

GOAL 11

**PUBLIC FACILITIES &
SERVICES**

The residents of Benton County recognize the importance of nurturing and sustaining public infrastructure and human systems that address adequate and affordable food, shelter, transportation, education, health care, public safety, and other vital services.

Benton County Comprehensive Plan Value Statement

GOAL 11

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES

Overview

Public facilities and services provide the basic support systems for urban and rural development. These systems include water and sewer systems, storm drainage facilities, police and fire protection, health and social services, schools, and library service. Transportation is also a public facility and is addressed separately under Goal 12. The County is primarily responsible for planning for public services in non-urbanized areas.

There are several important issues relating to the provision of public facilities and services:

- a. Meeting the needs of county residents while supporting overall growth management strategies and the protection of resource lands;
- b. Maintaining health, safety, and security throughout the county;
- c. Ensuring efficient use of energy, materials and space in the provision of services and the operation of public facilities;
- d. Applying uniform standards in the design and evaluation of services for new development;
- e. Providing accessibility of services; and
- f. Cooperating and collaborating among the various providers of public services.

The following policies provide the framework for County responsibility for planning for needed services and managing the impacts of development on existing facilities and services.

County Boards & Committees

- Benton Community Health Center
- Fair Board
- Law Enforcement Review Committee

Multi-Jurisdictional Boards

- Public Health Planning Advisory Committee
- Local Public Safety Coordinating Council
- Corvallis-Benton County Library Board



Benton County Fairgrounds

GOAL 11

Statewide Planning Goal 11

To plan and develop a timely, orderly and efficient arrangement of public facilities and services to serve as a framework for urban and rural development.

Urban and rural development shall be guided and supported by types and levels of urban and rural public facilities and services appropriate for, but limited to, the needs and requirements of the urban, urbanizable, and rural areas to be served. A provision for key facilities shall be included in each plan. Cities or counties shall develop and adopt a public facility plan for areas within an urban growth boundary containing a population greater than 2,500 persons. To meet current and long-range needs, a provision for solid waste disposal sites, including sites for inert waste, shall be included in each plan.

Counties shall develop and adopt community public facility plans regulating facilities and services for certain unincorporated communities outside urban growth boundaries as specified by Commission rules.

Excerpt from
OAR 660-015-0000(11)

Benton County Goal

Public Facilities & Services

To plan, develop, and maintain public facilities and services that serve the needs of Benton County in an orderly and efficient manner.

Policy Sections

- 11.1 General Policies
- 11.2 Domestic Water
- 11.3 Sanitary Sewer
- 11.4 Storm Drainage
- 11.5 Utilities
- 11.6 Law Enforcement & Fire Protection
- 11.7 Health & Social Services
- 11.8 Education
- 11.9 Public Buildings
- 11.10 Public Library
- 11.11 Fairgrounds

Cross-References

Additional policies related to this goal:

- Goal 6 Air, Water & Land Resource Quality
- Goal 8 Recreational Needs
- Goal 10 Housing
- Goal 12 Transportation
- Goal 13 Energy Conservation
- Goal 14 Urbanization

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES

Policies

- 11.1.1 Benton County shall recognize that cities are the appropriate provider of urban level facilities.
- 11.1.2 Benton County shall develop and adopt public facility plans for officially designated unincorporated communities, to ensure that the facilities function safely and efficiently.
- 11.1.3 Benton County shall manage the use of the public right-of-way.
- 11.1.4 Benton County shall strengthen functional links between Public Health, Emergency Management, and Law Enforcement to enhance emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

11.1 General Policies

Defined Terms

- community water system
- community sewage system
- Corvallis Federal Urbanized Area
- green infrastructure
- municipal water system
- public water system
- unincorporated communities
- urban growth boundaries
- watershed

See **Appendix** for definitions

Policies

- 11.2.1 Benton County shall require a conditional use permit for any new public or community water system to ensure it is adequately designed and constructed, is compatible with uses on neighboring properties, and that it will be maintained.
- 11.2.2 Benton County shall allow municipal water systems to be extended outside urban growth boundaries when found to be consistent with Statewide Planning Goals.
- 11.2.3 Benton County shall require developers to demonstrate that water supplies are adequate and sustainable for the scale of development proposed.
- 11.2.4 Benton County shall evaluate the need to provide new standards that would require public water systems in lieu of individual wells and adopt standards appropriate to address that need.

11.2 Domestic Water

GOAL 11

11.3 Sanitary Sewer

Policies

- 11.3.1 Benton County may permit the creation of community sewage systems to serve uses within the boundaries of officially designated unincorporated communities.

