

## **CITY OF BLAINE CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN**

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires local governments to:

*...ensure that those public facilities necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards (Revised Code of Washington [RCW] 36.70A.020(12)).*

As noted in Chapter 1, Population, the population within the Blaine Urban Growth Area (UGA) is projected to increase by 85% to 9,591 by the year 2036, an increase of 4,414 persons. The Blaine UGA is significantly smaller than it was in 2006. The intent of this Appendix is to assess and plan for the various public capital facilities that are needed to support the projected population increase within the current UGA boundaries.

The Capital Facilities Plan is a required element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan intended to achieve the goal of ensuring that public facilities are adequate to support projected development. The GMA requires that the Capital Facilities Plan addresses the following (RCW 36.70A.070(3)):

- a) An inventory of existing capital facilities owned by public entities, showing the locations and capacities of the capital facilities;*
- b) a forecast of the future needs for such capital facilities;*
- c) the proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new capital facilities;*
- d) at least a six-year plan that will finance such capital facilities within projected funding capacities and clearly identifies sources of public money for such purposes; and*
- e) a requirement to reassess the land use element if probable funding falls short of meeting existing needs and to ensure that the land use element, capital facilities plan element, and financing plan within the capital facilities plan element are coordinated and consistent.*

The definition of “Capital Facility” varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. The State of Washington specifies which services and facilities must be planned and provided by cities, but does not provide clear direction to differentiate capital facilities from annual operating expenses. According to City policy, a “Capital Facility” is a piece of land, structure, improvement, piece of equipment or other major asset which has a useful life of three years or greater. Capital facilities include: general government offices, police and fire stations, schools, roads, water and sewer systems, and parks and recreational facilities. A capital facility has a cost exceeding \$5,000.00.

The State of Washington requires that the Capital Facilities Plan addresses water systems, sanitary sewer systems, storm water facilities, reclaimed water facilities, schools, parks and recreational facilities, and police and fire protection facilities (Washington Administrative Code [WAC] 365-196-415(2)(ii)).

This Appendix contains a general overview of City revenues and expenditures and discussions of each of the above-noted public capital facilities, including a description of existing capital facilities, a forecast of future needs and levels of service (LOS), proposed capital improvement projects, and a discussion of the six-year financing plan.

### GENERAL OVERVIEW OF CITY REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

The following is an overview of City revenues and expenditures, which affect the City's ability to provide necessary capital facilities. Figures 1 and 2 below summarize the City's revenues and expenditures as noted in the adopted 2016 City budget. This chart shows the relative distribution of the various revenue and expense categories. While the specific dollar amounts will change over time, the relative distributions are likely to remain similar to that shown in the chart.

