

DUBUQUE COUNTY SMART PLAN

Public Infrastructure & Utilities

- 1. To provide, maintain, and improve a safe, cost-effective, functional, and self-supporting public utility systems including water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, communications, and solid waste disposal with a focus on sustainable materials management where applicable.**
 - 1.1. Support timely cost effective delivery of services.
 - 1.2. Perform routine maintenance and testing to ensure optimum utility provision.
 - 1.3. Budget for short and long term system improvements.
 - 1.4. Support ongoing improvements to facilities.
 - 1.5. Support ongoing improvements to distribution systems.
 - 1.6. Support ongoing improvements to landfill diversion efforts.
 - 1.7. Comply with state, federal, and local environmental regulations.
 - 1.8. Support the adoption of new technologies that reduce costs, improve delivery of service, and reduce impacts on the environment.

- 2. To plan for, build, and improve infrastructure systems to meet anticipated growth and development needs.**
 - 2.1. Encourage development and redevelopment in areas where infrastructure is existing or underutilized in the cities.
 - 2.2. Support building future infrastructure at a higher capacity for future identified growth areas in cities.
 - 2.3. Support municipal utility rate structures that are both adequate to meet current obligations and future needs and are equitable for services received by residential, commercial, and industrial users.
 - 2.4. Investigate and implement technological advances to optimize service delivery.
 - 2.5. Plan for orderly replacement and upgrade of public and private communication infrastructure with attention to features, capacity, compatibility, and future growth.
 - 2.6. Consider opportunities for buried public and private communication infrastructure during planning for street, water, and sewer construction projects.
 - (2.7Removed)
 - 2.7. Support providing sanitary sewer and water main extensions within cities in a timely manner, when economically feasible.
 - 2.8. Evaluate periodically the water system storage and hydraulics of cities to ensure ability to serve future growth demands.
 - 2.9. Support a “looped” water distribution system, where practical.
 - 2.10. Continue to encourage and enhance downtown development by striving to meet current parking needs and providing expansion programs that are cost-effective and innovative.
 - 2.11. Monitor and coordinate appropriate implementation of communication, gas and electric delivery systems.

- 2.12. Encourage public investments in infrastructure that will result in private-sector investments that can financially sustain the maintenance of that infrastructure.
- 2.13. Evaluate and ensure the design and location of stormwater inlets and outlets are strategically located, managing runoff as close to its source as possible, and minimizing the volume of stormwater runoff to avoid causing problems for downstream neighbors.

3. To encourage the use of low impact development and centralized water or sewer systems to preserve open space and prevent degradation of the air and water quality throughout the region.

- 3.1. Encourage the use of Low Impact Development (LID) principles in new development throughout the region (New goal).
- 3.2. Encourage development to locate within existing cities and establish urban fringe areas where adequate public utilities are planned or can be provided.
- 3.3. Encourage existing developments that have expanded beyond the original subdivision, to install centralized water and septic systems in the new development and the original development, if there has been a history of contamination problems in or adjacent to the original subdivision.
- 3.4. Require new developments in the unincorporated area of the County to provide for the private long-term maintenance and operation of internal infrastructure.
- 3.5. Require new developments in the unincorporated area of the county to be designed for future connection of municipal services.

4. To provide public facilities and services at levels which support a desirable "quality of life" for current and future residents.

- 4.1. Require new development to fund public water and wastewater systems required to meet the needs of the proposed development. (Original 4.1 removed, Was4.7)
- 4.2. Establish a system for planning purposes, which will evaluate the costs and benefits of necessary rural services when provided to new rural growth.
- 4.3. Provide facilities and services in locations compatible with planned uses, populations, and needs.
- 4.4. Establish a system to continuously monitor individual well and septic systems for detection of potential off-site environmental contamination before it occurs.
- 4.5. Evaluate the creation of rural water districts in developed areas experiencing water quality problems, and encourage non-farm residents to join rural water districts as soon as possible after district creation.
- 4.6. Evaluate the creation of rural sanitary sewer districts in developed areas experiencing septic system problems, with the boundaries of such districts based, whenever possible, on existing watershed areas.
- 4.7. Provide financial assistance for new development to over-size facilities to serve adjacent development when the adjacent development is expected to require service.
- 4.8. Facilitate the incorporation of new septic system technologies into the County's health regulations.

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- 4.9. Continue to implement the State's solid waste disposal hierarchy while developing new methods to minimize wasting and divert resources to beneficial use through comprehensive deconstruction, reuse, recycling, composting anaerobic digestion, methane capture/utilization, hazardous materials management, enforcement on illegal dumping and littering, and public education programs.
- 4.10. Establish a system to continuously monitor the performance of stormwater BMPs, and ensure proper maintenance is being performed as needed with each practice.