

Public Services, Facilities & Utilities

Conditions

This chapter gives an overview of available public services, facilities and utilities in Sandpoint. It also outlines any plans for updates to existing facilities or additions to facility capacity. Sandpoint must have appropriate facilities to serve its population, whether it grows or not. This chapter references necessary improvements to existing services and facilities and lists a number of goals and policies to help guide future decisions about public services, facilities and utilities.

Water Sewer and Stormwater

Two extensive studies addressing water and wastewater treatment and delivery were adopted in whole or in part in 2007 and 2008. These studies document our history and address current and projected demands, recommendations for upgrades and issues to be faced by the city including but not limited to capacity, service areas, infiltration and inflow and the need for a stormwater plan. These plans should be accessed for details, maps and tables related to water, wastewater and stormwater matters.



Figure 8.1 - Maintaining current levels of service for utilities, public facilities and schools - on-pace with growth and affordable for residents - underpins many aspects of the comprehensive plan. (Image source: Studio Cascade, Inc.)

The city of Sandpoint recognizes the necessity of maintaining this infrastructure.

Regional Considerations

The Waste Water Facility study also discusses the possibility of a regional WWTP, located in Sandpoint, that would receive flows from as many as five participating entities (Sandpoint, Southside Water and Sewer District [SWSD], Kootenai-Ponderay Sewer District [KPSD], Dover, and Schweitzer).