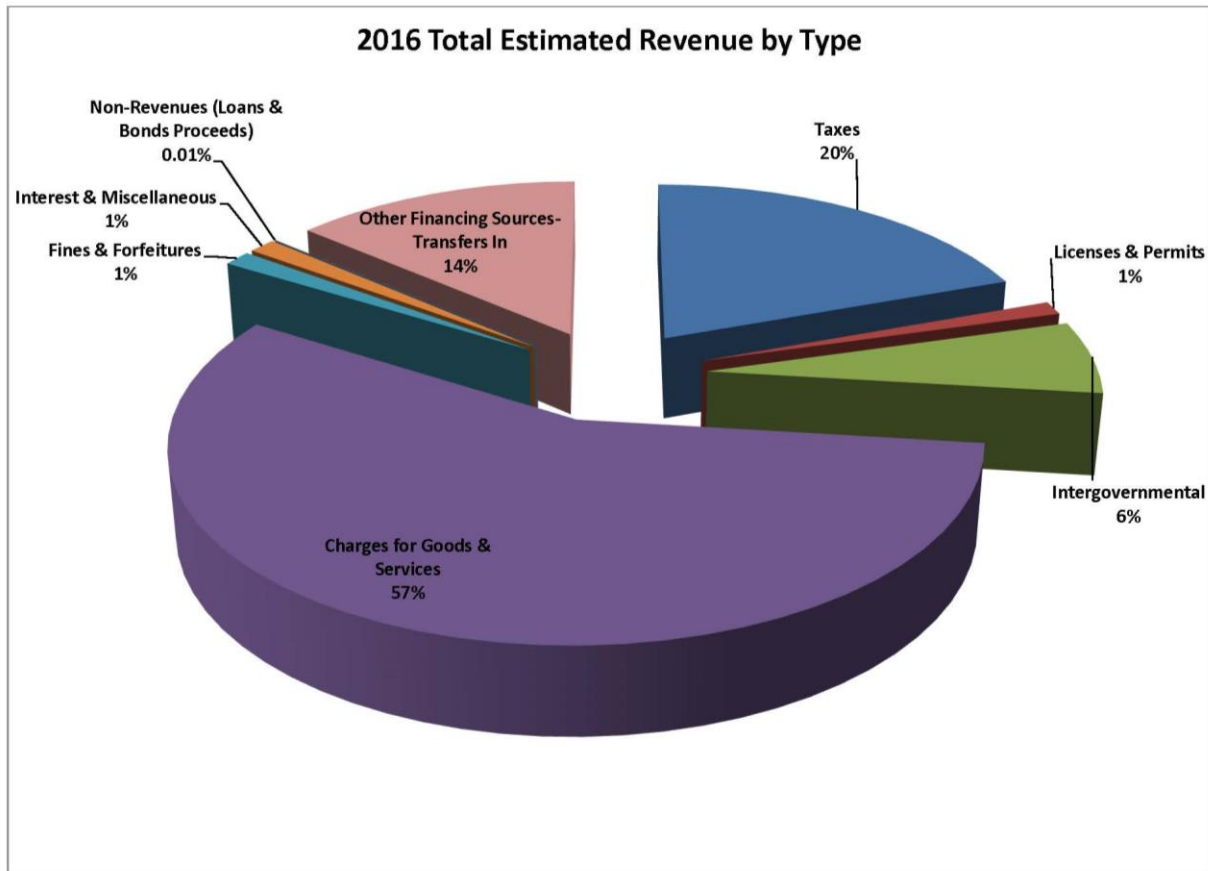
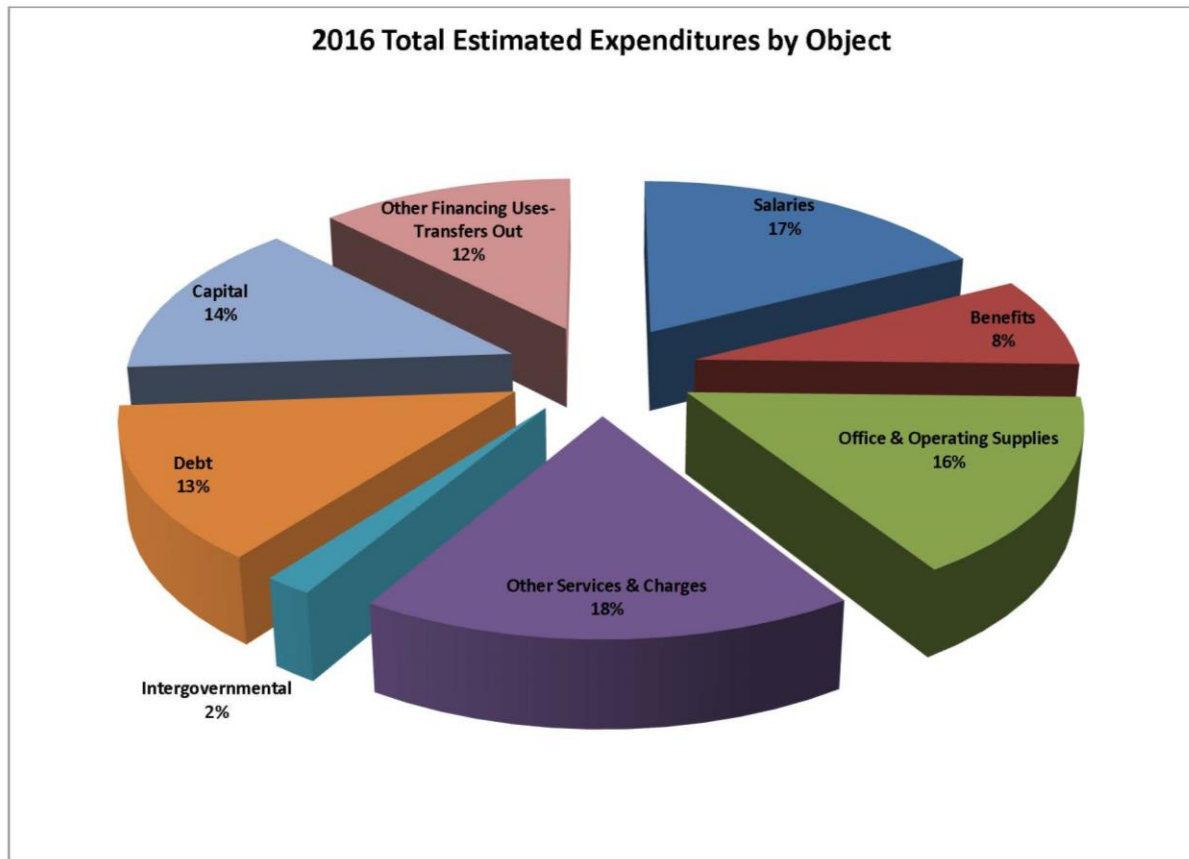


Figure 1. Total Estimated Revenue by Type.



