bear sighting —

an email alert

makes my phone beep
Introduction

The Utilities Element addresses telecommunications, electricity, water and sewer service, and stormwater systems. In general, the goals and policies promote the provision of reliable and equitable services for all constituents and ensure that service is provided in a cost efficient manner.

Consistent with the Plan’s framework goals and emphasis on sustainability and healthy communities, utilities policies promote resource efficiency and help to reduce the demand on utility infrastructure.

The Utilities Element Supporting Analysis contains the background data and analysis, including information on the proposed location of utilities, and capacity of existing and proposed utilities.
Goals and Policies

Goal UT.1 Promote and encourage development and maintenance of all utilities at levels of service adequate to accommodate existing and projected growth.

Policy UT.1.1 Support the timely expansion, maintenance, operation, and replacement of utility infrastructure in order to meet anticipated demand for growth identified in the Land Use Element.

Policy UT.1.2 Utilize franchise agreements with private utility providers and interlocal agreements with public utility providers as a means to protect and advance adopted City goals and policies.

Policy UT.1.3 Assure that water and sewer plans are coordinated with and support the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

Policy UT.1.4 Provide for stormwater systems that minimize adverse impacts to natural watercourses and address rate of discharge, water quality, and approximate predevelopment levels of infiltration.

Goal UT.2 Support coordination with service providers to minimize cost and service disruption.

Policy UT.2.1 Coordinate the timing of construction activities with public and private utilities to minimize disruption to the public and reduce costs of utility delivery.

Policy UT.2.2 Promote co-location of new public and private utility distribution facilities in shared trenches.

Goal UT.3 Encourage placement, siting and design of utilities to support community character and promote uninterrupted service.

Policy UT.3.1 Promote the undergrounding of utilities where physically and financially feasible and in coordination with local utilities.

Policy UT.3.2 Encourage aesthetically compatible design of above-ground utility facilities.
Policy UT.3.3  Minimize the visual impacts of telecommunications facilities and towers in the community.

Policy UT.3.4  Promote recreational use of utility corridors, such as trails, sports courts, or similar facilities.

Goal UT.4  Facilitate citywide utility services that are consistent, reliable, equitable, and financially sustainable.

Policy UT.4.1  Coordinate with utility providers to ensure that the utility services are provided at competitive rates citywide.

Policy UT.4.2  Seek to maximize effectiveness and efficiency of utility services provided to city residents.

Policy UT.4.3  Support the provision of high-quality cable, wireless, and satellite service and emerging technologies throughout the community.

Policy UT.4.4  Coordinate with non-City-owned utilities to ensure that energy and telecommunications resources are available to support the proposed land use plan.

Policy UT.4.5  Encourage expansion of bandwidth and speed of telecommunication services to enhance service to Sammamish residents.
Goal UT.5  
Encourage the use of innovative measures and new technologies to reduce overall demand and enhance service to city residents.

Policy UT.5.1  
Encourage opportunities for individual businesses or homeowners to become more energy independent by reducing energy use and/or generating a portion of their energy needs on site.

Policy UT.5.2  
Consider opportunities in city codes to remove barriers to the use of alternative energy sources for homes and businesses, including such technologies as solar panels, wind-powered turbines, biomass/biogas, and fuel cells.

Policy UT.5.3  
Support renewable energy production by encouraging businesses and homeowners to consider purchase of green power through programs such as Puget Sound Energy’s Green Power Program.

Goal UT.6  
Conserve water and protect water quality.

Policy UT.6.1  
Promote water conservation through a variety of technologies and methods, including rain sensors for automatic sprinkler and irrigation systems, low flow toilets, and re-use of greywater.

Policy UT.6.2  
Support a long-term strategy to ensure that new development is connected to sanitary sewer and to convert existing development from septic systems to sanitary sewer.

Policy UT.6.3  
Support development of a strategy for phased conversion to sewers that coordinates public and private interests and creates a model for shared public/private funding.