



Alaska Water & Wastewater Utility

Master Plans Update

Fact Sheet & FAQs



The Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU, the Utility) provides water service to approximately 56,000 customers within the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), representing more than 285,000 Anchorage residents. AWWU's water system includes water treatment plants at Eklutna and Ship Creek, 13 wells, more than 850 miles of water distribution pipes, more than 6,100 fire hydrants, and 19 reservoirs that store more than 58 million gallons of water.

AWWU periodically reviews its water distribution system based on current and projected population, trends in water use, and condition of the distribution infrastructure, and recently launched the current update of its Water Master Plan (WMP). The plan will identify needs, opportunities, and potential capital improvements to help the Utility operate its water transmission and distribution systems effectively and efficiently, today and into the future.



What is a water master plan?

A master plan is a strategic approach to identify current and projected conditions, opportunities, challenges, and needs. The water master plan is updated every 5–7 years and allows AWWU to identify a clear path forward to meet the needs of its customers and ratepayers in a fiscally responsible manner. The Utility also develops a separate strategic plan to address wastewater needs within its certificated area.

What's included in a water master plan?

A water master plan takes a 20-year future view of projected operations. The plan typically includes a history of the system's development and documents the current system; projects future demand based on population size and anticipated use; identifies external influences

such as potential risks to the system or large local development projects that could influence water use; describes technical needs such as storage, flow, and pressure; projects future system requirements, and prioritizes a schedule of capital improvement projects that keep the system in a state of good repair, improve capacity, and optimize the system. The AWWU WMP also looks at specific geographic needs for the Anchorage Bowl, the northern communities, and Girdwood.

What area is covered by the WMP?

The WMP looks at water sources, distribution networks, and operations within the water service district boundaries certified by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA). The plan does not cover private wells or non-AWWU-owned distribution systems.

Who is involved in the WMP process?

All customers, ratepayers, and residents are invited to participate in the master planning process. AWWU will also meet with stakeholders such as emergency service providers, homebuilders, departments within the MOA, and others to seek input on future needs and plans that could impact water use and distribution within the Utility's certificated area. The Utility will post the draft WMP on (project website), provide information via an online open house, and ask for public comments during a 30-day comment period later this spring.

What kind of projects are included in the WMP?

Potential projects are split into three types: repair and replacement projects, capacity improvement projects, and system optimization projects. They are also split between the Utility's three major geographic areas: the Anchorage Bowl, the Northern Communities, and Girdwood. A detailed list of prioritized projects will be included in the draft WMP for public review and comment.

Will AWWU's water service area change because of the WMP?

AWWU's current water service boundary area will not change because of this plan. And, because the WMP projects that MOA's population will not increase significantly over the next 20 years, extending service into areas within AWWU's existing certificated area that are not currently served by the Utility is also unlikely to be considered at this time.

Will this increase my water bill?

The Anchorage Water Utility and Anchorage Sewer Utility (that combined make up AWWU) are regulated by the RCA. The RCA is the body responsible for the Utility's tariffs that sets expectations on how service is provided, how much customers are charged, and addresses complaints about the Utility's service. While AWWU can propose changes to its rates, the RCA

is responsible for setting rates. Information on AWWU's Water Utility Tariff can be found here: [Water Utility - AWU Tariff | Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility](#).

Who approves the final WMP?

A draft plan will be made available for public comment later this spring, and comments will be considered as the final document is developed. The final WMP will be approved by the AWWU Board of Directors.

Contact Us

Todd Carroll

AWWU Project Manager

MPComments@awwumasterplan.com

Anson Moxness

HDR Project Manager

MPComments@awwumasterplan.com

Julie Jessen

HDR Public Involvement

MPComments@awwumasterplan.com

Website

awwumasterplan.com