

Bellevue City Council Interest Statement
Water System Plan
March 23, 2015

Goal

Prepare a Plan that provides a comprehensive overview of water system policies and operations, identifies challenges and opportunities, and develops recommendations so Bellevue can continue to provide a reliable supply of safe, high-quality drinking water that meets the community's water needs in an environmentally responsible manner now and in the future.

Background

Bellevue's Water System Plan (WSP) documents utility operational policies, assesses the current state of the Utility's assets and practices, and establishes what is needed to meet the City's water needs over a 20-year planning horizon. Bellevue's most recent Water System Plan was approved by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) in 2009. DOH requires that the WSP be updated every six years, or in 2015.

Safe, reliable drinking water is fundamental to the Council's Vision of a strong economy, quality neighborhoods, and a healthy environment in which to live and work. The WSP Update provides an opportunity to review Utility policies, practices, and water system assets to optimize or improve how water services are provided to customers.

Principles

The Utilities Department will:

- Secure water sources for Bellevue's foreseeable needs by maintaining a voice in regional water supply vision and decision making, and by ensuring policies and practices consistent with the Cascade Water Alliance.
- Provide a safe supply of great tasting, high quality water that meets or exceeds local, state and federal drinking water quality standards.
- Provide a reliable and sufficient supply of water for drinking, domestic use and fire protection by planning for supply outages, ensuring supply and operational redundancy, and promoting the wise use of water.
- Be future-focused, providing sustainable water services to the community in an environmentally responsible manner to meet the needs of current and future generations.
- Manage water system assets to minimize life-cycle costs while managing risks and maintaining customer drinking water service levels.
- Have a self-supporting financial structure that ensures rate stability, regionally competitive fees, inter-generational equity, and minimizes debt through responsible fiscal management practices.
- Use performance metrics and industry benchmarks to guide capital investment and system operational decisions.
- Recognize water is a limited natural resource; encourage conservation, innovation and the efficient use of water.