

# Chapter 7: Public Services and Utilities Element





# CHAPTER 7: PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES ELEMENT

## 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 such as the Lake Stevens Sewer District, Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue and the Lake Stevens School District to ensure service continuity as the community grows.*

## INTRODUCTION.

This element addresses public utilities and services available in the city of Lake Stevens. 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 other elements including Parks, Transportation and Capital Financing.

Much of the planning for utilities in the Urban Growth Area (UGA) is the responsibility of various service providers and special purpose districts. 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 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.

The Planned Action EIS documents for the 20<sup>th</sup> Street SE Corridor and Lake Stevens Center subarea plans included updated information on utilities and public services and facilities. The city met with service and utility providers to determine the availability of service for future development within the subareas. The EIS documents provide details for each subarea plan including mitigation measures, if required.



### PLANNING CONTEXT

#### State Planning

Following the Growth Management Act (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 range from 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.

#### Regional Planning

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Vision 2040 and Vision 2050 plans reiterate GMA goals and emphasizes providing adequate public services and facilities in a coordinated and cost-effective manner to support development. The Vision documents promote a central theme of efficient use and conservation of resources and facilities across the region. In Lake Stevens, most utility providers are independent local or regional providers. The city will continue to coordinate with utility providers and special purpose districts for local and regional delivery of services and facilities.

#### Countywide Planning

The Snohomish County Countywide Goal for Public Services and Facilities states,

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

The specific policies draw distinctions between services and facilities in urban and rural areas. Of note, the policies identify cities as the preferred urban service providers. As such, cities determine appropriate levels of service in incorporated areas or coordinate with the



## **Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element**

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 goals also emphasize 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, fire inspection 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 has developed a strategic staffing plan that aims to continue to provide high levels of service to the community.

The city does not currently have a central municipal campus. Services are spread out at different locations in the downtown area including City Hall, the Permit Center, Public Works Maintenance and Equipment yard, Shop and Police Station.

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.

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

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. The Police Department currently responds to approximately 25,000 incidents annually. 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.

### Stormwater

The city of Lake Stevens provides stormwater services for the entire city. The system consists of surface runoff from roadways, inlets, pipes and ditch conveyance, water quality devices, storm ponds and outfalls. Within the system are two lakes, Stitch Lake and Lake Stevens. The stormwater system covers an area of approximately 5,700 acres (8.9 square miles) and is broken into 18 basins. Within the stormwater system, there are approximately 68 city-owned or operated facilities, 4,562 catch basins, 13.5 miles of roads side ditches, 66.2 miles of pipe and 22,942 feet of culverts.

The city has numerous older developments approved and constructed to rural standards. In some cases, stormwater detention/retention, water quality and conveyance and storm drainage facilities may not have been required at the time of construction. While new projects provide facilities to urban standards, the older developments continually affect neighborhoods, streets and the lakes by conveying runoff that is not channeled and not



## **Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element**

treated. As part of a citywide stormwater inventory, opportunities for regional stormwater treatment systems should be developed.

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).

Lake Stevens is the largest stormwater feature in the city. The lake has multiple inflow areas and one outfall monitored by the city. A weir system located at the outfall of the lake controls the lake level. In 2010, the city adopted a Lake Level Management Plan to provide guidance and policy to perform this service.



## Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element

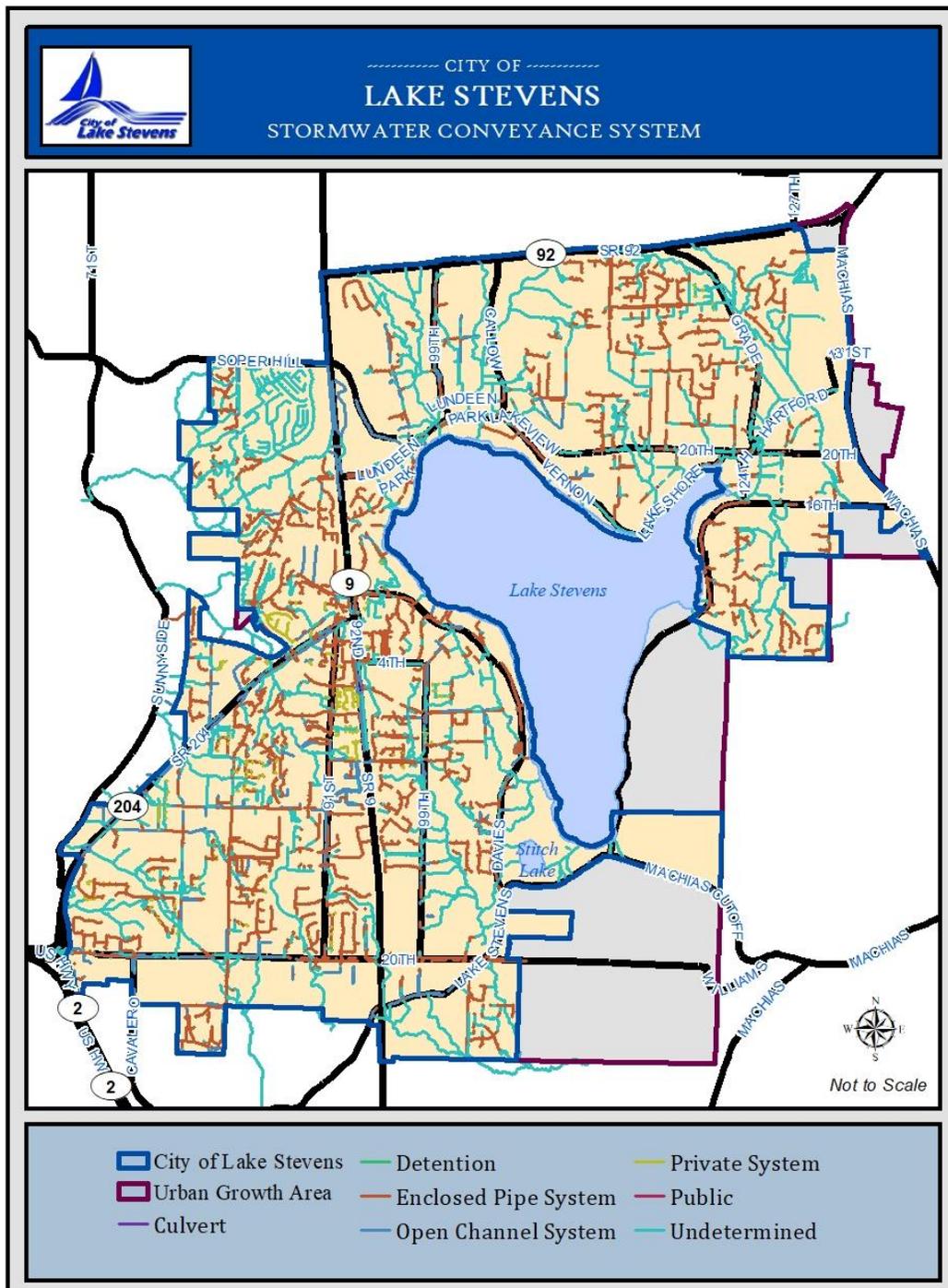


Figure 7.1 - Lake Stevens Stormwater Conveyance System



## Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element

Between April and through September the city manages the level of the lake. This serves three purposes:

- 1) Maintain the lake at a level to sustain downstream channel flows for aquatic habitat;
- 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 August of 2012, the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) issued two new “NPDES Phase II” municipal stormwater permits that affect Lake Stevens. These permits were issued under the authority delegated to Ecology to implement requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. The stormwater permits cover municipal storm sewer systems that discharge to surface waters that are not part of a combined sewer system. The city is currently operating under the requirements of this permit. The city updates its 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.

### Sewer Service

In May of 2005, the city of Lake Stevens and the Lake Stevens Sewer District (Sewer District) entered into an interlocal agreement (ILA) entitled “Unified Sewer Services and Annexation Agreement.” Under the ILA, the Sewer District provides, maintains and operates sewer facilities throughout its district boundaries. The approximate 10.9 square mile service area includes the current city limits, Lake Stevens UGA and a small area of overlap into the Marysville UGA. The entire boundary is shown in Figure 7.2. The agreement also lays the groundwork for the eventual assumption of the Sewer District and its facilities, by the city, which will occur no sooner than 20 years from the District’s assumption of sewer responsibilities, unless both parties agree sooner to an amended schedule as part of continuing coordination between both agencies. The Sewer District will continue collecting and treating wastewater in the city and its UGA until this responsibility is transferred to the city per provisions of the ILA. As of the end of 2014, the District provided sewer service to 11,026 residential connections with an estimated population of 34,477 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. The District served an additional 162 commercial connections, representing approximately 854 equivalent residential units (ERUs).

