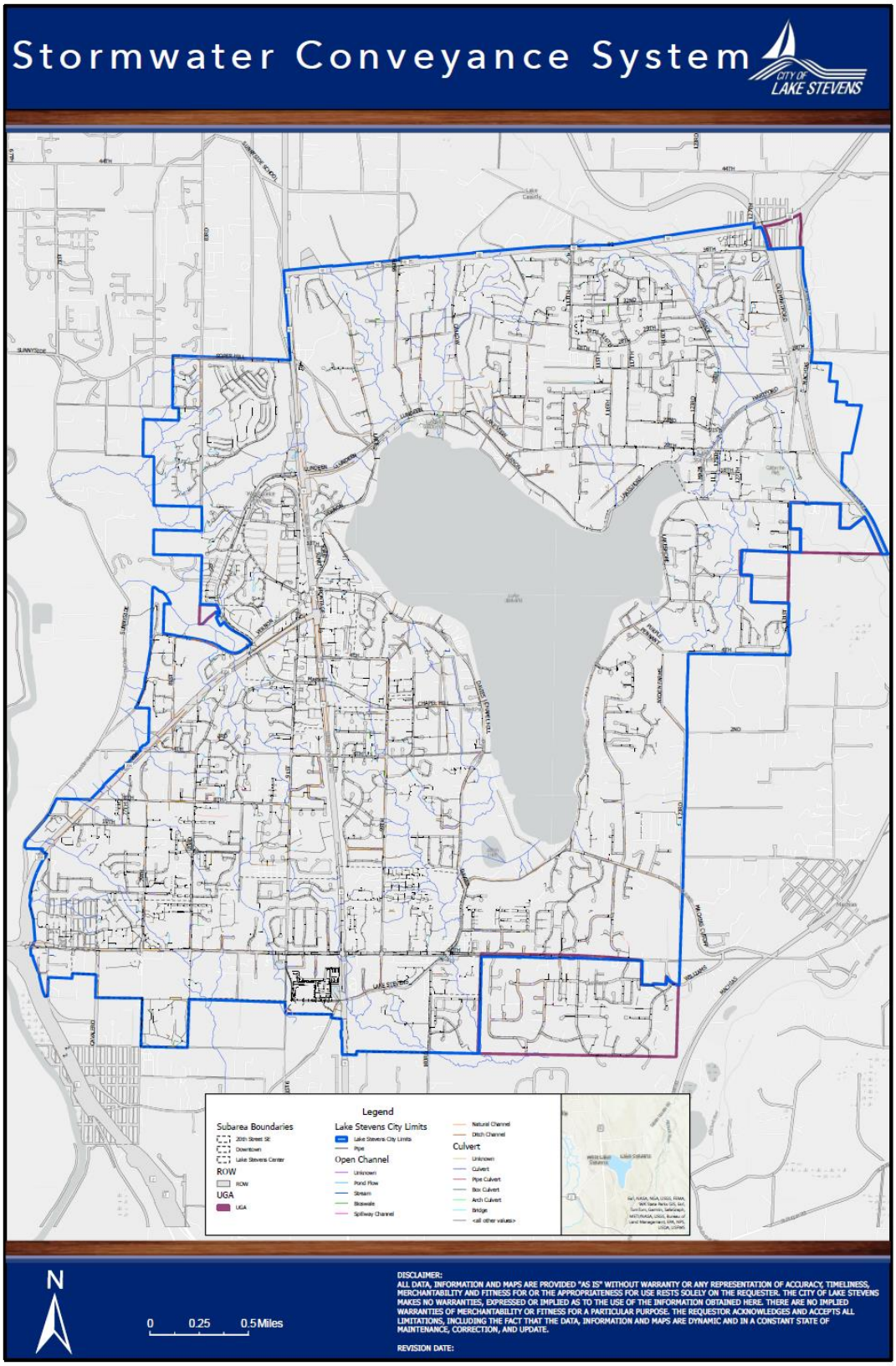


Figure 7.1 - Lake Stevens Stormwater Conveyance System

The agreement also laid the groundwork for the eventual assumption of the Sewer District and its facilities. In December 2020, the City Council adopted an ordinance calling for the city to assume the sewer district as allowed by state law. As of July 2024, that process and schedule was still being finalized.

As of 2020, LSSD provided residential sewer service to 12,767 equivalent residential units (ERUs) with an estimated population of 36,896 people. These connections are largely in the Lake Stevens UGA, with about 108 connections in plats either in the rural area or in the Marysville UGA. LSSD served an additional 958 ERUs for commercial and school connections, for a total of 13,725 ERUs.

The sewer system consists of a new wastewater treatment facility (WWTF, membrane bioreactor process, 2012), a former wastewater treatment plant site, 30 lift stations, and 126 miles of sewer pipes, including over nine miles of force mains (4" to 19" diameter). The collection system is a "separate" sewer system, designed to receive domestic, commercial and industrial pre-treated wastewater. The Sunnyside WWTF has a current permitted maximum month average daily flow capacity of 5.01 million gallons per day (mgd).

The former plant has been decommissioned and LSSD has transferred most of the properties in that area to the City of Lake Stevens. A future project will address final vacation of the site and its purpose to the city. It holds potential as a regional stormwater facility or stormwater park and could be utilized in the future if the city seeks expansion of the UGA in the Sunnyside area.

In October 2022, LSSD adopted a new (2021) Sanitary Sewer Comprehensive Plan. The 2021 plan presents the comprehensive planning needs for wastewater collection, transmission, treatment and discharge for the planning period of 2021 through 2041. The city has adopted these plans by reference into the city of Lake Stevens Comprehensive Plan.

The 2021 Sewer Plan incorporated growth projections from the 2021 Buildable Lands Report to estimate the sewer system's ability to meet future conveyance and treatment needs in the city and UGA. Per Tables 3-6 and 5-11 of the 2021 plan, the system was anticipated to serve 19,632 ERUs by the year 2041, an approximately 43% increase from 2020. This growth is projected to result in 4.94 mgd of maximum month flow to the treatment facility by 2041, just below the 5.01 mgd capacity authorized by the NPDES permit.

The plan estimates that full build out (before any land use map amendments proposed as part of the 2024 periodic update) will result in 21.923 ERUs and 5.13 mgd of maximum month flow, which slightly exceeds the current plant capacity. As part of the next update to the sewer plan, the city will need to assess treatment capacity based on updated city zoning and development assumptions.

