

5.4 Infrastructure & Capital Facilities

Drainage System Principle:

Promote the public health, safety and general welfare, minimize public and private losses due to flooding, and encourage the use, preservation and enhancement of the natural and modified drainage system in a manner that is cost effective and attractive.

Infrastructure & Capital Facilities Policies - Develop, maintain and manage a citywide Stormwater Drainage System Plan for the ultimate network of natural and artificial channels, storm sewers and flood control measures required to support the Vision 2020-ICP.

Provide for intergovernmental cooperation and coordination with other jurisdictions and entities involved in the management of the drainage system.

Where public safety will not be compromised, incorporate regional retention/detention facilities with multi-purpose open space to maximize land efficiency & aesthetics.

Preserve and protect the drainage system (network of natural arroyos and floodplains) in a natural state by incorporating soft lining treatment as the preferred treatment.

ACTIONS:

- 1.) Through the City's development review process, control the alteration of natural flood plains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, which accommodate or channel floodwaters.
- 2.) Manage and control filling, grading, dredging, and other development activities that may increase flood or erosion damage.
- 3.) Pursue the acquisition of easements and rights-of-way for natural systems in platted, but undeveloped or minimally developed areas.
- 4.) Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and similar programs which make it easier to obtain and maintain benefits including but not limited to lower flood insurance rates for property owners within the City and eligibility for disaster relief, Hazard Mitigation Assistance and grants.
- 5.) Where necessary due to system constraints, require that increased runoff associated with construction of impervious areas be mitigated using detention, retention or other appropriate and effective methods.
- 6.) Prohibit development in areas that would inhibit stormwater flow and ground infiltration.
- 7.) Develop Level 2 Drainage System Plan establishing specific design criteria such as minimum ROW widths & provide specific drainage system modification criteria & standards.
- 8.) Include in any Gateway Vicinity Plans strong identification signage, public awareness kiosks, pedestrian connections and facilities to promote non-vehicular off street connections to adjacent communities, growth nodes and other activity centers.

Water System Principle: Ensure an adequate supply of quality surface and groundwater for all current and future residents of the community.

Water System Policies -

Develop and implement a citywide Water System Plan, including funding mechanisms, for the ultimate network of water distribution lines, wells, storage tanks, and treatment plants required to support the Vision 2020–ICP.

Maintain high water quality through water preservation efforts such as proper hazardous waste disposal, stormwater pollution prevention, and wellhead protection through minimum lot size determinations.

Promote water conservation in landscaping by encouraging the use of drought tolerant plant materials and xeriscape principles while realizing the value of percolation, aesthetics, microclimate enhancement, and community image.

ACTIONS:

- 1.) Implement monitoring and treatment techniques to prevent groundwater contamination of the community & regional water supply.
- 2.) Educate and inform the citizens of Rio Rancho through the media, schools, businesses, neighborhood associations and citizen groups to promote water conservation and quality preservation.
- 3.) Develop and promote a water conservation ordinance including: low flow faucets and shower heads, xeriscaping, low flush toilets, and considerations for greywater separation (dual household waste disposal piping that allows sink and shower drainage to be directed for yard irrigation).
- 4.) Researching alternative water sources such as: recycling and water reuse as well as aquifer recharge must be an ongoing process to ensure water is available for future generations.
- 5.) Participate in regional water quality & conservation planning & related federal programs.

Waste Water System Principle: Provide an efficient and environmentally sensitive waste water system for existing and future residents while ensuring that older waste water utility systems remain structurally sound and effective.

Waste Water System Policy:

Update the City's Sanitary Sewer System Plan. Include possible funding mechanisms, for the ultimate network of sanitary sewer collection lines, treatment plants, and effluent discharge systems, i.e., systems that transport and discharge treated sewage effluent to the Rio Grande, systems that discharge treated effluent via injection wells, and/or systems that discharge treated effluent via land application to vegetated surfaces, required to support the Vision 2020–ICP.

ACTIONS:

- 1.) Promote monitoring and treatment techniques to prevent groundwater contamination of the community & regional water supply.

- 2.) Research community waste systems as an alternative to traditional on-site septic tanks thereby reducing potential negative impacts to individual wellheads and the regional aquifer.
- 3.) Determine that all on-site wastewater disposal systems are situated on lots of sufficient size in accordance with the requirements of the New Mexico Environment Department.

Water & Waste Water System Policies -

Coordinate any expansion of water and waste water service areas with the extension of all other necessary community services, infrastructure, and facilities.

Consider water and waste water system extensions intended to serve detached development only if there is adequate system capacity to serve the intermediate lands.

Restrict on-site water and waste water systems within the City to those large lot rural areas that are not served by City utilities.

Infrastructure Utility System Policies -

The City should require a balanced approach for funding, designing, and installing project-level improvements required for public and private development.

Continue to promote solid waste separation and recycling programs to conserve resources and reduce landfill requirements.

Implement the most efficient and most economical methods of solid waste collection, transportation, and disposal.

Sufficiently fund the maintenance and operation of the City's infrastructure.

Develop specific boundaries for City growth, beyond which utility infrastructure would be provided on an individual property basis by residential wells and septic systems, with extension of the boundary as planned annexations warrant. Such designation may be a policy guide or if formally adopted by the Governing Body, may regulate the timing, cost, and/or extent of peripheral area development.

Inventory, preserve and protect existing and future utility easements and corridors for the efficient delivery of utility services by utility providers.

Promote and participate in the development of Level 2 Utility System Plans for each individual community utility.

Consider relocating all the Utility Department functions (customer service, engineering and administrative offices) to a centralized location to better serve the residents, businesses and development community.