

# Public Facilities, Utilities & Services

## Snapshot of Trends & Issues

### CIVIC BUILDINGS

- General trends are towards functional consolidation, improving disaster resilience, increasing efficiency and accountability through technology, and improving environmental performance of facilities.
- Major facility needs in the near term: new Transit Administration/Operations Center, police station remodel, decommissioning of Fishers Lane and West Longview Sewage Lagoons, Beech Street Box Culvert replacement and construction of new West Longview fire station.

### PARKS & RECREATION

- The top three expenditures supported by residents surveyed were: restroom facilities, improvements to neighborhood parks, and developing multi-purpose bike/walking trails.
- The biggest deficiency is in the acreage of Neighborhood Parks that serve areas within a ¼ - ½ mile radius. Current need is for 173 additional acres; future need is for 207 acres, based on population.
- West Longview and the northern hills are most underserved, by Level of Service (LOS); Highlands, Downtown and West Longview are most underserved based on survey responses.

### EDUCATION

#### Longview School District

- An aging population and an unstable job market that dampened migration into the region has resulted in a decline in enrollment in K-12 over the past ten years.
- Outcomes from Initiative 1351 and the McCleary Decision will have the greatest impact on district capacity. Elementary schools are by far the most impacted by reduced class size and full-day kindergarten.
- Major renovations or replacement of the district's elementary buildings are the most pressing.

#### LCC

- Current trends include personalized learning, venues for learning communities/collaborative learning, technology-enhanced learning, Learning partnerships, and lifelong learning.
- Two building replacements are planned over the next 15 years: a new 65,000 sq. ft. building to replace the Vocational, Applied Arts, and Science Classroom buildings that will include business/workforce training; and, replacement of the Old Main Building. Other site improvements include strengthening the civic presence and "front door" of the college and links to downtown, and improving quality of open space. Over the long-term, replacement of the Don Talley Building and the Alan Thompson Library will be needed.

## **LIBRARY**

- Longview's library experiences more visits per capita than the national average, yet is staffed by fewer personnel (per 25,000 population) than both state and national averages.
- Library modernization, expanded parking, and a branch library in the Highlands are recommended improvements.

## **UTILITIES**

- Mint Farm Regional Treatment Plant opened in 2013 with enough capacity to serve the 20-year growth projection and new industrial customers. The plant can be expanded to meet 50-year demand projections. The city is currently exploring potential of a new water source from the Cowlitz River using a Ranney Well to improve water quality and customer satisfaction.
- Sewer system capacity is adequate to serve projected population. There are unserved "pockets" primarily between Ocean Beach and Pacific Way. Large expanses of West Longview along the SR 432 corridor have no sewer service.
- Rate systems are structured to support needed improvements. Identified facility needs are primarily development-driven responses to growth, rather than remedying deficiencies.
- Solid waste disposal has increased by an average annual rate of 1.14%. Recycling has increased by an average annual rate of 4.67%.
- Longview has enacted a Low Impact Development Program to manage stormwater, improve water quality and reduce demand on the system.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **Fire/EMS**

- Fire and emergency medical calls increased at the rate of 6% per year until 2010, when response to non-emergent medical incidents was discontinued. Since that time, calls for service have increased at about the same rate as population growth, less than 1% per year.
- LOS for response time is arrival within 6 minutes or less 90% of the time. West Longview presents the greatest challenge in meeting this standard. LOS for EMS service is 8 minutes 90% of the time.

### **Police**

- There are 60 commissioned officers, 4 reserves and 14 civilian staff in the Police Department. This staffing level results in 1 officer per 617 Longview residents, which is lower than the Washington State average but higher than the U.S. average for similar sized cities. 64 officers and 19 civilian staff was the recommended staffing level in the 2009 PERF report.
- Across the country, crime rates declined during the Great Recession, but violent crime started climbing in 2015, while property crimes continued to decline. Longview has generally mirrored the national pattern of declining crime rates, but the increase started earlier, likely due to changes in reporting.
- A remodel of the Police Headquarters should negate need for a combined Public Safety Building.