



Potable Water & Wastewater Element

TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE, SAFE, ECONOMIC, RELIABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY SERVICES.

GOAL 1

Water and wastewater services shall be provided at adequate levels of service (LOS) to meet the needs of existing and future populations.

Objective 1.1

1.1.1 The following LOS standards shall be adopted for potable water:

Policies

- a. Maximum Day (Peak) Design Flow: 200 gallons per capita per day;
- b. Storage Capacity: 1/2 of peak day volume in gallons. This requirement may be met by a combination of storage and auxiliary power;
- c. Pressure: The system shall be designed for a minimum pressure of 40 psig under forecasted peak hourly demands to assure 20 psig under extreme and unforeseen conditions;
- d. The City shall reserve potable water capacity for the annual water demand projected by the City for the University of Florida and the power plants.

1.1.2 The following LOS standards shall be adopted for wastewater services:

Average Day Standard: 106 gallons daily flow per capita.

1.1.3 The following LOS standard shall be adopted for water supply:

Average Daily Flow: 147 gallons per capita per day.



- 1.1.4 Within 18 months of the adoption of water supply plans by the St. Johns River Water and Suwannee River Water Management Districts, the City shall amend the Comprehensive Plan to:
 - a. identify alternative and traditional water supply projects, and conservation and reuse measures that will meet the water needs identified in the water supply plans;
 - b. incorporate a work plan for at least a 10-year planning period for the development of water supply projects that will meet the water needs identified in the water supply plans.
- 1.1.5 The City shall maintain forecasts of plant flow requirements and provide for plant capacity and other facility expansions in GRU's annually-updated, five-year capital budget to meet the LOS standards.
- 1.1.6 The City shall perform ongoing evaluations and studies to determine the water and wastewater systems' needs to meet the requirements of existing and future customers, with the LOS standards to be employed as minimum criteria. The City shall provide financial resources in GRU's operating and annually-updated, five-year capital budgets to renew, replace, improve and maintain the systems in accordance with prudent utility practice as defined in the Utilities System Revenue Bond Resolution (adopted June 6, 1983).
- 1.1.7 The City shall not commit to provide water or wastewater service if sufficient capacities or facilities to serve the proposed project cannot be made available at the time that the system impacts of the project will occur. The City shall maintain, as part of its Concurrency Management System, records of the expected amount of system demand from projects to which commitments are made and expected project lead and completion times in order to monitor capacity and facility requirements.
- 1.1.8 Every five years, the City shall hire independent and qualified consulting firms to evaluate the condition of the water and wastewater systems and the adequacy of the financial and facilities planning performed to maintain the system.

Objective 1.2

The City shall continue to upgrade and expand water/wastewater facilities, as shown in the 5-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements, to meet established LOS standards. The City shall give priority to correcting existing deficiencies in levels of service prior to expanding facilities to new, unserved areas.



The City shall provide potable water and wastewater services throughout the urban area in an efficient and economical manner, with the cost of service expansion being borne by those requiring such expansion. Upon Plan adoption, the City of Gainesville, as the urban area service provider of potable water and wastewater through Gainesville Regional Utilities, shall coordinate the extension and increases in capacity of potable water and wastewater facilities outside of city limits through policies established in the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan.

Objective 1.3

Policies

- 1.3.1 In order to discourage urban sprawl, Gainesville Regional Utilities shall extend potable water and wastewater facilities outside city limits in accordance with policies in the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan.
- 1.3.2 The City shall encourage development of property in close proximity to existing service areas through the continued use of appropriate economic incentives concerning the extension of water and wastewater services as listed below:
 - a. The City shall continue its policy of having all new water and wastewater service connections pay the fully allocated cost of the treatment facilities required to serve them in the form of plant connection fees, and the cost of distribution or collection facilities, unless the service is on a developer-installed system;
 - b. The City shall continue its policy of having development contribute the water and wastewater distribution and collection system internal to a development. Contributions in aid of construction are paid if the City does not project an adequate return on investment for water distribution or wastewater collection system extensions;
 - c. The City shall continue its policy that all facilities constructed and contributed to the utility system must be approved, inspected and built to City standards.
- 1.3.3 The City shall not reserve potable water or wastewater capacity outside of city limits without a determination that the development order is consistent with the Future Land Use Element of Alachua County.



Objective 1.4

The use of existing water and wastewater facilities shall be maximized by adopting the following policies:

Policies

- 1.4.1 All new developments at equivalent residential densities greater than 2 units per acre that require potable water, within the City of Gainesville, shall be required to connect to the centralized potable water system except as specified in Policy 1.4.5. Equivalent development densities shall be determined as estimated by Gainesville Regional Utilities.
- 1.4.2 All new developments at equivalent residential densities greater than 2 units per acre that require wastewater treatment, within the City of Gainesville, shall be required to connect to the centralized wastewater system except as specified in Policies 1.4.4 and 1.4.5. Equivalent development densities shall be determined as estimated by Gainesville Regional Utilities. Non-residential development proposed to be on septic tanks must demonstrate that it will not dispose of toxic, hazardous, or industrial waste in the septic tank.
- 1.4.3 Industrial pre-treatment plants shall be allowed.
- 1.4.4 New construction of package wastewater plants must meet the relevant standards established by the State of Florida and the Federal government and must connect to central wastewater treatment facilities within 5 years of central wastewater facilities becoming available. New package plants shall be permitted only when:
 - a. The developer of such temporary package treatment plant is required to enter into a legally binding agreement that dedicates and assigns responsibility for the proper maintenance and operation of the plant to an appropriate agency of local government; and
 - b. Such agreement shall provide adequate compensation by the developer to the local government agency for the proper operation and maintenance of the plant; and
 - c. The package plant is approved by the appropriate government agency assigned plant operation and maintenance as meeting standards for design, operation and maintenance.
- 1.4.5 New development of existing lots in platted subdivisions and other existing legal lots of record shall be excluded from the requirements stated in Policies 1.4.1 and 1.4.2 unless there are existing distribution or collection facilities in the right-of-way or easements abutting the property.



- 1.4.6 The City shall continue its connection charge installment program, as outlined in the Code of Ordinances, to encourage users to abandon wells and/or package or on-site wastewater treatment systems and to connect to the centralized potable water and wastewater systems.

Recognizing the importance of potable water supplies, the City shall encourage water conservation through the programs and methods listed below:

- 1.5.1 The City shall continue to offer water conservation education and information to residential and non-residential customers through its Energy/Water Survey Program.
- 1.5.2 The City shall continue to minimize water losses from unaccounted sources through its ongoing water loss reduction program.
- 1.5.3 The City shall continue its conservation rate structure as an economic means of promoting water conservation throughout the year.
- 1.5.4 The City shall continue to include water conservation techniques, including "Florida Friendly" landscaping, in the City's landscape ordinance.
- 1.5.5 The City shall continue to offer free water conservation information as part of at least one utility billing statement per year.
- 1.5.6 The City shall require the use of reclaimed water in reclaimed water service areas.
- 1.5.7 The City shall continue to require low-volume plumbing devices, consistent with applicable building codes.
- 1.5.8 The City will work with Alachua County and the water management districts to develop a model ordinance or plan to better regulate private irrigation wells.
- 1.5.9 The City will conserve water on City properties by maximizing the use of "Florida Friendly" landscaping to the extent feasible in new landscaping projects.

Objective 1.5

Policies