**Figure 2. Total Estimated Expenditure by Object.**

The following are descriptions of common revenue sources available to fund City expenditures.

**Taxes:** Taxes levied by a government for the purpose of financing services performed for the common benefit. Examples include Property, Sales, and Utility Taxes. Property tax is assessed on real property, including land and structures, based on the assessed value established by the Whatcom County Assessor. Property taxes are collected by the County, and a portion of the revenues are returned to the City. Sales tax is collected on most retail sales (excluding groceries and prescription medicines), new construction and building improvements, and some services, including lodging and restaurants. The sales and use tax rate in the City is 8.5%. The State retains 6.5%, 0.60% goes to the Whatcom Transit Authority, 0.45% goes to Whatcom County, and 0.10% for county-wide criminal justice programs. The City of Blaine keeps 0.85%. Other taxes collected by the City of Blaine include the hotel/motel tax, which funds tourism related activities, the penny per gallon gas tax, which funds street operations and maintenance, and utility taxes charged on the sale of utility services within the City.

**Licenses and Permits:** These include charges for issuance of licenses and permits, for example, Business Licenses. This category does not include inspection charges.

**Intergovernmental Revenue:** This revenue includes grants, entitlements, shared revenues, and payments for goods and services provided by one government to another. These revenues include State and Federal Grants, state funding for border impacts, motor vehicle and liquor excise taxes, and liquor board profits. The majority of these revenues is based on per capita revenue formulas, and will increase in proportion to population growth. Others are tied to state and federal funding programs.

**Goods and Services Charges:** Charges for services rendered or goods sold by the city except to other governments or another City department or group. Examples include electric, water, sewer, and storm water services.

**Fines and Forfeitures:** Fines are monetary judgments commonly imposed by the court; forfeitures are penalties by which one loses rights and interest in property because of commission of an offense or nonperformance of an obligation or duty. Examples include penalties collected for parking and traffic tickets.

**Miscellaneous Revenues:** Includes operating revenues not classified elsewhere, such as interest, rents, leases, concessions, and contributions from private sources. Examples include interest earnings and rental income. Impact mitigation for specific projects fall into this category. The City currently has a park impact fee. The City also collects a mitigation fee for development projects that meet thresholds established through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The City does not currently have impact fees to fund fire or police capital facilities, but such fees should be considered to increase revenue available to fund such facilities.

**Non-Revenues:** These revenues are for items such as interfund loan proceeds and proceeds of long-term debt for proprietary funds.

**Other Financing Sources:** These are changes in current financial resources that are reported separately from revenues to avoid distorting revenue trends. Examples include sale of GO Bonds, proceeds from the disposition of capital assets, and operating transfers in. The City currently owns the City Hall building at 435 Martin Street. This building houses City administrative department functions, City Council Chambers, and several private tenants on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. The building was funded with a 10-year general obligation bond. The bond is expected to be paid off in 2021 at which point additional space could be made available for City needs or leases to private tenants could be used as additional City revenue.

## **WATER SYSTEM**

The City of Blaine's Water Utility is operated as an enterprise fund of the City pursuant to the statutes set forth under Title 35.92 of the Revised Code of Washington. Funding for Utility operations, debt service and system improvements is derived from service charges, fees and assessments associated with providing and delivering services. As an enterprise fund, the City is required to manage the fund as a separate entity to include maintenance of separate accounts for revenue and expenditures in order to allow for accountability in the setting of rates and charges for service.

The City of Blaine Comprehensive Water System Plan (2021) indicates that the City of Blaine maintains a water system comprised of wells, water reservoirs, and transmission and distribution mains.

### **Inventory of Existing Capital Facilities**

## Appendix A – Capital Facilities Plan

The City’s water sources include twelve production wells and one additional City-owned well that is not yet equipped for production. The production wells supply water to five storage reservoirs, then from the reservoirs to the service area through the network of transmission and distribution mains. As of December 2018, there were 2,846 connections or 8,758 equivalent residential units (ERUs). An ERU represents the amount of water consumed by a typical single-family residence in the city. Within the water system there also are four active booster pump stations and interties with two adjacent purveyors: Birch Bay Water and Sewer District and Bell Bay Jackson Water Association. Table 1 summarizes the City’s supply system inventory.