11.4 Storm Drainage

Policies

- 11.4.1 Benton County shall require proposed developments to address on-site and off-site stormwater runoff to minimize impacts to downstream properties.
- 11.4.2 Benton County shall use watershed management strategies and green infrastructure to reduce stormwater impacts, by utilizing and enhancing natural drainage systems, in order to ensure a healthy environment and minimize the risk of flooding.
- 11.4.3 In coordination with the cities of Corvallis and Philomath, Benton County shall develop a stormwater management plan for the unincorporated portion of the Corvallis Federal Urbanized Area that is consistent with state and federal guidelines; and, where appropriate, Benton County shall develop similar plans, or elements thereof, for other areas of the county.

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES

Policies

- 11.5.1 Benton County shall establish standards – such as encouraging collocation of wireless facilities – to minimize visual and other impacts of utilities.
- 11.5.2 Benton County shall encourage coordination between all utilities, both public and private, to minimize conflicts, cost, damage to public facilities, and future need for relocation.

11.5 Utilities



Policies

- 11.6.2 Benton County shall consider law enforcement and fire protection needs when reviewing the physical design of development plans.
- 11.6.3 Benton County shall promote crime prevention techniques to reduce the demand for public law enforcement services.
- 11.6.4 Benton County shall collaborate with the fire districts in establishing and applying uniform standards and procedures to ensure new development will be provided with adequate fire protection.

11.6 Law Enforcement & Fire Protection



Hoskins - Kings Valley Rural Fire Protection District

GOAL 11

11.7 Health & Social Services



Alsea Rural Health Clinic

Policies

- 11.7.1 Benton County shall work to increase access to health and social services, especially for those disadvantaged by age, income, or disability.
- 11.7.2 Benton County shall encourage public and private agencies to cooperate in planning and providing for health and related social services.
- 11.7.3 Benton County shall encourage and support health, mental health, and social services that are responsive to changes in demographics, socioeconomic status, and public health indicators within the county's population.
- 11.7.4 Benton County shall increase public awareness of public health emergency preparedness and encourage or require residences, businesses, and critical infrastructure facilities to increase resistance to communicable disease threats.
- 11.7.5 Benton County shall encourage health and social service providers to use methods that are based upon documented best practices, maximize resources, and promote preventive health approaches.

11.8 Education



Inavale School

Policies

- 11.8.1 Benton County and the school districts shall collaborate as part of any land use decision that impacts the districts.
- 11.8.2 Benton County and colleges and universities shall collaborate as part of any land use activities that impact these institutions.
- 11.8.3 Benton County shall encourage schools serving primarily urban areas to be located within urban growth boundaries.
- 11.8.4 Benton County shall encourage the utilization of schools, especially in rural areas, as community centers for activities such as public meetings, continuing education, recreation, and cultural events.
- 11.8.5 Benton County shall discourage locating schools adjacent to arterial and major collector roads.

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES

Policies

- 11.9.1** Benton County shall encourage the consolidation of public buildings in centralized locations to increase the convenience to the public and decrease the amount of travel between public offices.
- 11.9.2** Benton County shall encourage, through design and policy, the use of public buildings for multiple purposes.
- 11.9.3** Benton County shall encourage clustering of public uses and public services in unincorporated communities.
- 11.9.4** Benton County shall maximize energy conservation and minimize environmental impacts in the design, construction, and use of public buildings.

11.9 Public Buildings



Policies

- 11.10.1** Benton County shall continue support for the regional library system.

11.10 Public Library



Policies

- 11.11.1** Benton County shall continue to support the county's annual fair and the fairgrounds as a special events center in a rural setting.

11.11 Fairgrounds



GOAL 11

Findings and References

11.1 General

11.1.a Cities are required to develop and maintain facility master plans for public facilities within their urban growth boundaries. In addition, the County maintains urban fringe management agreements with each city.

11.1.b Existing water and sewer facilities in unincorporated communities have sometimes become a public burden, resulting in the County taking over and operating these facilities.

11.1.c Uncoordinated utility installations in the public right-of-way can result in multiple street cuts and increased public costs to maintain such facilities.

11.2 Domestic Water

11.2.a The Benton County Health Department is authorized by the state to conduct inspections of public and community water systems every 3-5 years. The Oregon Water Resources Department is responsible for ensuring the system provides (a) an adequate water supply, (b) a mechanism by which each user is assessed, and (c) assurance that the system will be installed properly and maintained.

11.2.b The state allows municipal water systems to be extended outside urban growth boundaries, i.e. to remedy a health hazard.

11.2.c Individual water wells in subdivisions have drawn down groundwater supplies and created supply problems for residents.