The Lake Stevens Sewer District sewer system consists of a new wastewater treatment facility (WWTF, membrane bioreactor process, 2012), a former wastewater treatment plant site, 29 lift stations, over nine miles of force mains (4” to 19” diameter), over 112 miles of gravity sewer collection, trunk and interceptor pipes (6” to 36” diameter) and one gravity sewer dosing station. 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.

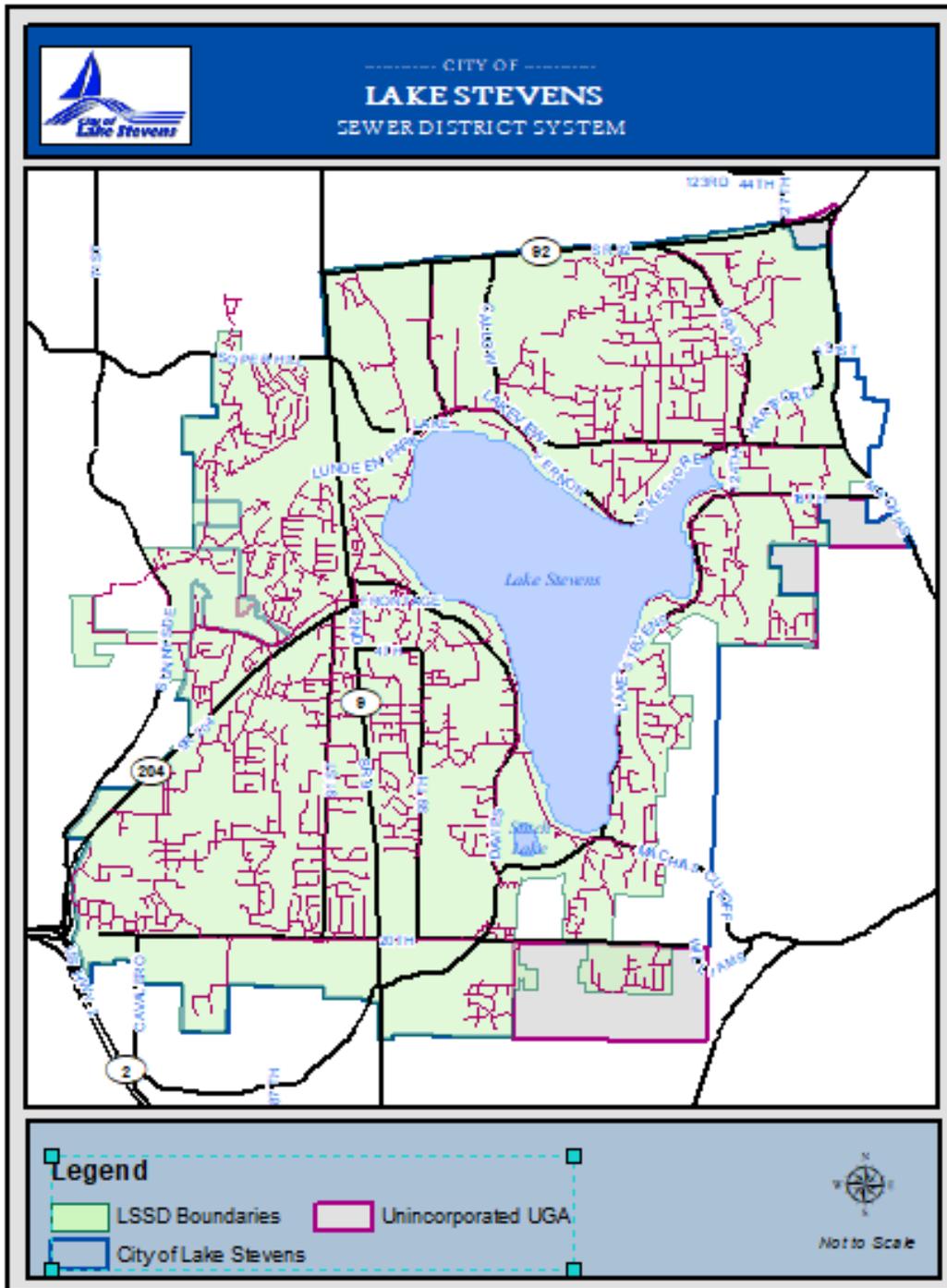


Figure 7.2 - Lake Stevens Sewer District Boundary Map



## **Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element**

The existing plant is in the process of decommissioning in phases, and the LSSD has initiated a project to remove much of the accumulated biosolids in the existing lagoon system. A future project will address final vacation of the site.