The Blaine water system serves city residents and provides water, per terms of wholesale supply agreements, to both the Birch Bay Water and Sewer District (BBWSD) and the Bell Bay Jackson Water Association. The City provides service throughout the current City Limits, with the exception of a few parcels that are presently more readily served directly by the Birch Bay system. The City also serves the Pipeline Road UGA, but service to the Shipyard UGA is by Birch Bay Water and Sewer District. The City also serves an area of unincorporated Whatcom County southeast of the City. The 2021 Plan describes minor changes to expand the City’s retail water service area to include several more parcels in the unincorporated area southeast of the City.

Table 2 inventories existing water capital facilities within the Blaine water system.

**Table 1. Blaine Water Supply Inventory.**

Connections		Water Rights		Contracted Water		Available Supply		Storage Capacity (mg)	Primary Water Source
Existing (2018)	Approved	Annual	Instantaneous	Annual	Instantaneous	Annual	Instantaneous		
2,846	-	5.85	7.63	(2.392)	(3.824)	3.551	3.9	5.10	Wells

Notes:

- All water quantity metrics expressed in millions of gallons per day (mgd), except storage capacity which is million gallons (mg).
- Available supply is the sum of water rights and contracts. It represents the total supply available to serve Blaine’s own customers.
- Contracted water numbers in parentheses indicate contracts to provide water to other systems. Such contracts are subtracted from Blaine’s water rights to calculate available supply.

**Table 2. Blaine Water System Capital Facilities Inventory.**

<b>Facility Name/Designation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date Acquired</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
<b>Water Tanks/ Reservoirs</b>			
Tank and Rtu	248 Harvey Rd.	1991	1.2 M Gallons
Tank and Rtu	Lincoln Park	1991	1.3 M Gallons
Tank and Rtu	8809 Semiahmoo Parkway	1986	1 M Gallons
Tank	E St & Allen	1969	85,000 Gallons
Tank	3895 Pipeline	1959	1.4 M Gallons
<b>Booster Stations</b>			
Booster Pump Station #2 (2 Pumps)	1791 D St. Water Tank	1999	250 gpm
Booster Pump Station #3	9540 Semiahmoo Parkway (Marina)	1986	1,000 gpm
Booster Pump Station #4	8809 Semiahmoo Parkway	1986	1,100 gpm
Booster Pump Station #5	Lincoln Park		500 gpm
<b>Water Sources (Production Wells)</b>			
PW-1R	Blaine Well Field	1995	350 gpm
PW-2	Blaine Well Field	1963	200 gpm
PW-3R	Blaine Well Field	1961	450 gpm
PW-4	Blaine Well Field		300 gpm
PW-4.1	Blaine Well Field	2005	185 gpm (limited to 100 with PW-4 operating)
PW-5.0	Blaine Well Field	1975	450 gpm
PW-5.1	Blaine Well Field	2007	900 gpm
PW-6 (not in use)	Blaine Well Field	1985	80 gpm
PW-7	12th Street	1929	250 gpm
PW-8	Lincoln Park		100 gpm
PW-8.1	Lincoln Park	2007	525 gpm (limited to 270 with PW-7 and 8 operating)
PW-9	Boblett	2011	190 gpm
PW-2D	Red Cedar Road	2010	(not equipped)

### Forecast of Future Needs and Levels of Service

The projected average daily demand for the Blaine water system is approximately 2.87 million gallons per day in 2038 and the projected maximum daily demand is approximately 5.9 million gallons per day in 2038. The City of Blaine Comprehensive Water System Plan (2009/2021) documents adequate water rights, with all sources in service, are available to meet the forecast system-wide demand for Maximum Day Demand (MDD) through 2038. The City’s system-wide demand for MDD will be met under current source capacity through 2028, if growth and water use is as forecast. Additional wells and/or well capacity is recommended for near-term reliability and long-term needs.

Water system plans provide a level of service (LOS) or design standard, generally expressed as water consumption in gallons/capita or gallons/ERU per day. When applying this standard to existing and growth projections, and comparing to the water source capacity, a water system provider can obtain a sense for how planned growth will affect water service into the future. The 2021 Comprehensive Water System Plan anticipates an LOS of 180 gallons/day per ERU for the City of Blaine.

Table 3 below provides an overview of the planning horizon year and horizon year population for the latest water system plans in comparison to Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan’s population projections for the year 2036. The water system plan contains more conservative projections for drinking water needs, particularly given the time it takes to seek new water supplies to serve growth.

**Table 3. Population Comparison: 2021 Water Plan and 2036 Population Projection.**

Service Provider	Horizon year of Capital Plan	Capital Plan Population (2038 Horizon Year)	2036 Population Projection
City of Blaine	2038	10,851 <sup>1</sup>	9,585

1 Estimated service area population per City 2021 Comprehensive Water System Plan for Year 2038.

### Capital Facilities Projects

The City of Blaine Comprehensive Water System Plan (2021) contains a 10-year capital improvement program (2019-2028) with approximately \$22 million in capital projects.

