

Water Supply & Distribution



Where does this topic fit within the new Comprehensive Plan?

Hillsboro's updated Comprehensive Plan is organized around seven core topic areas. These core areas cover broad, interconnected subjects that help define and guide the future growth and development of Hillsboro.



Water Supply and Distribution is part of the **Building Economy and Infrastructure** core area.



The full background report is available at plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov/economy

Safe and reliable water is essential to the health and prosperity of Hillsboro and its residents. Providing quality water requires significant planning and coordination.

Background

Providing high-quality water is both a vital and complex task. As such, significant planning and coordination is necessary to make sure all processes—including intake, treatment, storage, transmission, and distribution—are carried out safely and consistently.

The existing Comprehensive Plan addresses water through the broader topic of public facilities and services, but it does not include specific goals and policies in support of the City's efforts to supply and distribute water.

Issues, Challenges, Trends, and Opportunities

The current issues, challenges, trends, and opportunities relating to water supply and distribution include:

- **Supply Development** — The Willamette Water Supply Program (WWSP) ensures that Hillsboro will be able to meet projected water needs well into the future. Beyond the WWSP, Hillsboro and Tualatin Valley Water District must monitor anticipated growth, and, where needed, plan for the development of additional water resources.
- **Seismic Rehabilitation** — Earthquakes, especially along the Cascadia Subduction Zone, are expected to have major impacts on water infrastructure. Seismic rehabilitation represents a key challenge for Hillsboro and other water providers.
- **Meeting Unique Quantity and Quality Needs** — Hillsboro Water has a unique customer base due to the presence of high-volume, technically-sophisticated industrial water users. Water provision and economic development efforts must be coordinated in order to respond to the specific needs of current and future businesses and industries.

Recommended Updates and Policy Considerations

The Comprehensive Plan update represents an opportunity to support Hillsboro’s ongoing efforts to provide high-quality water to residents and businesses.



Recommended updates to Hillsboro’s Comprehensive Plan include the following:

- **Develop a goal that specifically addresses water quality, with accompanying policy language related to regulatory standards and source protection.**
- **Develop a goal that specifically addresses water supply, with accompanying policy language related to regional coordination, leadership, supply development and diversification, capital improvement projects, storage and operational facilities, industrial users, aging infrastructure, and resiliency.**
- **Develop a goal that specifically addresses sustainable practices, with accompanying policy language related to water and energy conservation, reuse and recycling, and renewable energy.**



Find Out More

For more information, including upcoming events and opportunities to get involved, please visit plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov.

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