On October 24, 2016, the Lake Stevens Sewer District adopted a new Sanitary Sewer Comprehensive Plan. The 2016 Sanitary Sewer Comprehensive Plan for the Lake Stevens Sewer District presents the comprehensive planning needs for wastewater collection, transmission, treatment and discharge for the planning period 2016 through 2035. The District issued Amendment 1 in May 2019. The city has adopted these plans by reference into the city of Lake Stevens Comprehensive Plan. The sewer service and planning area is the Lake Stevens UGA and the two presently served plats referenced above. The 2016 Sewer Plan has also designated the rural-urban transition areas (RUTAs) around the geographic limits of the UGA as an Additional Study Area, in order to support an early estimate of the magnitude of potential future growth of the District’s sewer service area. The main planning criteria is 70 gallons per capita per day of wastewater flow, and an average of 2.70 persons per dwelling unit or ERU. Additional allowances are made for extraneous flows in the wastewater system due to inflow and infiltration. ERUs for commercial connections are determined based on water consumption of 900 cubic feet per month, per ERU.

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

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.

### **Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue**

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. The newly combined district covers 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)



## **Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element**

- Station 82 (9811 Chapel Hill Road, Lake Stevens 98258)

Through strategic planning the former district was able to increase the daily staffing level to 14 firefighters in 2017. The newly combined district plans to construct an additional fire station for the year 2022.

In 2013, the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau completed its evaluation of the fire protection capabilities for the city of Lake Stevens. This evaluation resulted in an improved protection class rating from Protection Class 5 to Protection Class 4.

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 has adopted by reference the Lake Stevens Fire Capital Facilities Plan and will adopt future versions of the Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue CFP.