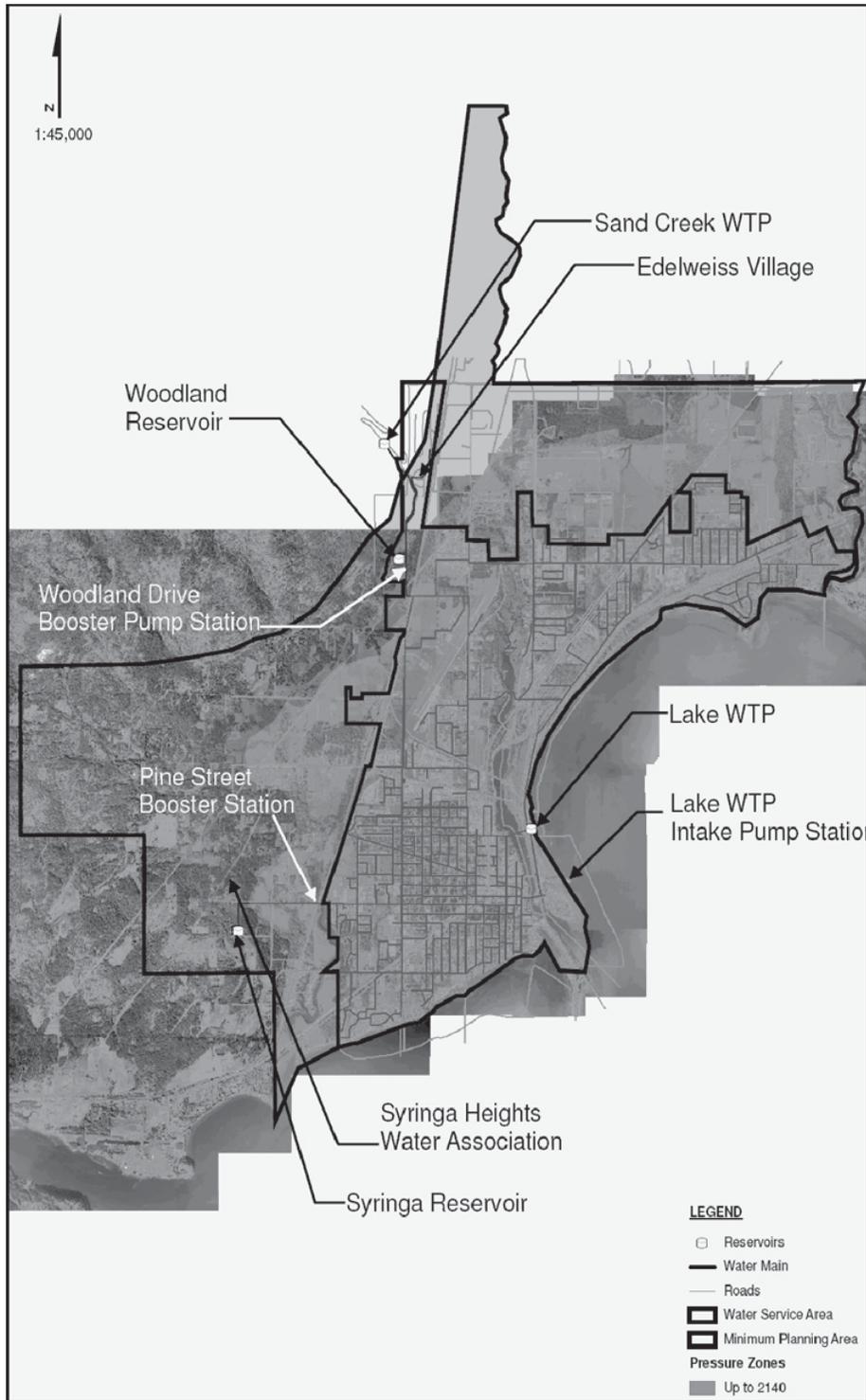


Figure 8.2 - Sandpoint's current water service area and minimum planning area (MPA) established by the City's Water Facility Plan. (Image source: CH2M Hill, Inc.)

Solid Waste Disposal

Sandpoint residents and businesses have garbage and recycling pickup under contract between the City of Sandpoint and the private firm, Waste Management. Residents also have access to the Bonner County Landfill.

Power Plants

Bonner County has two dams that provide power to communities across the northwest. Avista Utilities owns the Cabinet Gorge Dam, which is on the Clark Fork River near Cabinet, Idaho. The dam has two substations; one is operated by Avista and the other by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). The licensed generating capacity for the Cabinet Gorge Dam is 230 megawatts.

The second dam in Bonner County is the Albeni Falls Dam located on the Pend Oreille River at Albeni Falls near Oldtown. Albeni is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and provides power to BPA. According to the Bonner County Comprehensive Plan, the plan has three generators producing 54 megawatts each. The current plant capacity is 14.3 megawatts per unit at 100 percent load.

Utility Transmission Corridors

Two electrical transmission lines comprise the Spokane Regional Transmission Corridor. One of these lines runs from Albeni Falls Dam, through Sandpoint, then north to Bonner's Ferry. The other line does not run through Sandpoint.¹

¹ These corridors have not been identified as National Interest Corridors, relating to Idaho Statute 67-6508.

Sandpoint also hosts a Pacific Gas and Electric natural gas pipeline which runs through the Sandpoint Airport and crosses U.S. 95 running northeast to Elmira and through Boundary County.

Avista Utilities provides gas and electric services to Sandpoint. According to the Bonner County Comprehensive Plan, Avista serves 13,001 customers in the county. Additionally, Northern Lights, Inc., a member-owned cooperative based in nearby Sagle, provides electric service to approximately 40 subscribers in the Sandpoint area.

Public Safety Facilities

Conditions

All public safety activities are located in city hall at 1123 Lake Street.

The City of Sandpoint Fire Department and volunteers led by a full time fire chief serve the City of Sandpoint and has mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities. As with most fire departments across the United States, by far the majority of the department's call volume is in response to medical emergencies.

The City of Sandpoint Police Department is led by a full time police chief. The department serves the full time residents but is also impacted by the fact that Sandpoint is the county seat and a resort destination, significantly increasing the number of people it serves, particularly on a seasonal basis.

Needs:

Growth within the city may necessitate the need for additional facilities and equipment for each of these departments.