The six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Blaine water system is included in Attachment A.

### Six-year Financing Plan

The City of Blaine finances improvements to the water system through a variety of revenue sources, including grants, loans, connection fees, water rates and developer constructed facility contracts. The City’s financing plan has and will project adequate revenues to cover expenses over the 6-year financial planning period. As indicated in Blaine’s six-year CIP for the period 2022-2027, total project costs of approximately \$19.47 million are anticipated, with capital funding to cover these costs from a variety of funding sources, including increases in charges for services, debt financing, and other measures.

The Water Utility derives its revenue from several sources including charges for services (rates), assessment and connection fees, developer constructed facility contracts and miscellaneous revenue. Assessment and connection fees include General Facility Fees,

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Connection Fees, and Front Footage Fees. Miscellaneous revenue includes grants, LID assessments, and fees and charges associated with customer service. Revenues collected from assessment and connection fees are transferred into the Cumulative Reserve Account set aside for system improvements. City policy dictates a percentage of operating costs also be set aside as an operating reserve each year. The following is a summary of these revenue sources.

- A. Rates. The majority of the revenue collected in support of the operations and maintenance of the Water Utility is derived from rates charged for the delivery of services. Revenues derived from rates are generally allocated to the operation and maintenance of the system, debt service payments, and administrative and overhead costs. Revenue collected in excess of operational requirements is transferred into a cumulative reserve account set aside for system improvements.
- B. General Facility Fee. The General Facility Fees (GFFs) are designed to recover a pro rata share of the cost of the Utility’s system improvements from new customers wishing to connect to the utility system. These charges accomplish three purposes: (1) they compensate existing customers for investments already made in the system which benefit new customers; (2) they help to avoid or reduce growth-induced rate impacts due to system expansion; and, (3) they provide a source of capital for the utility. The use of these revenues is restricted to capital projects only.
- C. Connection Fees. The Connection Fee is designed to recover the cost of providing connection between the City’s water distribution system and the property owner’s system. The charge compensates the City for the cost of labor, materials and equipment to provide such connection.
- D. Front Footage Fees. The Front Footage Fee is designed to recover the utility’s cost for the installation of the water distribution system mains and appurtenances installed by the utility for providing water service to the area property owners. Fees are assessed each property owner based on the total front footage of property fronting a main. The use of these revenues is restricted to capital projects.
- E. Capital Reserve Funds. Financing improvements through capital reserve funds is restricted by bond ordinance covenants and prudent utility management practices; however, a portion of these funds may be available to finance the recommended capital improvements. The greatest advantage in using capital reserves is that repayment is not required. Disadvantages include the loss of capital to use on projects and emergency situations, when other financing alternatives may not be available.
- F. Debt Financing. The primary forms of debt financing available to the City include unlimited general obligation (GO) bonds, limited GO bonds, and revenue bonds. GO bonds are backed by the “full faith and credit of the City” and are usually paid for through property tax levies. Revenue bonds are typically backed by the revenues of a utility.
- G. State/Federal Grants and Loans. State and federal funding support for local agency infrastructure in the form of direct grants in aid, interagency loans and general revenue sharing, have been sharply curtailed over the past decade. The current primary sources of assistance are the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE), the Washington State Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF), the State Revolving Fund (SRF), the Community Development Block Grant Program, USDA Rural Development funds, and the Farmers



Home Administration (FmHA). These and other grants/loans should be carefully monitored by the City and aggressively pursued when potential funding sources become available. However, numerous applicants compete for a limited resource pool, making this a tenuous funding mechanism that cannot be relied upon as a consistent element of the City’s revenue base. Even when communities secure grants or loans for their programs, these sources rarely provide full funding of a construction project. In addition, the Fund has largely been tapped to help finance other state priorities. Therefore, these funding sources should be realistically considered as secondary inputs to the City’s overall funding strategy.

- H. Improvement Districts and Special Assessments. Projects funded through special assessments must have a special identifiable benefit to the properties included in the assessment area. Charges for each parcel must also be consistent with the relative benefit to each property. In Washington, municipalities can attempt to establish a local improvement district (LID) or utility local improvement district (ULID). The use of these techniques involves an assessment against property owners within the identified district. In order to achieve this, a majority of property owners within the boundaries of the proposed district must agree to the establishment of the improvement district. Improvement districts require financial participation in the LID. Other drawbacks to the use of LIDs in building small local improvements are their administrative inefficiencies and consequent burden on a city’s limited staff resources.

