



## Comprehensive Plan

# Capital Facilities & Utilities

### Background

The purpose of the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) is to identify the capital improvements necessary for growth and the associated funding that will support the growth targets established in the Comprehensive Plan during the twenty-year planning period of the County. The CFP is the guiding document for the county to identify the necessary capital improvements needed to maintain the established levels of service of public facilities and ensure planning decisions will support the quality of life in urban and rural areas. Capital facilities planning provides decision makers with the knowledge to improve and protect public services such as access to parks and recreation, coordination of schools and student growth, wastewater treatment, stormwater management, necessary water supply, utilities, and other important services.

### Importance

The CFP is a component of the Comprehensive Plan as well as a source of implementation of the goals and strategies of the Comprehensive Plan. Capital Facilities Plans can help a jurisdiction use its limited funding wisely and most efficiently to maximize its project funding opportunities. By planning ahead to determine what the needs are, decision makers can better prioritize spending, coordinate activities on related projects, and



meet the needs of the public. It also provides for the orderly replacement of capital assets and helps avoid unexpected infrastructure cost. A well-written and up-to-date Capital Facilities Plan increases a jurisdiction's ability to acquire competitive loans and grants for project funding. Several funding agencies require a CFP for consideration. The CFP is also an important tool in ensuring capital facility planning takes place in a collaborative form with other jurisdictions who may share public facilities. By creating a proactive and all-encompassing CFP, the County is able to achieve the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan by ensuring facilities are available and sufficient where development is planned to occur.

## What is Required?

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires jurisdictions fully planning under the GMA to have a capital facilities plan element within their comprehensive plans, which includes per RCW 36.70A.070(3) :

- An inventory of existing capital facilities owned by public entities, showing the locations and capacities of the capital facilities;
- A forecast of the future needs for such capital facilities;
- The proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new capital facilities;
- At least a six-year plan that will finance such capital facilities within projected funding capacities and clearly identifies sources of public money for such purposes; and
- A requirement to reassess the land use element if probable funding falls short of meeting existing needs and to ensure that the land use element, capital facilities plan element, and financing plan within the capital facilities plan element are coordinated and consistent.

### Spokane County-Owned Capital Facilities

- Wastewater Treatment / Sanitary Sewer
- Stormwater
- Transportation
- Law Enforcement Detention Centers
- Parks and Recreation
- Solid Waste
- General County Facilities

### Capital Facilities Owned by Special Districts

- Public School
- Public Health
- Fire
- Domestic Water
- Libraries
- Emergency Communications