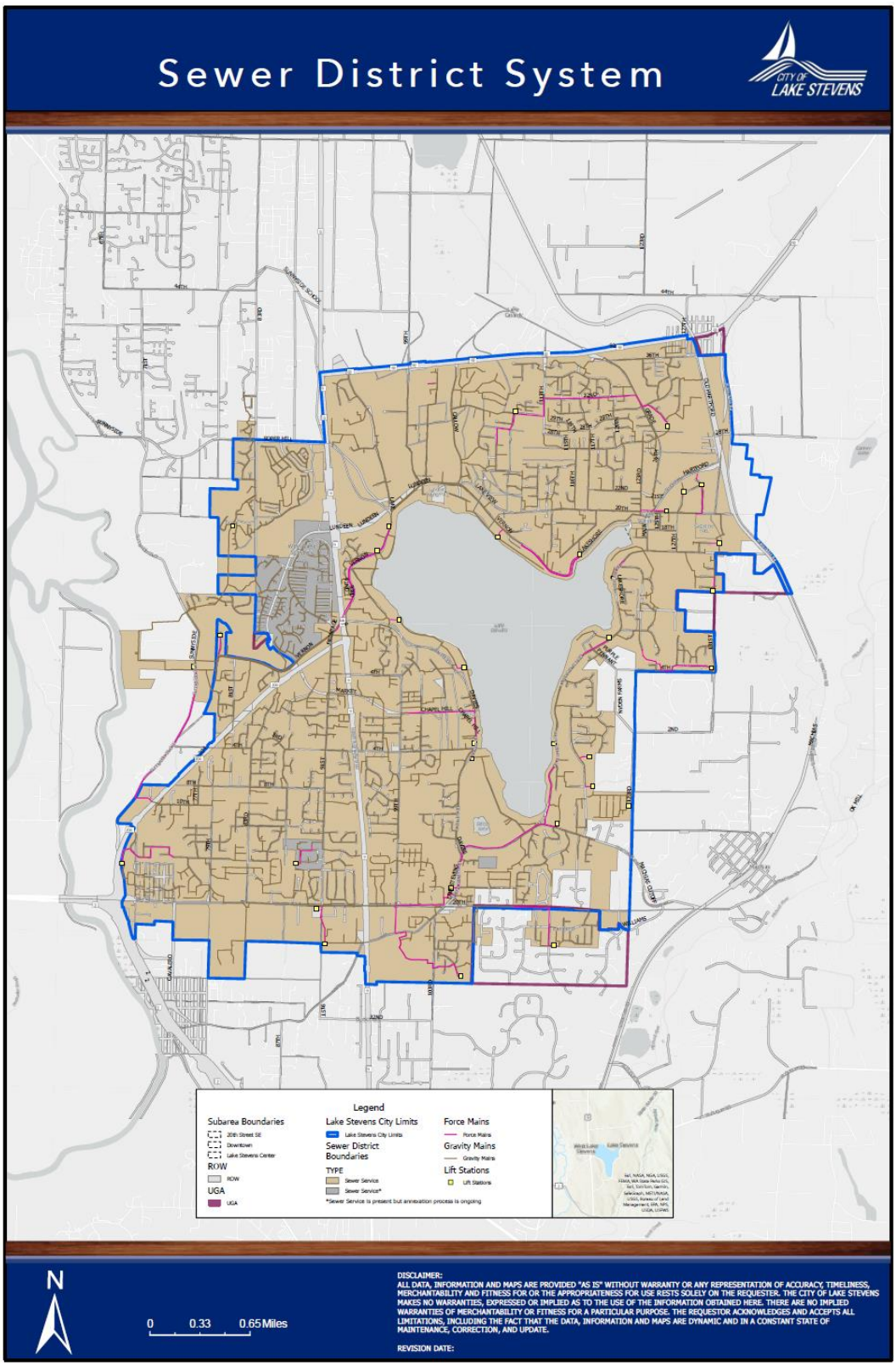


Figure 7.2 - Lake Stevens Sewer District Infrastructure and Boundaries

Additionally, the city and LSSD coordinate on capital facilities planning to benefit the community and its economic development. During the environmental impact process for the 20th Street SE Corridor and Lake Stevens Center subarea plans in 2012, the city and LSSD reviewed projects and capital improvements required for development of the two subareas over the next 20 years. The city and LSSD continue to plan jointly for the city's Growth Centers, including Downtown Lake Stevens and the Lake Stevens Industrial Center.

This plan asserts a goal of eliminating all septic systems over time as the sewer system and the city limits expand. New developments, re-built structures, new industrial development in the Hartford Road and other non-residential areas would all be required to provide sewers to the extent the existing system is available or can be extended.

Fire Protection

Provider: Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue

Contact Information (2024): 163 Village Court, Monroe; (425) 486-1217

In August 2019, voters approved the merger of the Lake Stevens Fire District and Snohomish County Fire District 7, which became effective in January 2020 and was later renamed Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue (SRFR). As of the district's 2022 annual report, the combined district covered an area of approximately 140 square miles, including the 46 square miles that Lake Stevens Fire previously served in Lake Stevens and its UGA (Figure 7.3). The district provides fire prevention and suppression services, emergency medical services (EMS) including Advanced Life Support (ALS), technical rescue and fire marshal services. In 2019, the combined district responded to over 17,000 calls. The district has 11 fire stations, including two in Lake Stevens:

- Station 81 (12409 21st Street NE, Lake Stevens 98258)
- Station 82 (9811 Chapel Hill Road, Lake Stevens 98258)

SRFR adopted a new Capital Facilities Plan and Strategic Plan in 2021, which the city has adopted by reference. In 2022, the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau completed its most recent evaluation of the fire protection capabilities for the city of Lake Stevens. This evaluation resulted in a rating of Protection Class 3, which placed the city in the top 11% of Washington communities for fire protection rating. SRFR also became just the fifth civilian fire agency in Washington state to receive international accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) in 2022.

Annually the Fire District performs fire code compliance activities, inspects commercial and public buildings for the city of Lake Stevens and reviews land use and building permits through the Fire Marshal's office.

Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue and the city will continue to partner together to meet the fire protection and emergency medical services needs of the community. The city will adopt future versions of the Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue CFP by reference.