## **WASTEWATER SYSTEM**

City of Blaine provides a collection and a wastewater treatment system for property within the city limits. The City also provides contract service to the Harbor Shores Sewer Association in the City’s southern UGA area. Blaine’s wastewater treatment is handled by the Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility, constructed in 2010. The facility, which generates Class A reclaimed water, was a full replacement of the City’s prior treatment plant. The City plans future sewer service to areas within its UGA, and has adequate expansion capacity in the Lighthouse Point facility for the projected 2036 population.

### **Inventory of Existing Capital Facilities**

The City of Blaine General Sewer Plan (2004, revised 2005) and associated Technical Memorandum (2016) indicate that the City of Blaine maintains a wastewater collection and conveyance system comprised of gravity sewers, pump stations, and force mains. The City of Blaine operates the Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility, which uses advanced membrane bio-reactors to purify wastewater to meet Class A water reuse standards, and discharges to Semiahmoo Bay. The plant replaced the City’s former facility, which has since been decommissioned. Lighthouse Point generates reclaimed water suitable for industrial and agricultural uses, and the City is currently contracted with Resort Semiahmoo to supply reclaimed water for golf course irrigation, and a private user for service of a landscape water feature.

The plant has a design capacity to treat an annual average of 2.0 million gallons per day (mgd) at full build-out, and has the current capacity to treat an annual average of 1.54 mgd. The existing average annual flow is 0.5 mgd, resulting in a surplus capacity of 1.04 mgd, while serving an estimated population of 4,778 (2013).

Table 4 provides an inventory of existing Blaine wastewater system capital facilities.

**Table 4. Blaine Wastewater System Capital Facilities Inventory.**

Facility Name/Designation	Location	Date Acquired	Est. Present Value
<b>Wastewater Treatment Facility</b>			
WWTP Underground Storage Tank-400,000 gal	272 Marine Dr	2008	\$ 3,780,362.00
Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility	272 Marine Dr	2010	\$ 32,358,392.00
<b>Wastewater Lift Stations</b>			
Lift Station #5/ Control Panel	LS5 near Kingsley - Peace Portal Dr	1991	\$ 6,521.00
Lift Station #3/ Generator (40 01 06)	L3 behind 1855 Pipeline	1981	\$ 13,039.00
Lift Station #7/ Control Panel (Lid 14)	LS 7 new 1410 Runge Ave.	1991	\$ 6,521.00
Lift Station #8/ Control Panel (Lid 13)	LS 9 5398 Night Heron	1991	\$ 6,521.00
Lift Station #9/ Rtu/ Control Panel	LS 8 5345 Drayton Harbor Rd.	1995	\$ 13,039.00
Lift Station #6/ Control Panel (Lid 14)	LS 6 New 1181 Rene Ct. Dodd Ave	1991	\$ 6,521.00
Lift Station #4/ Generator (40 51 02) Spit	LS 4 Near 9550 Semiahmoo Parkway	1986	\$ 15,647.00
Lift Station #11/ Building/Mechanical/Controls	LS 11 9550 Semiahmoo Parkway	2013	\$ 211,674.00
Lift Station #2	Blaine Business Park	2001	\$ 85,000.00
Lift Station #10	Royal Troon*	1997	N/A

\* Monitored and maintained but not owned by city

### Forecast of Future Needs and Levels of Service

The sewer system LOS for the City of Blaine, which is based on the estimated wastewater usage (gallons/day for each person or household) is projected to be 184 gallons/ERU/day. Minimum LOS, as established by state (Department of Ecology), federal (Environmental Protection Agency) agencies are hereby adopted by reference and are being met via compliance with the City’s NPDES (National Pollutions Discharge Elimination System) permit from the Department of Ecology (2013). In addition, a detailed evaluation was performed to verify the ERU volume of 184 gallons per day is still appropriate. Based on this evaluation, it is clear that the wastewater system in place will meet the community’s needs in 2036. More specifically, the facilities and services are adequate to serve the city of Blaine’s future population of 9,591 and future employment of 4,293.

Table 5 below identifies projected treatment capacity in 2022 and 2036, given planned growth in the service area.

**Table 5. Sewer Treatment Capacity 2022-2036.**

<b>Current Treatment Capacity (mgd)</b>	<b>2022 Treatment Capacity Surplus (Deficit) (mgd)</b>	<b>2036 Treatment Capacity Surplus (Deficit) (mgd)</b>
1.54	0.75	0.39

Table 6 below identifies the latest sewer plan’s horizon year and population, as well as the populations expected under County’s 2036 population projection. This table serves to provide an order of magnitude check with respect to the population that the Blaine wastewater system is planning on serving in comparison to the population projections for the 2036 Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan.