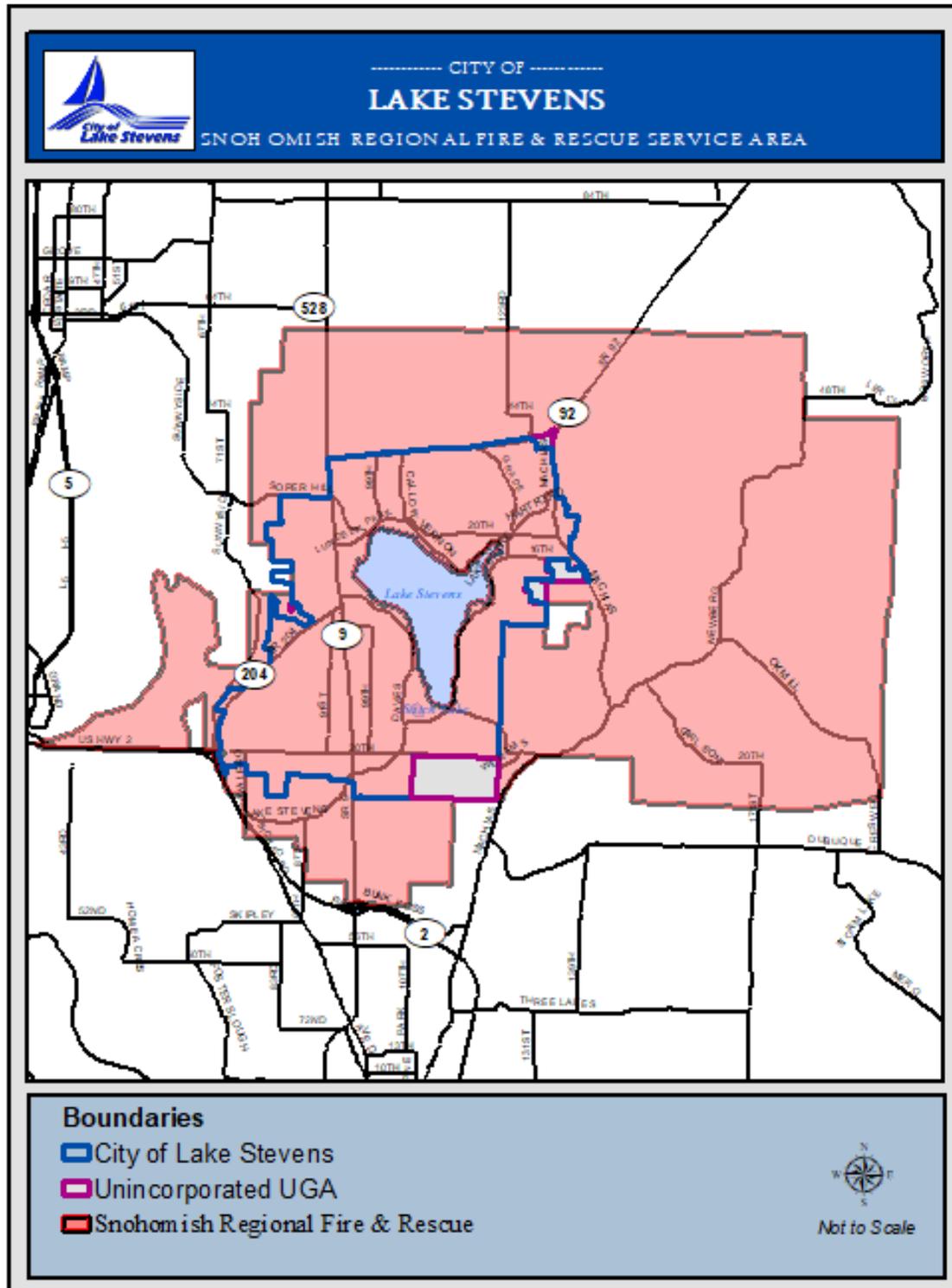


Figure 7.3 – Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue Service Area



## **Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element**

### Lake Stevens School District

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 7.4).

There is a current student population of 9,200 within the Lake Stevens School District 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.

The Lake Stevens School District has experienced steady upward growth in enrollment for the past four decades. Student enrollment in the School District remained relatively constant between 1973 and 1985 (15%) and then grew significantly from 1985 through 2005 (approximately 120%). Between 2011 and 2019, student enrollment increased by 1,215 students, approximately 15%. Overall, there was a 2.5% increase countywide during this period. The School 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 46,380 people in 2035. Likewise, the population within the Lake Stevens School District boundaries will rise from 43,000,238 in 2015 to over 61,000 in 2035. Planned improvements in the Lake Stevens School District through the Year 2025 based on enrollment projections include the construction of three new elementary schools, the installation of additional portable classrooms at existing facilities and new site acquisitions and improvements.

The city has adopted by reference the current Lake Stevens School District No. 4 2020-2025 Capital Facilities Plan, which was adopted in August 2020. 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.