Fire Station 81 (*Source: Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue*)

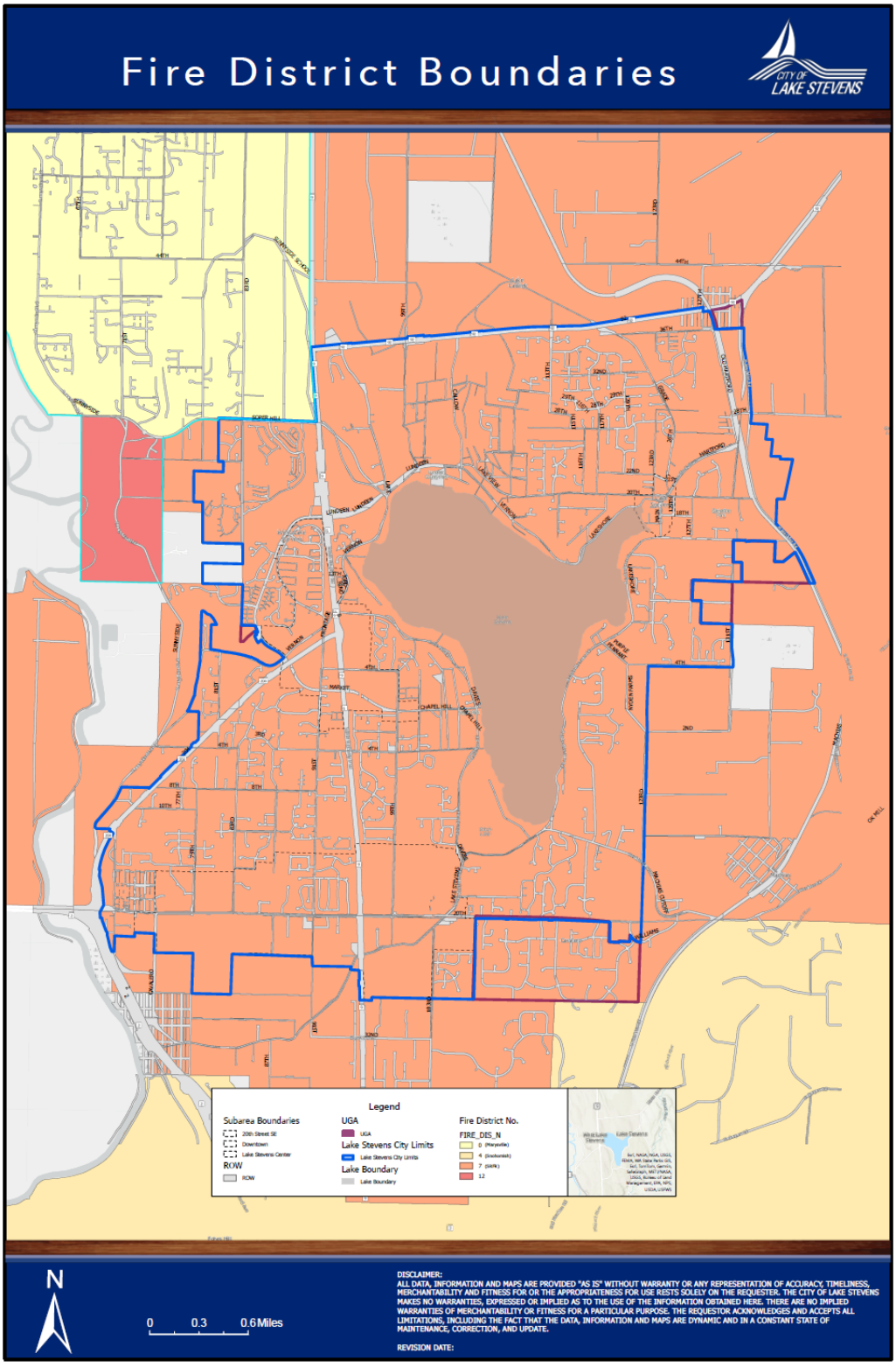


Figure 7.3 – Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue Service Area

Lake Stevens School District

Contact Information (2024); 12309 22nd St NE, Lake Stevens; (425) 335-1500

The Lake Stevens School District covers approximately 37 square miles, encompassing all of Lake Stevens as well as portions of unincorporated Snohomish County and a small portion of the city of Marysville. The district is located south of the Marysville School District and north of the Snohomish School District (see Figure 7.2).

As of March 2024, there was a student population of 9,243 served by seven elementary schools grades K-5 (Stevens Creek, Mt. Pilchuck, Hillcrest, Sunnycrest, Glenwood, Highland and Skyline), two middle schools grades 6-7 (Lake Stevens and North Lake), one mid-high school grades 8-9 (Cavelero), one high school grades 10-12 (Lake Stevens), one early learning center and one homeschool partnership program for grades K-12 (HomeLink). The district also owns approximately 71 acres of vacant land at four undeveloped sites.

The district has experienced steady upward growth in enrollment for the past four decades. Student enrollment remained relatively constant between 1973 and 1985 (15%) and then grew significantly from 1985 through 2005 (approximately 120%). Between 2012 and 2023, student enrollment increased by 1,459 students, or approximately 18%, compared to a 3% increase countywide during this period.

The district has been, and is projected to continue to be, one of the fastest growing districts in Snohomish County based on the Office of Financial Management population forecast. Population forecasts estimate the Lake Stevens UGA population will increase to 50,952 people in 2044. Likewise, the population within the district boundaries is projected to rise from 50,461 in 2020 to 67,294 in 2044, an increase of 33%. Planned improvements in the district through the Year 2029 based on enrollment projections include one new elementary school, the expansion of two existing elementary schools, the expansion of one middle school, the installation of additional portable classrooms at existing facilities and new site acquisitions (for two schools) and improvements.

The city has adopted by reference the current Lake Stevens School District No. 4 Capital Facilities Plan, which was most recently updated and adopted by the Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors in July 2024 for the 2024-2029 planning period. This Plan provides the basis for charging GMA-based impact fees as implemented in the city's Land Use Code. The district participates in the school impact mitigation fee program and issues an updated Capital Facilities Plan every two years. The city applies a discount to the calculated rate, as do most other cities in Snohomish County.