**Table 6. Population Comparison: 2005 Sewer Plan and 2036 Population Projection.**

<b>Horizon year of Capital Plan</b>	<b>Capital Plan Population</b>	<b>2036 Population Projection</b>
2025	10,871	9,585

The service area represented in 2005 has not changed dramatically. The geographic areas identified in the 2005 plan as Loomis UGA, South Drayton Harbor UGA, and West Semiahmoo UGA have all since been removed from the Blaine UGA. In addition, it was erroneously assumed in the 2015 plan that the East Blaine area would grow more quickly and might reach the 2025 population estimate by 2015. As a result, the plan assumed a much higher population being served than the population estimates indicated. Because of these factors, there remains more than adequate capacity within the system.

### Capital Facilities Projects

The City of Blaine General Sewer Plan contains a capital improvement program with approximately \$33.5 million in capital projects over its 20-year planning period. A significant portion of that has already been invested in developing Lighthouse Point and the flow attenuation tanks; a total of \$26.0 million was estimated in the Plan for those two facilities. In the next 20 years (2016 - 2036), the City forecasts line extensions and installation of pumping facilities to serve new development, as well as phased expansion of the Lighthouse

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Point facility. However, these are only necessary if development occurs and will be paid primarily through general facility fees. These projects include sewer trunk line extensions, and associated pump stations, into the East Blaine planning area as development in that area generates the need. Other project include development of sewer trunk line extensions, and associated pump stations, in the West Blaine planning area as development creates the need. The majority of these facilities will be developer installed.

The Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility along with the adjacent equalization tank (for wet weather storage) was designed to meet the current and future needs of the City of Blaine. In addition, the East Blaine Infrastructure Plan, adopted in 2009, lays out the utility improvements needed to serve that part of the city limits. Existing concurrency mechanisms are adequate to address future growth; however, because of the high cost of the facility, most of the current revenue is being used to pay down the debt and not being allocated toward capital improvements. Because growth has been slower than anticipated and development of East Blaine has not materialized, the absence of capital improvements has not caused any problems with capacity or availability of the system. Evaluation of the GFF will be performed every few years to confirm growth assumptions and ensure that no changes to the concurrency mechanisms are needed.

### **Six-year Financing Plan**

The current 6-Year CIP is included in Attachment A. Because most of the rate and GFF revenue is currently being used to pay down the debt of the new Lighthouse Point facility, the projects proposed in the short term are low cost. Because the unfunded projects are based on actual development, they will be phased as development occurs and funding becomes available. Based on population forecasts, demand projections, and capacity, the CIP is adequate to provide the target LOS.

The City's financing plan projects adequate revenues to cover expenses over the 20-year planning period only if the City continually assesses the rate structure and GFFs as time progresses. The City has accomplished the primary goal outlined in the 2005 plan (building the new treatment facility), and is well-staged to expand the delivery system as demand increases due to expanding population.

The City of Blaine manages concurrency within the wastewater system by charging GFFs with every development application. These system development charges are based on ERUs and geographic proximity to the wastewater plant. While the City suspended the GFFs during the economic downturn, they were re-instated in 2013 and have since been adjusted annually for inflation. The application of these fees provides capital reserves that are used to maintain and update the system as development occurs.

Attachment A also includes a projection of revenues and expenditures related to the Blaine wastewater system out to the 2036 planning horizon.

## **STORMWATER SYSTEM**

A Storm Water Management Plan was last completed for the City of Blaine in 1995 by Economic and Engineering Services, Inc. The report included sections on drainage area characteristics, water quality assessment, a hydraulic analysis of the existing drainage system, regulatory compliance, an overview of the management plan, and other recommendations.

At the time the plan was written, Drayton Harbor was closed to shellfish harvesting and the City was actively involved in identification and remediation of outfall sources in the hopes of

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gaining the release from the Department of Health to open the harbor again. In addition, the City’s wastewater treatment plant was near capacity, and the City was actively involved in planning for its replacement. Considerable progress has been made toward accomplishing these goals. Shellfish harvesting is once again allowed, and the City’s new wastewater plant now creates Class A Reclaimed Water. In addition, Blaine continues to perform testing and analysis of outfall locations to isolate any changes to water quality in the Harbor. Many of the recommendations of this plan still apply, as summarized below.

### **Inventory of Existing Capital Facilities**

The existing drainage system within the City consists primarily of a catch basin and culvert networks within road rights-of-way, which collect and route drainage away from homes and businesses. In portions of the commercial and business areas of the City, where older drainage systems exist, these networks carry the drainage directly to Semiahmoo Bay or Drayton Harbor. However, the City has systematically upgraded drainage facilities using bioswale and filter technology as road improvements have allowed for re-development of the drainage system, many of the older systems have been replaced.

