

THE BELLINGHAM PLAN



CAPITAL FACILITIES & URBAN SERVICES

Chapter Update Summary | November 2024





What the Community Said

These descriptions summarize the most common opinions we heard relevant to this chapter.

We need to plan sustainably, with efficient use of facilities and avoiding sprawl.

We want to make sure the City coordinates with the school districts as we grow.

We love the programs the Library and Museum put together! We want more ways to connect with the community.

I'm not sure which facilities and utilities are run by the City, other Public entities, or private companies. How do we learn more?

It is confusing when you move to or within Bellingham to figure out what you need to sign up for – we would love more guidance.

Public buildings and events need to be more accessible and welcoming.





Summary of Updates

We are proposing a variety of updates to our 2016 Comprehensive Plan. While the plan is divided into distinct chapters, there are updates that touch multiple chapters.

Here are the most significant updates related to capital facilities and urban services. These themes span multiple chapters beyond this one.

- >> Inclusive and equitable facilities and services
- >> Energy efficiency and resiliency
- >> Planning long-term infrastructure needs

Get a quick overview of the most significant updates we're proposing.

If you haven't yet, take a look at the [Summary of Proposed Updates](#). It describes the most significant updates we are proposing. We recommend viewing that the summary first, and then diving in here for more details on capital facilities and urban services.



Capital Facilities and Urban Services Chapter Draft Topics

Each blue box represents a topic that will later become a goal in the Capital Facilities and Urban Services Chapter. These will be the overarching goals for the City, with more specific policies to support them.

Proposed Topics

Reliable Facilities & Services

Deliver an equitable, cost-effective, and reliable network aligned with the growth strategy.

Sustainable Funding

Proactively plan and fund the network to support growth.

Equitable Siting & Maintenance

Equitably site, improve, and maintain public and private facilities.

City Buildings & Equipment

Plan for the future needs of the City's buildings and equipment.

City Utilities & Infrastructure

Implement a network of reliable City utilities and infrastructure.

Private Utilities

Support a network of private utilities and emergency systems.

Other Public Facilities & Infrastructure

Support other public facilities and infrastructure.



Walking through the Topics

Now, we'll walk through an overview of the proposed updates for each goal. Each bubble represents a concept within that goal. Each concept may become a single policy or several in the final document.

Existing Concept

This concept exists in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan already.

Some Updates

Either this concept will be emphasized more than in the current plan, or something minor is being changed about it.

**New Concept/
Major Updates**

This concept does not exist in the 2016 plan at all or will include significant changes.



This icon indicates this concept is related to state requirements or legislation.



Community Feedback

**As you learn about the concepts proposed in this chapter,
think about...**

**Is anything big
missing?**

**Are you excited or
concerned about any
of the ideas proposed
here?**



Reliable Facilities & Services

Sustainable Funding

Equitable Siting & Maintenance

City Buildings & Equipment

City Utilities & Infrastructure

Private Utilities

Other Public Facilities & Infrastructure



Ensuring levels of service and other community needs are met

Quantitative levels of service will be defined elsewhere in the relevant action plan for each topic

Existing

Update

New



Reliable
Facilities &
Services

Sustainable
Funding

Equitable Siting
& Maintenance

City Buildings &
Equipment

City Utilities &
Infrastructure

Private Utilities

Other Public
Facilities &
Infrastructure



Fiscal sustainability

Proactively and regularly planning land use and growth alongside needed public facilities and services

Planned facilities ready by
development opening

Concurrency/Development
paying its share (impact
and development fees)

Planning in the UGA
and for annexation

Ensuring long-term funding strategies for areas in the UGA (Urban Growth Area, the area into which the city can grow)

Existing

Update

New



Reliable
Facilities &
Services

Sustainable
Funding

Equitable Siting &
Maintenance

City Buildings &
Equipment

City Utilities &
Infrastructure

Private Utilities

Other Public
Facilities &
Infrastructure



Equitable siting &
maintenance

Equitable investment will be layered on top of existing coordination, joint use, and utility siting policies

Balancing benefit/need
and potential adverse
impacts

Buffering/
undergrounding of
facilities

Construction/
maintenance
management

Existing

Update

New



Reliable
Facilities &
Services

Sustainable
Funding

Equitable Siting
& Maintenance

City Buildings &
Equipment

City Utilities &
Infrastructure

Private Utilities

Other Public
Facilities &
Infrastructure



Priorities (public health,
accessibility, efficiency,
environmental quality)

Planning for maintenance
and new buildings

Public buildings (some) as
essential gathering and
emergency response spaces

Sharing of facilities and
resources

Public buildings as models

Efficient use of energy, water,
materials (reuse) in City
buildings

*Maintenance prioritized; new planning for
areas of growth; Consolidated set of services
and administration in the City Center*