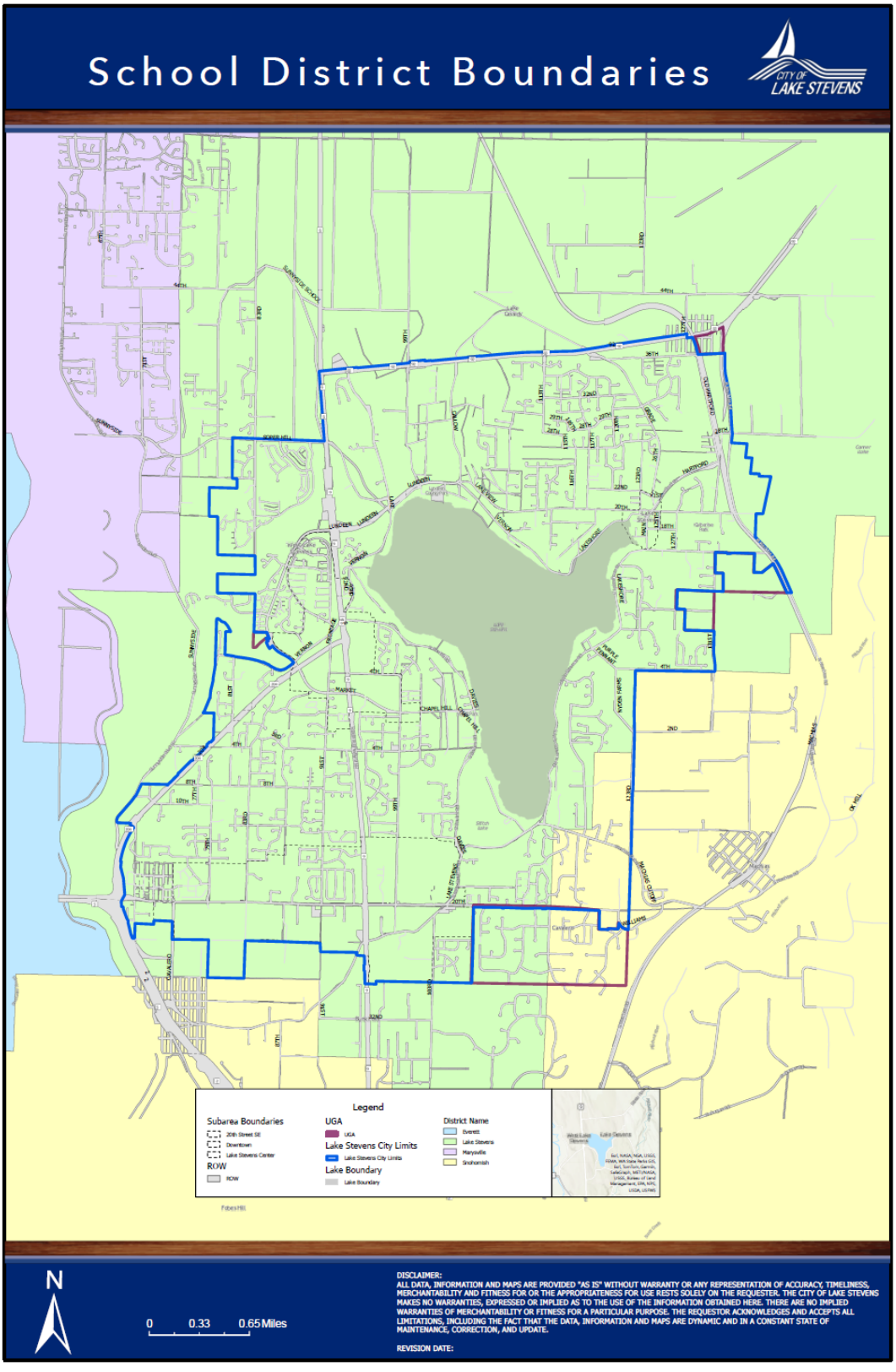


Figure 7.4 - School District Boundaries

Snohomish School District

Contact Information (2024): 1601 Avenue D, Snohomish; (360) 563-7300

The Snohomish School District covers areas in the southeastern portion of the city that were annexed between 2018 and 2022, as well as portions of the UGA south of 20th St SE. No Snohomish School District schools are currently located within the boundaries of the city or its UGA. Most students in the city and its UGA served by the Snohomish School District attend Cascade View Elementary, Centennial Middle School, and Snohomish High School, with a small area of the UGA south of 20th Street SE within the boundaries of Machias Elementary The city adopted the Snohomish School District's Capital Facilities Plan by reference into the Comprehensive Plan in 2021. The updated plan for the 2024-2029 planning period was adopted by the Snohomish School District Board in July 2024.

Snohomish County Health Department

Contact Information (2024): 3020 Rucker Ave, Everett; (425) 339-5200

The Snohomish County Health Department provides public health services for all of Snohomish County. Previously known as the Snohomish Health District, it was integrated into the county government in January 2023. The most common task the department performs in the Lake Stevens area is approving septic systems. Other responsibilities include food service inspections and issuing state permits for certain (potentially noxious) activities (e.g., septic sludge recycling, soil processing, etc.).

Solid Waste

Waste Management Northwest provides solid waste services within the city under a ten-year contract that expires in 2031. Recycling is provided by East Snohomish County Association of Recycling Cities (ESCARC), contracting with Fiber International. ESCARC members are Monroe, Snohomish, Lake Stevens, Sultan, Granite Falls and Gold Bar. These cities pool resources to provide the capital facilities for lower cost recycling. The city receives curbside service from Bill's Disposal service, which is a division of Fiber International.

Natural Gas

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) provides natural gas service through a city franchise. PSE is the largest natural gas company in Washington serving approximately 900,000 customers in ten counties and 64 cities. It is a demand-driven utility, meaning that no service is initiated until

requested by a specific customer.

A liquid natural gas (LNG) pipeline operated by Northwest Pipeline Corporation flows in a north-south orientation in the eastern portion of the city. A hazardous liquid pipeline also flows in a north-south orientation through the northwest corner of the city, turning to the southwest and passing east of the Sunnyside area.

According to PSE's 2022 Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Report, methane is the primary component of natural gas and has a global warming potential that is approximately 25 times greater than carbon dioxide. PSE has set a goal to reach net zero carbon emissions for natural gas used in customer homes and businesses by 2045. PSE continues to identify and develop strategies to achieve that goal.

