

9.0 Utilities Element

The Growth Management Act requires the County to include a Utilities element consisting of the general location, proposed location, and capacity of existing and proposed utilities, including but not limited to electric lines, telecommunication lines, natural gas lines, and sewer and water utilities.

9.1 Utilities Goal

It is the Utilities Goal of Stevens County to:

Encourage the orderly expansion and improvement of public utilities and services in areas designated for growth and development in this comprehensive plan.

9.2 Utilities Policies

In furtherance of the Utilities Goal and the overall GMA goals, it is the Utilities Policy of Stevens County to:

- UT-1 Encourage coordinated planning efforts between Stevens County and utility service providers by a regular exchange of plans, maps, and other pertinent information that may help utility providers and the County anticipate and respond to current or forecast growth. Periodically update utility background information used for the Comprehensive Plan, and maintain this information as an inventory of facilities and service providers that can be used to estimate future needs.

- UT-2 Support improved communication networks, including cable, fiber optic, cellular and wireless networking, while also ensuring that communication and telecommunication facilities are located and designed to blend in with the surroundings.

- UT-3 Support the development of and expansion of sewage treatment plants and public water systems to sustain planned growth in Urban Growth Areas and where needed to preserve or protect water quality or to remedy a health emergency.

- UT-4 Work with utility providers to support public sewer and water services when necessary to protect basic public health and safety and the environment and when such services are financially supportable at rural densities and will not result in new urban development that is not permitted by the Comprehensive Plan.

- UT-5 Coordinate and plan with cities regarding utility extension policies and phased extension of utility service to unincorporated urban growth areas in a manner that supports accomplishment of City, County and Growth Management Act goals.

UT-6 Encourage development and adoption of alternative sewage treatment methods.
Identify and eliminate regulatory roadblocks to such adoption.