*Adjusted from libraries to broader City buildings;
consideration for additional emergency response
use (such as cooling shelters)*

*Separate policies for law enforcement and fire vs
other City buildings*

*Expanded beyond sustainable design to include
innovative approaches and best practices*

*Clearer definition and separation of
City building efficiency and
community efficiency (next goal)*

Existing

Update

New



Reliable
Facilities &
Services

Sustainable
Funding

Equitable Siting
& Maintenance

City Buildings &
Equipment

City Utilities &
Infrastructure

Private Utilities

Other Public
Facilities &
Infrastructure



Includes need for fire protection water storage

Drinking water quality and
quantity

Coordination of water,
waste water, and
stormwater infrastructure

*Focus on regional collaboration to coordinate
standards; site-specific requirements and low impact
development (LID) addressed in Environment chapter*

Regional analysis for
stormwater, flooding,
drainage

*Clearer definition and separation of City building efficiency
(previous goal) and community efficiency*

Efficiency of community
water use and resources

Existing

Update

New



Reliable
Facilities &
Services

Sustainable
Funding

Equitable Siting
& Maintenance

City Buildings &
Equipment

City Utilities &
Infrastructure

Private Utilities

Other Public
Facilities &
Infrastructure



Public-private
coordination

Support for conservation
and recycling programs

Telecommunication
(including wireless)
network

Installation and
management safety

Existing

Update

New



Reliable
Facilities &
Services

Sustainable
Funding

Equitable Siting
& Maintenance

City Buildings &
Equipment

City Utilities &
Infrastructure

Private Utilities

Other Public
Facilities &
Infrastructure



Addition/emphasis of transit authority

County, state, and transit
authority coordination

Addition of university/institutional planning coordination

Coordination with school
districts and universities
regarding growth

Collaborating with public
partners to utilize facilities
for community gathering

Support for and
coordination of school
siting and impact fees

Existing

Update

New



Structural Changes

Are you familiar with the 2016 Comprehensive Plan and looking for a topic that was in that Capital Facilities & Utilities Chapter?

It may be located in another part of the plan. The next few slides will show how the proposed updates relate to the 2016 Capital Facilities & Utilities Chapter.





2016 Capital Facilities & Utilities Chapter Topics

The 2016 Comprehensive Plan includes a Capital Facilities and Utilities Chapter, which is organized around these 7 topics. Each one is written as a goal in the plan.

Accountable
Facilities &
Services

Water, Sewer,
& Stormwater

Fire & Police

Libraries

Museum

Public Schools

Utilities

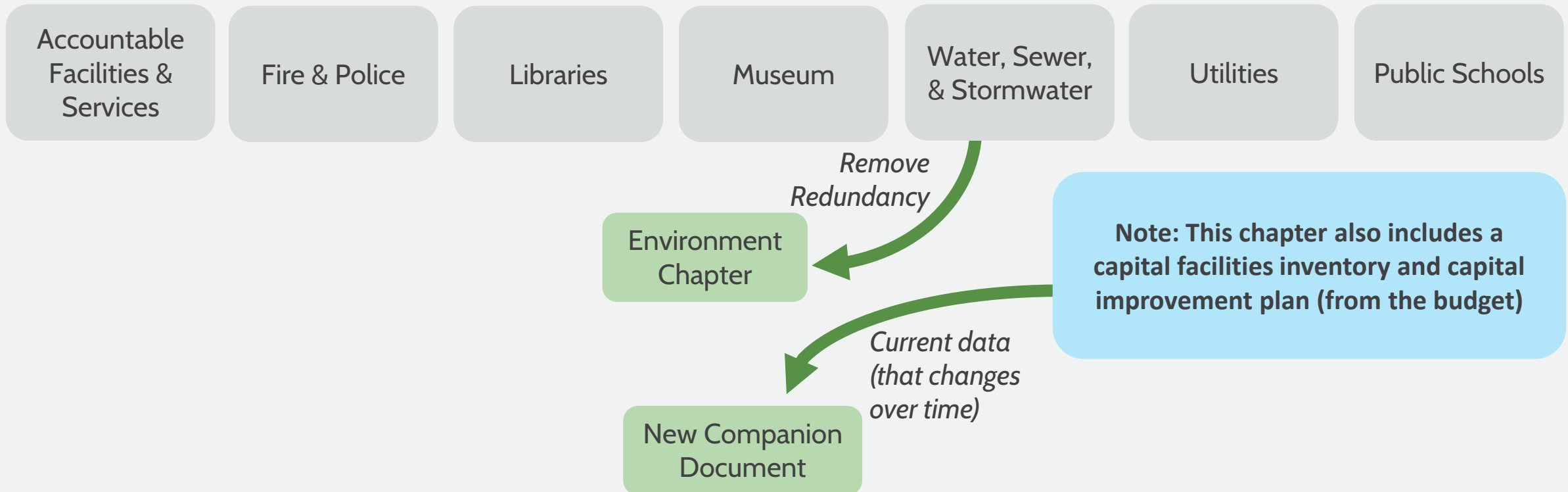
Note: This chapter also includes a capital facilities inventory and capital improvement plan (from the budget)



Shifts from Capital Facilities & Utilities

Some concepts have been moved to other chapters in the proposed updates.