As discussed in more detail in the Environment and Natural Resources Element (Chapter 4), the city adopted a Climate Sustainability Plan (CSP) in 2023. A major component of the CSP is the planned transition away from using natural gas and other fossil fuels over the next twenty years and an increased reliance on electricity (primarily generated by renewable energy sources), which is consistent with the 2021 Washington State Energy Strategy. The CSP includes several strategies to help facilitate an equitable transition away from natural gas, several of which have been incorporated into Comprehensive Plan policies in this element.

Telecommunications

Telecommunication facilities are private utilities that provide services such as television (broadcast, cable and satellite), phone (direct lines and cellular) and internet. Content is transmitted by a variety of methods that may include cable lines, electrical wires, satellites or fiber and optical fibers. Wireless technology includes traditional broadcasting, radio transmission and cellular networks. Telecommunication services often use existing infrastructure along utility corridors and public rights-of-way. The increased use of small cell wireless technology in recent years will require the city to continue to assess how to balance telecommunication needs with the quality of the built environment.

The telecommunications industry is rapidly evolving and will continue changing over the next 20 years. Telecommunications services are integral to the modern world and economy. For example, the telecommunications industry is the primary conduit for information exchange between individuals, corporations and public service providers. As this industry changes, there may be unknown impacts on land use planning, existing facilities and regulatory oversight. The city should coordinate with service providers to plan for the

construction and reconstruction of facilities and provide feedback on capacity, design and equipment.

Electricity

Provider: Snohomish County PUD

Contact Information (2024): 2320 California St, Everett; (425) 783-1000

The Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County (PUD) serves the city of Lake Stevens as well as the remainder of Snohomish County and Island County. Approximately 80% of its power supply is purchased from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), with the remainder provided by a mix of renewable resources that include output from the PUD's Jackson, Youngs Creek and Woods Creek hydroelectric projects, and several long-term contracts for wind, landfill gas, biogas, and biomass. As of December 2023, nearly 75% of its power supply was hydroelectric.

Biomass	1%
Hydroelectric	74.6%
Nuclear [1]	9.4%
Solar	3.3%
Wind	8.2%
Unspecified [1, 2]	3.5%
Total	100%

Based on data received from the state of Washington on 12/27/23

[1]BPA-supplied.

[2]The 2019 Legislative update to the Fuel Mix Disclosure requirement adds a new category for "unspecified resources" of electric power. For information on this update, visit the Washington State Department of Commerce website: Fuel Disclosure

PUD Electricity Data as of 2023 (*Source: Snohomish County PUD*)

The PUD uses a 115,000-volt transmission system to distribute electricity from three major BPA delivery points in Snohomish County to distribution substations. These substations transform the transmission voltage to 12,500-volt distribution voltage. PUD electrical facilities of less than 55,000 volts (55 kV) are referred to as distribution facilities. Facilities

of more than 55,000 volts (55 kV) are referred to as transmission facilities.

There are three distribution substations, Hartford, Lake Stevens and Frontier, within the city limits of city of Lake Stevens. The city is fully served by these substations with distribution lines that extend service to all residential, commercial and public customers. According to the PUD, there is ample capacity to meet existing and future demand for both the incorporated city limits as well as the UGA.

In addition to PUD facilities, there are other transmission lines that pass through the city as regional power transmission facilities. A 500 Kilovolt BPA line extends along the eastern city limits in the vicinity of Little Pilchuck Creek. Two north-south oriented corridors are roughly parallel to each other located in the western third of the city, with a 230 Kilovolt line operated by Bonneville Power Administration clustered with two 230 KV lines operated by Snohomish City Light, and the other corridor with a pair of 230 Kilovolt lines by Puget Sound Energy. Several 69 Kilovolt distribution lines operated by Puget Sound Energy are scattered through the city, including to a Snohomish PUD substation at 36th St NE and Old Hartford Rd in the northeast corner of the city.

The CSP calls for the electrification of the system's building supply (a transition away from natural gas and other greenhouse gases and shift towards cleaner electricity) over the next 20 years. According to the PUD's 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), the annual electrical load growth rate for the 2024-2045 planning period is 2.07%, which is more than double the estimated annual rate from just two years earlier (0.96%) This reflects both the planned electrification of buildings and the anticipated widescale adoption of electric vehicles and will require continued coordination between the city and PUD to meet future electricity needs.

Water Utilities

Provider: Snohomish County PUD

Contact Information (2024): 3301 Old Hartford Rd, Lake Stevens; (425) 397-3000

Except for a few homes on wells, the Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County (PUD) provides water service. The PUD currently owns and operates nine water systems, including the Lake Stevens Integrated Water System that serves the city and surrounding areas. The service area is bounded on the west by Ebey Slough and the Snohomish River; on the north by Marysville and Arlington; on the east by the Snohomish County Commercial Forest-Forest Transition Area (CF-FTA); and on the south by the boundaries of other water systems. As of December 2019, it served a population of 51,625 people and had just under 21,000

connections.

The city of Everett's transmission lines from Spada Lake pass through the water service area in a designated corridor approximately one block south of 20th St SE, delivering water to Everett and other water customers. In 2012, PUD converted its emergency wells in the northeast corner of the city to full-time use to supplement water purchased from Everett.

The PUD's Walker Hill storage reservoirs (4 million gallons capacity) and Hillcrest reservoirs (6 million gallons capacity) serve both the city and the UGA. The distribution system within the city is shown in Figure 7.5. In 2012, PUD constructed water main extensions to merge its Lake Roesiger water system into the Lake Stevens system. In 2014, PUD constructed water main extensions to merge its Dubuque water system into the Lake Stevens system.

According to Table 5-7 of the 2021 Water System Plan, the PUD estimated that the population within the Lake Stevens integrated service area would increase between 1.15% and 1.51% annually, which is consistent with the city's projected 2044 growth targets. The 2021 plan found that the system will have adequate capacity through 2041 (the 20-year planning period) when factoring in proposed improvements identified in the plan.

The following is an overview of the Lake Stevens water system and its major facilities, as well as proposed improvements.

Source – Eleven connections to the city of Everett's Transmission Pipeline Nos. 3 and 5 provide the primary water supply to the Lake Stevens Water System, with backup connections on the No. 2 line. Water from five of these connections flows by gravity into the water system, while the remaining six have pump stations to deliver the water. Four connections are inside the city limits, including one connection shared with the city of Marysville. As stated earlier, two wells supplement the primary water supply. As of early 2024, PUD was conducting a susceptibility assessment of the wells serving the Lake Stevens water system to identify potential sources of contamination to the groundwater supply.

