

## **CHAPTER 8**

### **UTILITIES**

The Winslow area is served by three publicly owned and operated utilities: water, sanitary sewer and storm drainage. Each system has a detailed system plan prepared consistent with the policies of the Water Resources Element of the Comprehensive Plan and updated as necessary. Each system plan identifies existing deficiencies and recommends improvements necessary to serve existing development as well as projected future population growth.

#### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FRAMEWORK**

The Comprehensive Plan contains a separate Water Resources Element to highlight the importance of water resources to the Island. Land use policies should be consistent with prudent use and protection of those resources. New water sources/systems or expansion of existing systems should occur only if the existing quantity or quality levels of existing water supplies is maintained at a sustainable level. Water conservation, water re-use and reclamation should be pursued. Water system infrastructure which may provide water supplies exceeding local needs should not be used to justify development counter to the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Sewage should be collected, treated and disposed of in a manner that prevents public health hazards and pollution of groundwater, surface water and promotes recharge of the waters of Puget Sound. Siting of additional sewer facilities or the expansion of existing facilities should consider solutions to existing on-site failure problems, as well as planned areas for increased density. Re-use of treated wastewater for irrigation, fire flow and other non-potable uses should be encouraged.

Stormwater runoff should be managed to protect property from flooding and erosion; protect streams and shorelines to avoid the degradation of environmental quality, ecological functions, and natural system aesthetics; protect the quality of groundwater, surface water and waters of Puget Sound. Development should be designed and constructed to minimize disruption and/or degradation of natural drainage systems, using both on-site and off-site improvements. Infiltration is preferred over surface discharge.

#### **MASTER PLAN UTILITIES POLICIES**

##### **Overview**

A clear vision for Winslow presents opportunities to encourage developers to build more sustainable places. One of the most sustainable actions the community can take to preserve critical areas, forests, working landscapes and the rural character of the island as well as control infrastructure costs is to use land more efficiently and locate the growth in downtown Winslow where services and infrastructure are available. If Bainbridge succeeds in implementing the goal of our Comprehensive Plan to accommodate 50% of the population growth in downtown, we will require less investment in utilities, consume less land and have

less impact on water resources and ecosystems. In exchange for allowing more development in downtown, we can require or provide incentives that reduce overall per capita demand on utilities, infrastructure costs, and improves water quality through preservation of open space, trees, creation and enhancement of public parks, or use of green building techniques and green development standards.

**Goal 8-1: Improve water quality, wisely use water resource, and control infrastructure costs through conservation efforts, restoration projects, management practices and more environmentally responsible building techniques and development standards.**

**WMP 8-1.1:** Improve infrastructure to comply with current environmental standards.

**WMP 8-1.2:** Provide development standards, design guidelines and incentives to encourage low-impact and green building techniques.

**WMP 8-1.3:** Provide development standards, design guidelines and incentives for preservation of water quality.

**WMP 8-1.4:** Provide development standards, design guidelines and incentives to encourage retention of open space, trees, water quality and higher standards of green building.

**WMP 8-1.5:** Require sustainable green building standards (e.g. LEED silver rating) on all development that exceeds current permitted density to minimize demands on utilities and environmental impacts.

**WMP 8-1.6:** Restore habitat and protect forest and water resources.

**WMP 8-1.7:** In planning and constructing public infrastructure facilities, protect ecological connections by minimizing adverse environmental impacts and maintaining and protecting shoreline and beach habitat.