
The Utilities Section of the Comprehensive Plan is intended to inventory current public infrastructure and identify areas of need to accommodate growth over the next 20 years. Contained in the Section are policies that will help guide the timing of utility service delivery to accommodate future growth. This Section provides the planning framework for more detailed water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer improvements. It identifies the most current utility plans in anticipation of additional engineering studies needed to design expanded systems.

The City of Faribault provides municipal water, sanitary sewer and storm water systems. The City operates and maintains these systems as a public service through associated use and access fees. As a municipal utility, the City operates these systems for the benefit of its users in compliance with applicable State and Federal Standards. Over the years the City has undertaken a number of studies to provide guidance for system improvements to accommodate changing needs. These studies will continue to provide guidance for utility development that meets growth needs.

Water System

Existing System

The City of Faribault owns and operates a municipal water system that provides service to the urbanized portions of the community. The Faribault water system was initially installed in 1883 and consisted of a well, reservoir and a small distribution system. As the community has grown, the system has expanded to meet its needs.

The City's current water system consists of these major components:

- Five wells located in the area of 7th Street North and 8th Avenue
- 1 million gallon high service reservoir
- Four high service pumps
- One booster pumping station (high pressure zone)
- Two storage reservoirs with a total capacity of 4 million gallons
- One 150,000 gallon elevated storage tank (high pressure zone)
- A distribution system consisting of a network of watermains ranging in size from 4" to 20" in diameter.
- Chemical feed facilities to add chlorine, ammonia, fluoride, and polyphosphate.

Current Demand

The City is currently averaging 3.3 million gallons per day (mgd) with a maximum daily demand of 5.9 mgd. The system is designed to handle a maximum day demand of 7.9 mgd.

Future Demand and System Improvements

At present, Faribault's population is 20,818 and projected to grow to anywhere between 25,000 and 33,000 people over the next 20 years.

Future system improvements include the following:

- Well pumping capacity
- Elevated storage capacity
- Extension of distribution system to accommodate development outside current service areas.

Sanitary Sewer System

Existing System

Faribault's Waste Water Treatment Plant is located in the northern portion of the community along the Cannon River. The plant in 2002, handled an average of 3.9 mgd.

System Improvements

As Faribault continues to grow, the sanitary sewer system will need to be expanded to meet future needs. Expansion of the system will require construction of new trunk sewer lines and lateral lines. Every effort should be made to utilize gravity flows and avoid lift stations when feasible and practical to help with design efficiencies and cost containment. Further study is needed to determine how to accommodate future residential, commercial and industrial growth.

The following policies are intended to help guide future decisions pertaining to sewer and water infrastructure needs.

Policies

Faribault's sewer and water infrastructure policies include the following:

1. Promote infill of the existing urbanized area to maximize efficiency of existing sewer and water infrastructure system.
2. Maintain an infrastructure replacement program for the City.
3. Control urban expansion through the use of public service extensions based on the City's growth and redevelopment policies.
4. For orderly expansion of public services, recommend that new developments locate in areas contiguous to existing development in the City.
5. Address legal limitations, fairness, property benefits, and responsible use of public funds when financing public utility extensions that reinforce the City's growth and redevelopment policies.
6. Prohibit development in areas that require private sewer and water systems.
7. Encourage or require, where practical, the use of energy and water conservation

practices (such as water saver faucets, yard watering bans, strategic landscaping, solar energy design).

8. Utilize BMPs (Best Management Practices) to reduce surface water runoff and control sediments and erosion. BMPs should also be used during the construction of public infrastructure.
9. Continue to implement and update, where necessary, the City's Well Head Protection program.
10. Use the Capital Improvement Program for long-range planning of public services.
11. Work with the counties, townships, watershed organizations, citizens and upstream landowners (outside the City's jurisdiction) to encourage upstream pollutant reduction.
12. Carefully evaluate the costs and benefits of new industry that will place a high demand on the wastewater treatment system and public water supply and distribution system.