Storage – The PUD Lake Stevens water system contains eight storage reservoirs, with a combined capacity of over 14 million gallons. Four of these reservoirs are in the city (two each at the Walker Hill and Hillcrest tank sites). The water storage capacity in the city is 10 million gallons. According to the 2021 plan, PUD anticipates adding three new storage reservoirs within the Lake Stevens water system by 2041 to accommodate projected growth and will be conducting a condition assessment and seismic analysis for several older storage facilities.

Transmission and Distribution Pipelines – There are over 408 miles of pipe in the PUD's Lake Stevens water system. Pipeline sizes range from 3/4 to 30 inches and materials include cast iron, asbestos cement, ductile iron, galvanized, and steel. The 2021 plan identifies approximately $70 million in planned improvements by 2041, with additional improvements to be funded by private development.

Booster Pump Stations – At higher elevations, booster pump stations provide additional pressure. The Lake Stevens water system is served by five main supply pump stations, including for the Machias, Walker Hill and Hillcrest areas, with an additional 12 booster pump stations located throughout the service area. The 2021 plan identifies proposed improvements to the Walker Hill pump station to increase capacity.

Pressure Reducing Stations – There are 35 pressure-reducing stations throughout the Lake Stevens Water System that help regulate pressure and define the separate pressure zones. Inside the city limits, there are six pressure zones served by seven pressure-reducing stations, which provide reasonable pressure to all city consumers.

The PUD normally designs its water facilities to provide fire flow capacity of at least 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm). In some areas, flows up to 3,000 gpm are available. Developers must fund and construct any improvements necessary to bring water to their projects and to achieve fire flow required by the Fire Marshal. The PUD's water source and storage are adequate for projected growth within its water service area.

Essential Public Facilities

Under GMA provisions (RCW 36.70A.200) and countywide planning policies (EPF-1 through EPF-5), jurisdictions shall include a process for identifying and siting essential public facilities. An essential public facility can be any facility owned or operated by a federal, state or local government, public utility, transportation authority or other entities that provide public services. Essential public facilities are typically difficult to site, such as education facilities, regional transportation facilities (e.g., airports), solid waste-handling facilities, regional transit authority facilities, state or local correctional facilities and in-patient facilities including substance abuse, mental health and group homes.

The GMA provides that no comprehensive plan or development regulations may preclude the siting of essential public facilities. However, jurisdictions can impose reasonable conditions or mitigations on essential public facilities through its comprehensive plan or development regulations, provided these do not preclude the siting of the facility. The city has adopted essential public facilities standards within the municipal code.

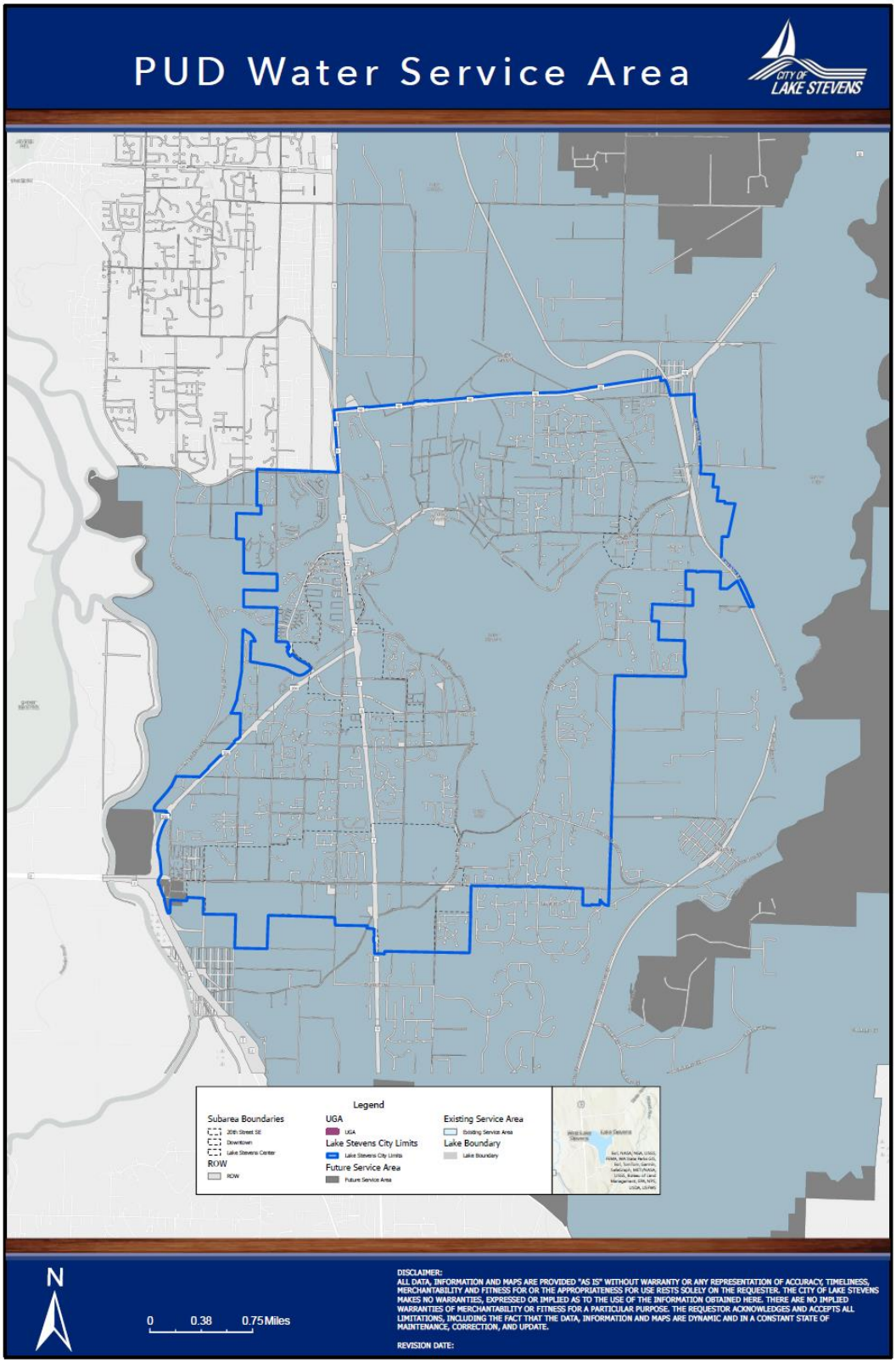


Figure 7.5 – Map of Water Facilities

GOALS AND POLICIES

GOAL 7.1 COORDINATE WITH CITY DEPARTMENTS, SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS, UTILITY COMPANIES AND OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS TO ENSURE THE ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ELEMENTS

Policies

7.1.1 Coordinate with city departments to ensure public facilities are adequately maintained and distributed to support the community's needs and that each department's planning documents are consistent.