11.2.d Benton County is interested in the sustainable use and management of groundwater supplies. The State Water Resources Board oversees water allotment for public and community water systems.

11.3 Sanitary Sewer

11.3.a Private and publicly owned sewage treatment facilities offer an alternative to septic systems in some unincorporated communities. The County is restricted by the State as to where these systems are allowed and not allowed.

11.3.b Statewide Planning Goal 11 states that local governments shall not allow the establishment or extension of sewer systems outside urban growth boundaries or unincorporated community boundaries, or allow extensions of sewer lines from within urban growth boundaries or unincorporated community boundaries to serve land outside those boundaries, except where the new or extended system is the only practicable alternative to mitigate a public health hazard and will not adversely affect farm or forest land.

11.4 Storm Drainage

11.4.a The cumulative effects of stormwater discharge from development projects can negatively impact downstream properties, water quality, and fish habitat.

11.4.b Existing watersheds and natural drainage systems that are maintained and enhanced ensure a healthy environment and minimize the risk of flooding.

11.4.c The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Phase 2, requires Benton County to develop a stormwater management plan for the Corvallis "federal urbanized area" in coordination with the cities of Corvallis and Philomath. The stormwater management plan must address erosion control at construction sites, illicit discharges into the stormwater system, pollution prevention

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES

Findings and References

from municipal operations, long-term/broad-scale development effects on stormwater, and education and outreach.

11.5 Utilities

11.5.a The demand for wireless telecommunication services is growing rapidly. The infrastructure needed to support wireless telecommunication services has not kept up with consumer demands.

11.6 Law Enforcement & Fire Protection

11.6.a The physical design of rural development can impact the County's ability to provide law enforcement and fire protection services.

11.6.b Coordination between law enforcement and fire protection agencies will improve the County's ability to respond to major disasters.

11.6.c County residents can practice crime prevention techniques as a means to reduce the need for public law enforcement, such as property security, lighting, identification of possessions, and surveillance of neighboring properties.

11.6.d Insurance rates for rural areas can be kept at a minimum if adequate fire protection is provided. The International Fire Code includes minimum fire protection standards; however, the fire districts do not uniformly apply the standards.

11.7 Health & Social Services

11.7.a The elderly, low income, and disabled who reside in rural areas often have the greatest need for public health and social services. Benton County has developed health clinics in rural communities and

currently operates special transit service to these areas.

11.7.b Cooperation among public health and social service providers can result in a more efficient and comprehensive delivery system.

11.7.c 2000 census data showed that 11 percent of Benton County population identified itself as non-white, up from 8 percent in 1990. Additionally, agriculture in Benton County is attracting a growing population of migrant and seasonal laborers. The resultant changes in demographic diversity within the county will have a significant impact on the range and type of health and social service needs.

11.7.d Medical and public health science are creating new and different circumstances where the percentage of Benton County residents living with morbid obesity, diabetes, organ failure and transplants, HIV, joint replacements, blindness, mobility challenges and other problems will continue to increase. This presents new and significantly different challenges to public services and facilities than those faced in recent decades.

11.8 Education

11.8.a Reductions in state school funding have resulted in consolidation of schools, particularly those with low enrollment. Major rural land use decisions can impact the school district's ability to maintain rural schools.

11.8.b Oregon State University conducts farm and forest research activities throughout Benton County.

11.8.c Schools serving urban areas are used more frequently by the community and have more cost effective bus routes when they are centrally located.

GOAL 11

Findings and References

11.8.d Schools can serve as community centers and be used for other uses in rural communities.

11.8.e Schools located on major roads have resulted in undesirable traffic congestion and safety concerns.

11.9 Public Buildings

11.9.a Locating public offices in centralized locations is the most cost effective and convenient way to serve the public.

11.9.b Joint use and round-the-clock use of public buildings reduces the need for costly expansions or construction of new buildings.

11.9.c In outlying areas, clustering of public services is a cost effective and convenient way of serving rural residents.

11.9.d Energy conservation saves money and will likely result in less environmental impact.

11.10 Public Library

11.10.a Library patrons demand expanded collections of both traditional and electronic information resources and services. The library's taxing district funds roughly 1/3 of library services, with remaining funds from the Corvallis general fund. The buildings that house the libraries are owned by the local communities.

11.10.b The regional library includes the central library, branch libraries, bookmobile, and the mobile branch library.

11.11 Fairgrounds

11.11.a The fairgrounds provide affordable rental facilities for local businesses and residents.

11.11.b The fairgrounds support youth and family activities in partnership with Oregon State University Extension and other community partners.

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