

Utilities, Facilities & Services

Aspiration

Foster equitable, efficient, accessible and resilient utilities, facilities and services networks that protect public health, sustain environmental quality, support economic development and facilitate new housing.

Goals

- Goal 1. Maintain reliable public water and wastewater systems that protect public health and support compact, planned growth.
- Goal 2. Increase access to safe, affordable and efficient solid waste and materials management services.
- Goal 3. Expand modern, affordable communication networks to serve all communities.
- Goal 4. Incentivize accessible, high-quality educational and childcare facilities that support community and economic needs.
- Goal 5. Diversify community-serving facilities to meet evolving community needs and ensure safe, efficient and accessible public services.
- Goal 6. Expand access to comprehensive health care, mental health services and public health infrastructure to support community well-being.
- Goal 7. Maintain and enhance emergency medical, fire and rescue services.
- Goal 8. ~~Maintain stormwater and drainage infrastructure to protect water quality, reduce flooding risks and support climate-resilient development.~~
- Goal 9. Expand parks and recreation facilities to promote public health, environmental resilience and quality of life.

Commented [DG1]: Move to be number 3, grouping civil engineering type activities?

Intent Summaries

Goal 1. **Maintain reliable public water and wastewater systems** that protect public health and support compact, planned growth.

Intent Summary: Reliable water and wastewater systems are fundamental to public health, environmental protection and planned community development. This goal emphasizes ongoing investment, asset management and regulatory compliance to ensure systems function safely and efficiently. By maintaining high-quality infrastructure in growth areas, the region can direct development to appropriate locations, safeguard water resources and reinforce compact settlement patterns.

Commented [DG2]: Mention flood resilience – like goal 8, goals 1 depends on infrastructure that functions during and survives flooding

Goal 2. Increase access to safe, affordable and efficient solid waste and materials management services.

Intent Summary: Effective materials management reduces pollution, lowers costs for households and businesses and supports statewide waste-reduction goals. This goal focuses on expanding access to convenient and affordable disposal, recycling and composting options while modernizing facilities and strengthening regional collaboration. By improving the reach and efficiency of solid waste services, the region can reduce environmental impacts and support a more sustainable circular economy.

Goal 3. Expand modern, affordable communication networks to serve all communities.

Intent Summary: Universal access to high-quality communications infrastructure underpins economic opportunity, education, health care and emergency response. This goal highlights the need for widespread broadband deployment, equitable service pricing and network resilience. By strengthening digital connectivity, the region can close service gaps, support remote work and learning and enhance the reliability of critical communications during emergencies.

Goal 4. Incentivize accessible, high-quality educational and childcare facilities that support community and economic needs.

Intent Summary: Strong educational and childcare systems are essential to family well-being, workforce development and participation and regional prosperity. This goal emphasizes improving the quality, accessibility and long-term viability of facilities that serve children and learners of all ages. By investing in modern, safe and well-distributed facilities, the region can support employers, strengthen communities and ensure that residents have equitable access to the educational services they need.

Goal 5. Diversify community-serving facilities to meet evolving community needs and ensure safe, efficient and accessible public services.

Intent Summary: Community-serving facilities—such as libraries, senior centers, cultural spaces and recreation assets—play a vital role in social connection and quality of life. This goal focuses on adapting and expanding

facilities to meet demographic shifts, emerging service needs and new community expectations. By supporting diverse, flexible and accessible spaces, the region can strengthen civic life and ensure that services remain relevant for all residents.

Goal 6. Expand access to comprehensive health care, mental health services and public health infrastructure to support community well-being.

Intent Summary: Accessible, high-quality health care is essential to community stability and individual well-being. This goal prioritizes improving the reach, affordability and coordination of medical, behavioral health and public health services. By strengthening service networks, the region can improve health outcomes and ensure residents receive the care they need.

Goal 7. Maintain and enhance emergency medical, fire and rescue services.

Intent Summary: Emergency services are a cornerstone of public safety and community resilience. This goal focuses on sustaining reliable, well-resourced emergency response systems supported by trained volunteers and professionals. By strengthening service capacity, modernizing equipment and improving regional coordination, communities can respond effectively to emergencies and protect lives.

Goal 8. Maintain stormwater and drainage infrastructure to protect water quality, reduce flooding risks and support climate-resilient development.

Intent Summary: Effective stormwater systems reduce flood risk, safeguard surface waters and protect public and private property. This goal prioritizes infrastructure upgrades, green stormwater practices and planning approaches that account for more intense rainfall. By integrating climate resilience into design and maintenance, the region can reduce damage from extreme weather and support sustainable development patterns.

Goal 9. Expand parks and recreation facilities to promote public health, environmental resilience and quality of life.

Intent Summary: High-quality parks and recreation facilities strengthen community health, enhance environmental resilience and enrich quality of life. This goal emphasizes expanding accessible recreation opportunities, maintaining and improving existing facilities and protecting the natural spaces that support ecological functions. By integrating recreation planning with land use, transportation and conservation priorities, the region can promote active lifestyles, safeguard natural resources and ensure all residents benefit from well-designed, connected and resilient outdoor spaces.