7.1.2 Coordinate with special purpose districts, utility providers, and local and regional service providers to ensure utilities and public facilities are adequately maintained and distributed to support the community's needs and that each agency's planning documents are consistent.

7.1.3 Identify strategies to improve equitable access to and provision of utilities and public services, including to neighborhoods, groups and community members that have been historically underserved.

7.1.4. Prepare and adopt a detailed master storm drainage plan for the city to coordinate storm drainage and detention/retention consistent with the concept plan adopted as part of this element.

7.1.5 Prepare and adopt a detailed master sewer plan for the city to coordinate sewer and detention/retention consistent with the concept plan adopted as part of this element.

7.1.6. Protect existing regional transmission facilities for Snohomish County PUD, Lake Stevens Sewer District and Puget Sound Energy from encroachment by incompatible urban development.

GOAL 7.2 PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, EFFICIENT, AND COST-EFFECTIVE CITY SERVICES THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

Policies

7.2.1 Strive to maintain efficiency in the provision of city government services through continual evaluation and improvement of administrative, technical and personnel procedures and practices, as well as the Lake Stevens Municipal Code.

7.2.2 Devote adequate funds to ensure quality staffing.

7.2.3 Ensure that elected officials, appointed commissioners and staff maintain and/or improve their levels of expertise through continued education, development and peer consultation.

7.2.4 Take advantage of affordable technological advances where it results in better and more efficient levels of service.

7.2.5 In order to expand services to the citizens of Lake Stevens in a fiscally responsible manner, continue and expand the practice of interagency cooperation by sharing personnel and facilities wherever possible.

7.2.6 Provide adequate public facilities to support the city's administrative and field operations.

7.2.7 Identify existing gaps in public services and develop strategies to provide them in a more equitable manner.

GOAL 7.3 PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

Policies

7.3.1 Periodically review and update police staffing analysis based on national practices using a work-load based model.

7.3.2 Maintain and update the Police Department Strategic Plan including goals to reduce crime and addressing conditions affecting the quality of life of the community.

7.3.3 Coordinate police services with fire protection services and other local, state and federal agencies to develop and maintain disaster preparedness and hazard management programs for Lake Stevens.

7.3.4 Support Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue (Fire District) to maintain its adopted level of service.

7.3.5 Coordinate with the Fire District on review of submitted site and building plans.

7.3.6 Coordinate land use density and growth projections with the Fire District's capital facilities plan and budget to provide current and future services within the city.

7.3.7 Consider the disaster response implications in prioritizing Fire District capital improvement and public service planning.

GOAL 7.4 SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE SCHOOL FACILITIES AND LOCAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Policies

7.4.1 Support the Lake Stevens and Snohomish school districts to maintain their adopted levels of service.

7.4.2 Coordinate land use density and growth projections with the school districts' capital facilities plans and budgets to provide services within the city.

7.4.3 Adopt by reference each school district's Capital Facilities Plan. The City Council shall review the CFPs every two years to ensure consistency with the requirements of the GMA; the impact fee calculation is consistent with the city's adopted formula; and the CFP has been adopted by each district's Board of Directors.

7.4.4 Collaborate with local school districts to launch environmental education programs that address topics such as climate change and natural resource protection.

GOAL 7.5 PROVIDE ADEQUATE STORMWATER FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Policies

7.5.1 Continue to implement programs and projects designed to meet the goals and requirements of Department of Ecology's NPDES permit and stormwater manual.

7.5.2 Maintain and enforce land use plans and ordinances requiring stormwater controls for new development and redevelopment.

7.5.3 Actively promote and support education efforts focusing on all facets of stormwater management, including the benefits of low impact development.

7.5.4 Develop and maintain a comprehensive stormwater inventory and identify needs to ensure a functioning stormwater system.

7.5.5 Integrate distributed, small-scale stormwater controls and prevent measurable harm to streams, lakes, wetlands and other natural aquatic systems from commercial, residential or industrial development sites by maintaining a more hydrologically functional landscape.

7.5.6 Promote education of controlling the release of chemicals from residential fertilizing and weed/insect control on Lake Stevens and its watershed.

GOAL 7.6 STRIVE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SEWER SERVICES TO EVERY RESIDENCE AND BUSINESS IN THE CITY

Policies

7.6.1 Support the Lake Stevens Sewer District to maintain its adopted level of service until which time the district is assumed by the city.

7.6.2 Support the implementation of the Lake Stevens Sewer District capital facilities plan. Coordinate land use density and intensity with the Sewer District's capital planning work and budget to provide services within the city.

7.6.3 Continue to work with the Lake Stevens Sewer District to review and amend existing regulations to provide commonality, consistency, predictability and concurrent levels of sewer permits and regulation.

7.6.4 Coordinate city-sponsored capital improvements with the Lake Stevens Sewer District, Snohomish County Health Department and neighboring jurisdictions to ensure effective and cost-efficient provision of sewer service.

7.6.5 Support the Lake Stevens Sewer District in accomplishing sewer expansions in future expanded urban growth boundaries and high priority development areas within the city as well as priority development areas such as Downtown Lake Stevens and the Lake Stevens Industrial Center.

7.6.6 Gradually replace all septic systems within the urban growth area with sanitary sewers, using innovative and state-of-the-art design and techniques to restore and improve environmental quality.

7.6.7 Support efforts to require new development within the urban growth area to obtain sanitary sewer systems or fit it with dry sewers in anticipation of connection to the sewer system. Alternative technology to sewers should only be considered when it can be shown to produce treatment at standards that are equal to or better than the sewer system and where a long-term maintenance plan is in place.

GOAL 7.7 PROCESS PERMITS FOR UTILITY FACILITIES AND OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS IN A FAIR, TIMELY AND PREDICTABLE MANNER

Policies

7.7.1 Promote co-location of new public and private utility distribution facilities and coordination of construction timing to minimize construction-related disruptions and reduce the cost to the public of utility delivery.