Table 8.1 - Water Treatment Plant Capacity Summary

Parameter	Lake WTP	Sand Creek WTP	Combined
Design Capacity	7.5 mgd (5,200 gpm)	4.6 mgd (3,200 gpm)	12.1 mgd (8,400 gpm)
Nominal Capacity*	3.5 mgd (2,431 gpm)	3.2 mgd (2,222 gpm)	6.7 mgd (4,653 gpm)
Reliable Treatment Capacity*	3.5 mgd (2,431 gpm)	0.5 mgd (347 gpm)	4.0 mgd (2,778 gpm)

* The Water Facility Plan defines nominal WTP capacity as the capacity to meet the City's established treatment goals. Nominal capacity is not necessarily the same as design or rated capacity, because the City's treatment goals may differ from the WTP design criteria. Reliable capacity takes into account seasonal limits on water supply and/or the possibility that a treatment unit could be out of service.

Health and Welfare Facilities

The City of Sandpoint includes many health care facilities, and is one of the primary healthcare centers in Northern Idaho. The city includes a hospital, clinics, many private doctor offices, nursing homes and retirement homes, and even a “Healing Garden.” Health care related jobs are increasing in Sandpoint. Between 2001 and 2006, the number of covered jobs in Health & Social Assistance increased by 31 percent – an Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) of seven percent. Bonner General Hospital, for example, employs between 300 and 399 health care workers, a large portion of the health care jobs in Sandpoint.

Libraries

The East Bonner County Library District with headquarters in Sandpoint was formed in 1974, replacing the library previously operated by the City of Sandpoint . It serves city and county residents east of Laclede to the Montana border.

Schools

Lake Pend Oreille School District #84 has two elementary schools, a middle school, a high school and an alternative high school

within the city limits. There are also a number of private schools inside the city.

The impact of schools on neighborhoods and the community are taken into

account in city planning decisions.

Plan Concept

As Sandpoint grows, the public services that keep the city running also need to grow. The concept of this comprehensive plan centers on providing appropriate levels of services for reasonable levels of growth to keep pace with changes forecast to occur in the next 20 years. Providing high levels of service doesn't always mean just increasing capacity of existing services or adding new services. Arrangement of land uses, inclusion of multi modal transportation alternatives, creative approaches to storm water, and efficient use of existing services are some of the ways this plan and its goals and policies address population growth and the increased need for public services.

Innovation and planning are essential to keep Sandpoint on top of public service demand. Continued updates to capital facilities plans, monitoring of fire/EMS and police services, and reduction of need through education, decreased waste, increased efficiency, and protecting the environment.

Goal PS-1:Public Services

Provide public services to keep pace with changes in community demand, while increasing sustainability to reduce infrastructure cost.

Policies

- A** Update and adhere to the city’s long-range plan to protect Sandpoint’s water quality and reduce nutrient load into the Pend Oreille water system.
- B** Regularly review and update impact fee requirements to ensure they are appropriate.
- C** Arrange land uses and public services systems to make them as efficient as practicable.
- D** Plan in advance for site acquisition for water, sewer and other public services for upgrades and, as needed, expansion.
- E** Encourage the development of clean, localized energy production.
- F** Reduce per-capita water and waste water use.
- G** Ensure that regional facility planning is coordinated with City of Sandpoint land use criteria
- H** Develop and implement stormwater master plan.

☒ Goal PS-2: Health & Safety

Keep Sandpoint safe and clean.

Policies

- A** Provide adequate levels of police and fire services for maximum efficiency in law enforcement and fire fighting services.
- B** Arrange for adequate solid waste collection and disposal and recycling services.
- C** Maintain city streets and multimodal corridors to ensure safe and convenient travel.
- D** Look for opportunities to increase efficiency by resource sharing between city departments.
- E** Encourage and enter into mutual aid with Bonner County and adjacent municipalities to increase efficiency of emergency services.

☒ Goal PS-3: Education

Establish an environment where children excel in school.

Policies

- A** Consider impacts on the school district when considering land use decisions:
- B** Provide for safe, attractive, and convenient multimodal routes to schools.
- C** Partner with LPSD to use schools as community centers.
- D** Encourage educational and vocational institutions to develop programs that will result in local employment opportunities for graduates.