Note: The current topics have been rearranged here to better align with the proposed 2025 plan topic order.





Shifts within Capital Facilities and Urban Services Chapter

The proposed topic adjustments help clarify the role of the City as opposed to other organizations.

2016 Plan Topics

Accountable
Facilities &
Services

Fire & Police

Libraries

Museum

Water, Sewer,
& Stormwater

Utilities

Public Schools

*The first three topics
apply to all facilities...*

Reliable Facilities
& Services

Equitable Siting
& Maintenance

Sustainable
Funding

Proposed Topics

*...while the remaining describe
unique needs for each type.*

City Utilities &
Infrastructure

Other Public
Facilities &
Infrastructure

City Buildings &
Equipment

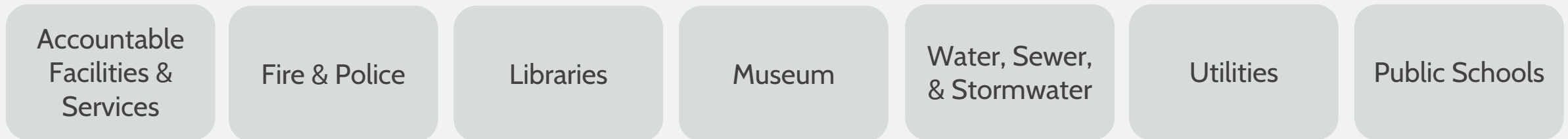
Private Utilities



Shifts within Capital Facilities and Urban Services Chapter

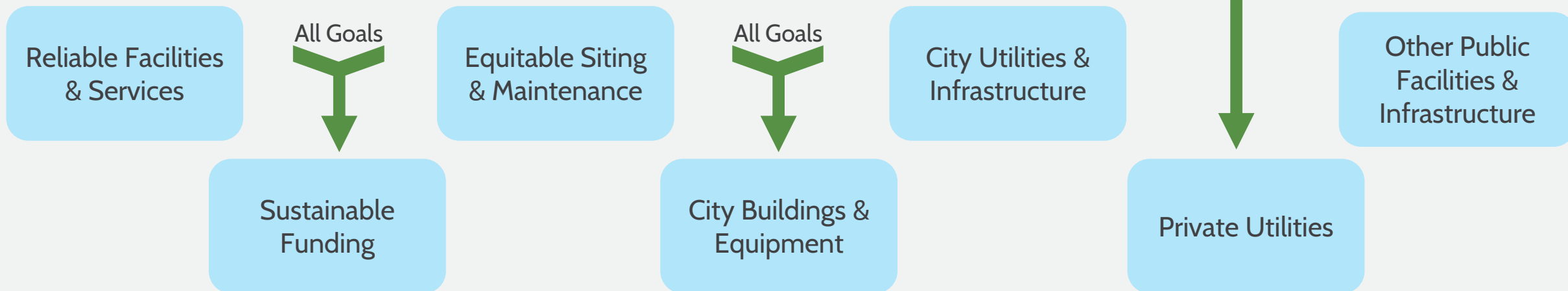
Other concepts have been shifted or split between each of the proposed topics.

2016 Plan Topics



These goal topics are redistributed between the below.

Proposed Topics

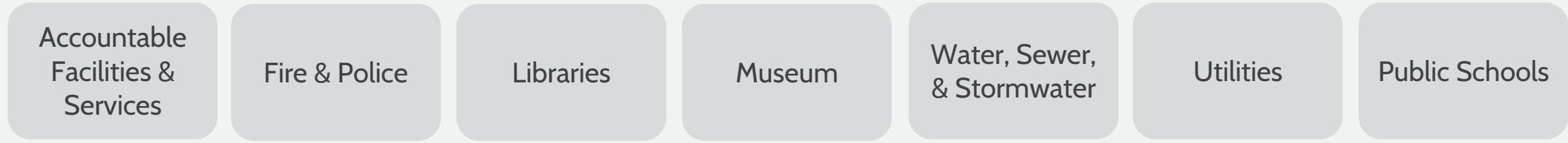




New Chapter Title: Capital Facilities and Urban Services

A new title is proposed for this chapter in order to better reflect the urban services covered within.

2016 Chapter title: Capital Facilities and Utilities



2025 Proposed Chapter Title: Capital Facilities and Urban Services