7.7.2 Provide timely and effective notice to utilities to encourage coordination of public and private utility trenching activities for new construction and maintenance and repair of existing roads.

7.7.3 Encourage provision of an efficient, cost effective and reliable utility service by ensuring land will be made available for the location of utility lines or other utilities.

7.7.4 Promote the extension of distribution lines to and within the urban growth area. Coordinate land use and facility planning to allow eventual siting and construction of any utility distribution lines within or adjacent to rights-of-way which are being dedicated or within roads which are being constructed or reconstructed.

7.7.5 Encourage system design practices that improve climate and natural disaster resiliency and minimize the number and duration of service interruptions.

7.7.6 Formulate, interpret, and apply the city's land development regulations to allow the timely development of utility facility additions and improvements.

GOAL 7.8 ENSURE THAT UTILITIES PROVIDE SERVICE IN A MANNER THAT IS ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE, RESILIENT, EQUITABLE, SAFE, RELIABLE AND COMPATIBLE WITH THE SURROUNDING PROPERTIES

Policies

7.8.1 Proposals for electricity generation facilities should be scrutinized carefully to avoid impacts on local air and water quality.

7.8.2 consider public utility substations, transmission facilities and other regional facilities as "necessary public facilities" for purposes of permit review, provided utility providers can prove locational need and significant mitigation of impacts.

7.8.3 Work with local utility providers to identify grants and incentives available to the public to increase efficiency and reduce the impacts of climate change, with a special focus on lower income and historically underserved communities.

GOAL 7.9 TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION IN PUBLIC FACILITIES AND UTILITY SYSTEMS

Policies

7.9.1 Encourage conservation of resources and reduction of energy consumption to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and extend the life of existing electrical energy and infrastructure.

7.9.2 Work with Snohomish County PUD and partner agencies/districts to promote and incentivize energy efficient systems and products and improve the reliability of infrastructure vulnerable to climate change.

7.9.3 Install energy efficient products in new and existing city facilities, including a transition to electric heating systems in new and retrofitted city buildings.

7.9.4 Promote the reduction of water consumption through conservation, efficiency, reclamation and reuse to reduce wastewater generation and ensure continued water availability.

7.9.5 Coordinate with water purveyors and local and tribal governments to identify and develop additional and redundant water supply sources to meet the region's long-term water needs and growth strategy, recognizing the potential impacts on water supply from climate change and fisheries protection.

7.9.6 Consider the needs for both human consumption and for environmental balance, including potential impacts of climate change on regional water sources.

7.9.7 Support renewable energy resources, energy management technology and the conversion to cost-effective and environmentally sensitive alternative technologies to meet the region's energy needs.

7.9.8 Promote low impact development projects and techniques on non-LID projects to conserve and use existing natural site features, including those adjacent to waterways.

7.9.9 Improve electric vehicle infrastructure in the city and transition towards electrification of the city's vehicle fleet with a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as practicable.

7.9.10 Reduce the rate of energy use per capita, both in building use and in transportation activities.

7.9.11 Reduce greenhouse gases by expanding the use of conservation and alternative energy sources and by reducing vehicle miles traveled by increasing alternatives to driving alone.

7.9.12 Conduct periodic vulnerability assessments to identify city and utility infrastructure vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters and develop appropriate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

7.9.13 Incorporate a climate change lens into the process of adopting new and updated city standards, codes and guidelines and when siting and designing capital facilities.

GOAL 7.10 SUPPORT LESS RESOURCE CONSUMPTION THROUGH PROGRAMS AIMED TOWARD REDUCING, REUSING, AND RECYCLING OF RESOURCES

Policies

7.10.1 Promote demand management and the conservation of services and facilities prior to developing new facilities.

7.10.2 Maintain and expand reduction, re-use, and recycling programs in the city.

7.10.3 Support local, regional, state, federal, and private programs aimed at reduction, re-use, and recycling of natural resources.

7.10.4 Work with local solid waste providers to establish a percentage reduction target for waste disposed of in landfills.

7.10.5 Allow zoning for businesses aimed at recycling materials when it does not pose a threat to the community's health and welfare.

7.10.6 Examine the feasibility of requiring, through zoning or other legislative mechanisms, that distributors of hazardous, noxious or toxic materials accept those materials for recycling.

GOAL 7.11 ESTABLISH A PROCESS AND IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO IDENTIFY AND SITE LOCAL ESSENTIAL PUBLIC FACILITIES, CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE GMA

Policies

7.11.1 The city will not preclude the siting of essential public facilities; however, it shall enforce its Comprehensive Plan and development regulations to ensure reasonable compatibility with other land uses when considering location and intensity of development.

7.11.2 Local essential public facilities should be sited to support the countywide land use pattern, support economic activities, reduce environmental impacts, consider potential climate-related impacts, provide amenities or incentives, and minimize public costs. This siting process should include:

a. A definition of these facilities;

b. An inventory of existing and future facilities;

d. A public involvement strategy;

e. Assurance that the environment and public health and safety are protected; and

f. A consideration of alternatives to the facility.

7.11.3 Collaborate with public agencies and special districts to identify opportunities for the co-location of local essential public facilities.

7.11.4 Consider the location of local essential public facilities inside Urban Growth Areas, unless it is demonstrated that a non-urban site is the most appropriate location for such a facility. Local essential public facilities located outside of an Urban Growth Area shall be self-contained or be served by urban governmental services in a manner that shall not promote sprawl.

7.11.5 Develop reasonable conditions, alternatives and/or mitigation requirements to address the potential adverse impacts of siting local, regional, statewide, or federal essential public facilities.

GOAL 7.12 AS THE CITY ANNEXES NEW AREAS, STRIVE FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS TO MINIMIZE FINANCIAL AND LOGISTICAL IMPACTS ON CITIZENS

Policies

7.12.1 Under the Growth Management Act and Lake Stevens Comprehensive Plan the city is likely to be the provider of general government services within the Urban Growth Area. For potential annexation it is the city's policy to have interlocal agreements achieving the orderly transition of services during annexation.

7.12.2 Establish an interlocal agreement model with Snohomish County and other service provider agencies to facilitate the transfer of governance within the city's UGA in an expeditious and consistent manner.

2.3 The city asserts its interest in areas outside the UGA where it is possible that future UGA expansions could occur. The city will become involved in these areas' planning and decision making, both to comment on future service impacts and to assist its own service planning.