Due to the local topography, most drainage basins or catchment areas are small and consist of a small network of pipes and ditches, which drain primarily to the west into nearby marine waters. However, some drainage areas discharge to creeks including Cain Creek, Dakota Creek and some smaller, un-named creeks. .

### **Forecast of Future Needs and Levels of Service**

The City of Blaine stormwater facilities will meet its additional forecasted population of 9,591 people by consistently following the most current version of the Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (Manual). Based on this assessment and the consistent application of the current guidelines provided by the state, the City will have the necessary facilities to ensure adequate facilities for planning future city limits, population, and employment base.

The city, while not considered a Phase II city with the Department of Ecology (DOE), has elected to exceed DOE requirements for its size by adopting and managing stormwater in accordance with the most recent version of the Manual. Each project is reviewed and managed on a case by case basis and all comply with the Manual as required by law.

### **Capital Facilities Projects**

The Blaine Municipal Code (BMC) has authority to enforce stormwater best management practices as outlined in the Manual. Projects are managed on a case-by-case basis to address site-specific issues.

Recent projects include those intended to eliminate sewer overflows into Drayton Harbor caused by inflow and infiltration. As part of the construction of the new water reclamation facility, a 700,000 gallon equilibrium basin was built that can handle a 25-year 24-hour storm without an overflow. The City has been working to eliminate illicit connections to the City’s sewer. These are connections of private storm drains, sump pumps or down spouts that are connected to the sewer system that cause large volumes of storm water (inflow) into the wastewater plant for unnecessary treatment. The City continues to identify and eliminate illicit connections to the sewer system. Cracked sewer lines can also allow clean ground water (infiltration) into the sewer system. As a result, the City has established a city-wide source control program to reduce the amounts of pollutants entering the City’s stormwater system. The City has recently purchased a robotic sewer camera with the intent of identifying point sources of pollution and eradicating them.

**Six-year Financing Plan**

The 2016 CIP is found in Attachment A, and includes 6 stormwater system projects at a cost of approximately \$2.6 million. Blaine has created an enterprise fund for stormwater maintenance, regulatory compliance and capital projects. Fees are assessed for new development and a small amount collected from every utility customer as part of their monthly bill. These and other sources of funding including grants and developer contributions will cover the project costs with some excess remaining.

**SCHOOL SYSTEM**

Chapter 7, Public Services and Facilities, provides a summary of Blaine School District facilities, enrollment projections, and levels of service based on the 2015 Blaine School District Capital Facilities Plan. The Plan also includes proposed projects and financing. The 2015 Blaine School District Capital Facilities Plan is incorporated here by reference.

**FIRE PROTECTION**

Fire protection within the City of Blaine is provided by the North Whatcom Fire and Rescue District. Fire facilities are owned and operated by the Fire and Rescue District. The 2009 North Whatcom Fire and Rescue District Capital Facilities Plan was developed in accordance with GMA requirements and is intended to coordinate with Whatcom County's Comprehensive Plan. The Plan contains an inventory of fire protection services, forecasts future needs, proposes capital projects, and develops a financing plan. The City of Blaine adopts this plan, and future updates, by reference.

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES**

Chapter 7, Public Services and Facilities, contains an inventory of existing public safety (police) facilities, projected future needs, and levels of service.

The current (2016) Blaine CIP (see Attachment A) includes a single public-safety related capital project, to construct public safety evidence room upgrades at an estimated cost of \$17,000. Funding would be provided by the City's general fund. The Public Services and Facilities Element notes several long-term facility needs that may warrant the construction of a new police station during the 20-year planning horizon. A proposal for such a project has not been developed and funding sources have not been identified. Potential funding for a new police station may come from several sources; including real estate excise taxes, other tax revenue, or impact fees, if such a fee for funding police facilities is developed. The most likely source of funding, however, would be from a voter-approved bond measure or levy.

**PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

Chapter 9, Parks and Recreation, contains an inventory of existing park and recreation facilities, projections of future needs, and levels of service.

Attachment A contains the 2016 CIP, which includes 11 park and recreation projects totaling approximately \$1.2 million. Adequate funding has been identified for these projects. Funding sources include general fund revenues, a subdivision performance bond, grants, real estate excise taxes, a transportation benefit district, and the impact fee reserve.

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### **TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES**

Chapter 5, Transportation, describes existing transportation facilities, projected needs, and levels of service.

Attachment A contains the 2016 CIP, which includes 12 transportation projects at a cost of approximately \$10.9 million. The projected revenue for these projects indicates a shortfall of approximately \$1.5 million. Funding sources include general fund revenues, a property tax levy, federal and state grants, and other local funding sources.