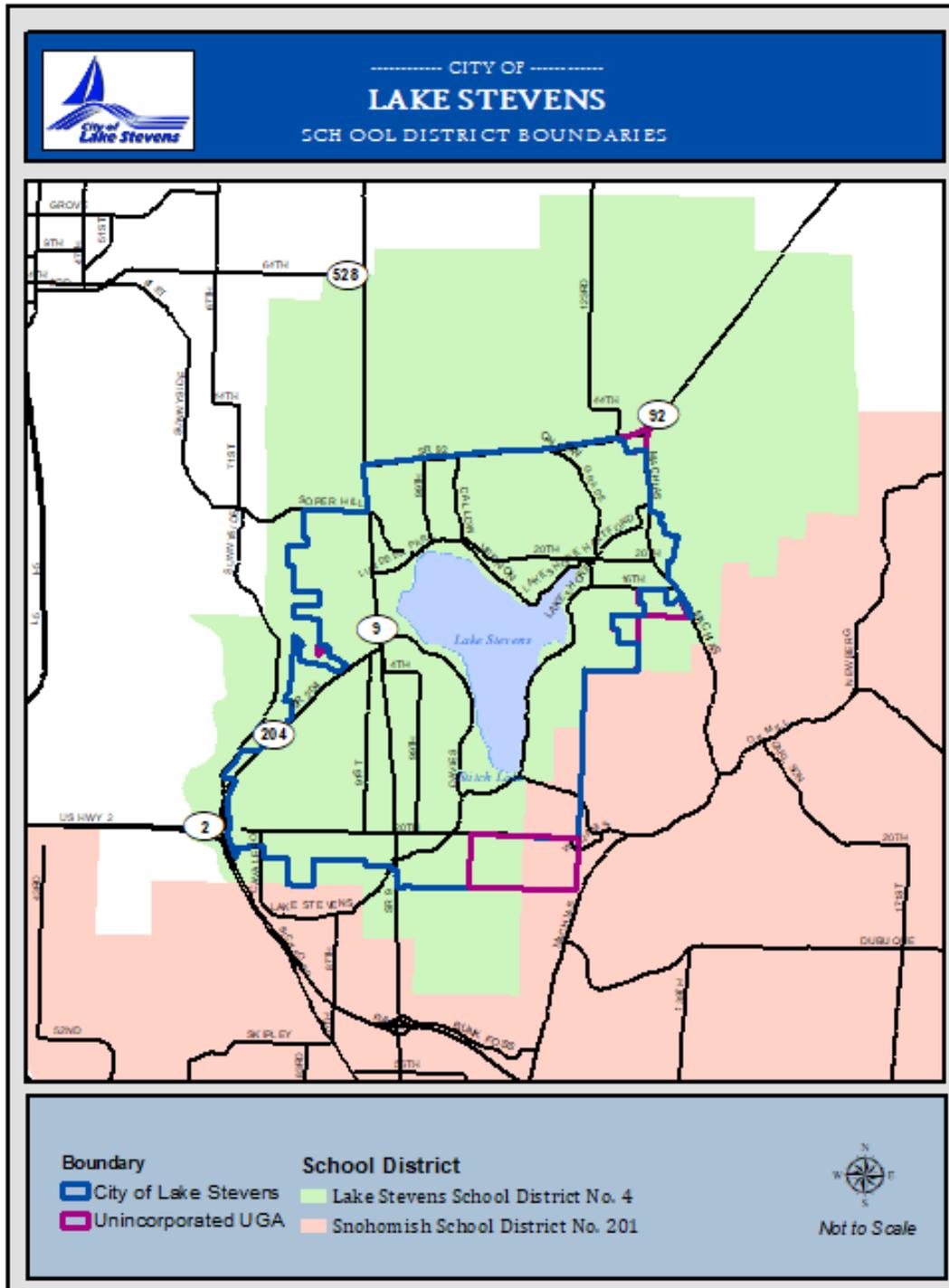


Figure 7.4 - School District Boundary



## **Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element**

### Snohomish School District.

The Snohomish School District covers areas in the southeastern portion of the city that were annexed between 2018 and 2021, as well as portions of the UGA south of 20<sup>th</sup> St SE. No Snohomish School District schools are currently located within the boundaries of the city or its UGA. The city adopted the Snohomish School District’s Capital Facilities Plan by reference into the Comprehensive Plan in 2021.

### Snohomish County Health District

The city contracts with the Snohomish County Health District for public health services. The most common task the Health District 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 770,000 customers in six counties and 64 cities. It is a demand-driven utility, meaning that no service is initiated until requested by a specific customer. As natural gas is a competitive energy source, it can be assumed that the demand for it will continue to grow, particularly if substantial savings over other fuels can be effectively demonstrated ([Acme, 1993](#)).

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates a 60-year supply of conventional natural gas reserves exists. Unconventional reserves requiring advanced technology are estimated at a 150-200 year supply.

### 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 or fiber and optical fibers. Wireless technology includes traditional broadcasting, radio transmission and



## **Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element**

cellular networks. Telecommunication services often use existing infrastructure along utility corridors and public rights-of-way.

The telecommunications industry is 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.

### Electrical Utilities

The Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County (PUD), which purchases 80 percent of its power from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), serves the city of Lake Stevens. The remainder of the PUD's power is 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.

The PUD uses an 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 demand for both the incorporated city limits as well as the UGA.

In addition to PUD facilities, there are Bonneville Power Administration and Seattle City Light Transmission lines that pass through the city that constitute regional power transmission facilities.

### Water Utilities

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. PUD's Lake Stevens Water System serves the city. 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.

The city of Everett's transmission lines from Spada Lake pass through the water service area, delivering water to Everett and to many water customers. In 2012, PUD converted its



## Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element

emergency wells, in the northeast corner of the city, to full-time use to supplement the water supply 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.

The following is an overview of the Lake Stevens water system and its major facilities, including updates provided by the PUD since its *2011 Water System Plan*:

**Source** – Eleven connections to the city of Everett's Transmission Pipeline Nos. 2, 3 and 5 provide the primary water supply to the Lake Stevens Water System. 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.

**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 located in the city at the Walker Hill and Hillcrest tank sites. The water storage capacity in the city is 10 million gallons.

**Transmission and Distribution Pipelines** – There are over 330 miles of pipe in the PUD's Lake Stevens water system. Pipeline sizes range from 3/4 to 40 inches and materials include cast iron, asbestos cement, ductile iron, galvanized, and steel

**Booster Pump Stations** – At higher elevations, booster pump stations provide additional pressure. In the city, there are two booster pump stations serving the Walker Hill and Hillcrest areas.

**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.

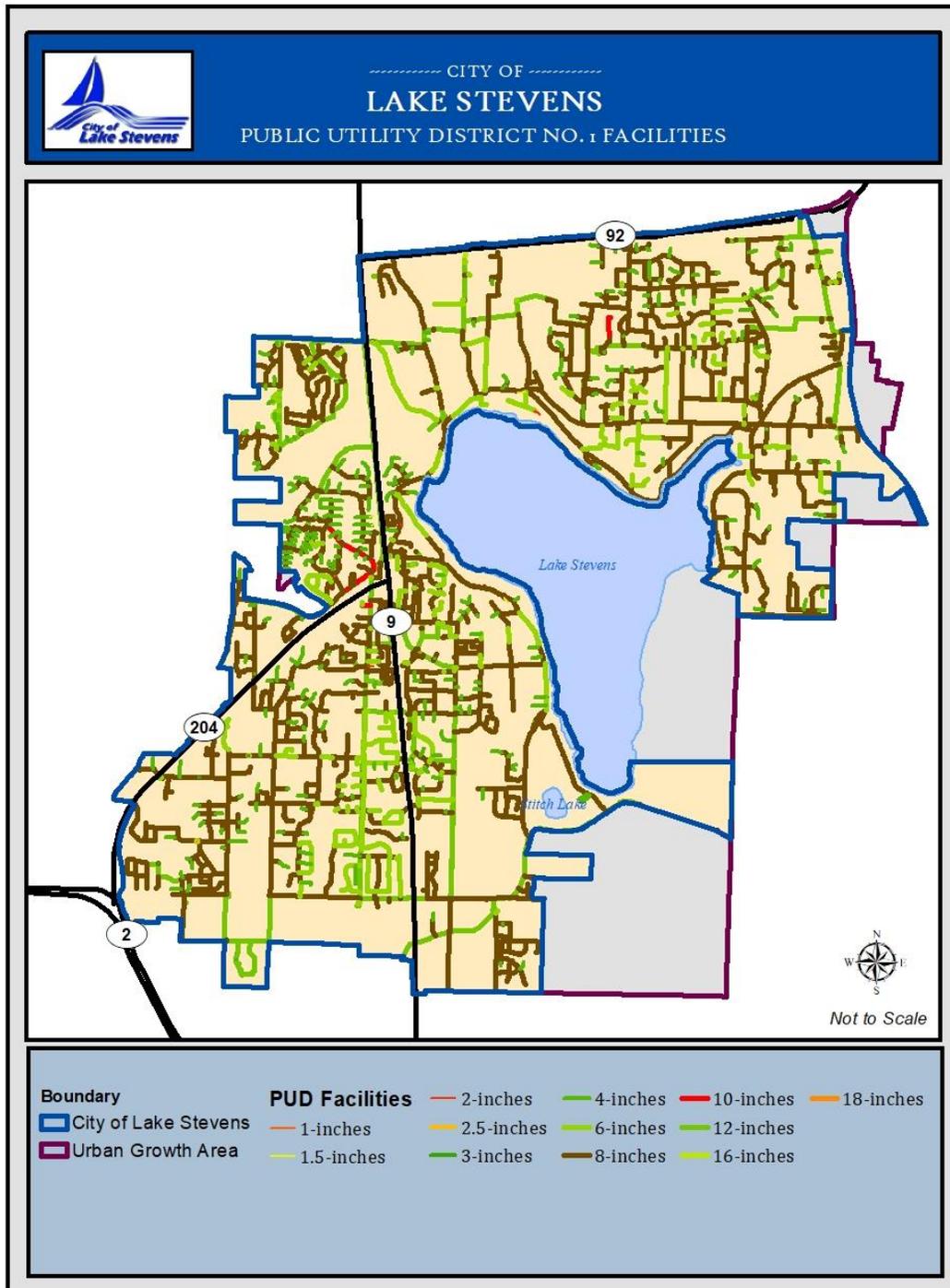


Figure 7.5 – Map of Water Facilities



## **Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element**

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) 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.



## **GOALS AND POLICIES**

### **GOAL 7.1 COORDINATE WITH CITY DEPARTMENTS, SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS, UTILITY COMPANIES AND OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS TO ENSURE THE ADEQUATE DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND CONSISTENCY WITH THE LAND USE ELEMENT.**

#### Policies

- 7.1.1 Coordinate with city departments including Administration, Finance, Planning and Community Development, Police Department and Public Works 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 including the Lake Stevens Sewer District and Snohomish County PUD and other utility providers (e.g., gas, electrical, phone, etc.) to ensure public facilities are adequately maintained and distributed to support the community's needs and that each agency's planning documents are consistent.
- 7.1.2 Coordinate with local and regional service providers including the Lake Stevens School District, Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue, Sno-Isle Library, etc. to ensure public services are adequately maintained and distributed to support the community's needs and that each agency's' planning documents are consistent.
- 7.2.1 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 to include cumulative watershed effects.
- 7.2.2 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.
- 7.2.3 Protect existing regional transmission facilities for Snohomish County PUD, Lake Stevens Sewer District and Puget Sound Energy from encroachment by incompatible urban development.



## **Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element**

### **GOAL 7.2 PROVIDE THE BEST CITY HALL SERVICE ATTAINABLE WITHIN BUDGET PARAMETERS AND MINIMIZE GOVERNMENTAL EXPENDITURES BY REDUCING DUPLICATION OF SERVICES.**

#### 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 Assure private property is not taken for public use without just compensation.

### **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 a disaster preparedness program for Lake Stevens.
- 7.3.4 Support the Snohomish County Fire Prevention District #7 to maintain its adopted level of service.



## **Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element**

- 7.3.5 Coordinate with the Fire District on review of submitted site and building plans.
- 7.3.6 Coordinate land use density and intensity with the Fire District's capital budget in order to provide 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 PROVIDE ADEQUATE SCHOOL FACILITIES.**

#### Policies

- 7.4.1 Support the Lake Stevens and Snohomish school districts to maintain there adopted levels of service.
- 7.4.2 Coordinate land use density and intensity with the School District capital budgets in order to provide services within the city.
- 7.4.3 The city will adopt by reference the affected School District 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 the District's Board of Directors.

### **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.
- 7.5.2 Maintain and enforce land-use plans and ordinances requiring stormwater controls for new development and re-development.
- 7.5.3 Actively promote and support education efforts focusing on all facets of stormwater management.
- 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



## Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element

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.
- 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 in order to provide services within the city.
- 7.6.3 As needed to further the purposes and goals of the Unified Sewer Service and Annexation Agreement, the city will 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 District 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.
- 7.6.6 Replace failing septic systems within the urban growth area with sanitary sewers; use innovative and state-of-the-art design and techniques when replacing septic tanks 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.



## Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element

### **GOAL 7.7 PROCESS PERMITS FOR UTILITY FACILITIES AND OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS IN A FAIR AND TIMELY MANNER AND IN ACCORD WITH THE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, WHICH ENCOURAGES PREDICTABILITY.**

#### 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 The city shall 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 The city will 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 The city shall encourage system design practices intended to minimize the number and duration of interruptions to customer service.
- 7.7.6 The city will formulate, interpret, and apply the 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, 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 The city will consider public utility substations, transmission facilities and other regional facilities as “necessary public facilities” for purposes of permit review, provided that utility providers can prove locational need and significant mitigation of impacts.



## Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element

### **GOAL 7.9 PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ALLOW FOR ALTERNATIVE DESIGN STANDARDS AND/OR MATERIALS.**

#### Policies

- 7.9.1 Encourage conservation of resources and reduction of energy consumption to extend the life of existing electrical energy and infrastructure.
- 7.9.2 Promote the reduction of water consumption through conservation, efficiency, reclamation and reuse to reduce wastewater generation and ensure continued water availability.
- 7.9.3 Coordinate with water purveyors and local and tribal governments to identify and develop additional 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.
- 7.9.4 Consider the needs for both human consumption and for environmental balance, including potential impacts of climate change on regional water sources.
- 7.9.5 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.
- 7.9.4 Promote low impact development projects and techniques on non-LID projects to conserve and use existing natural site features
- 7.9.5 The city should support development of a biofuel technology to provide more options to reduce vehicular pollution (city fleet to cleaner fuels). The city will move toward biofuel technology as fleet replacement occurs and as the technology is developed and proven.
- 7.9.6 Reduce the rate of energy use per capita, both in building use and in transportation activities.
- 7.9.7 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.



## Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element

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



## Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element

- 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.
- 7.12.3 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.



## ***Chapter 7 – Public Services and Utilities Element***

This page intentionally left blank.