

BEND'S INTEGRATED WATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN: *5 Things To Know*

Almost 100 years ago, the City of Bend purchased a private water system that was struggling with a contaminated water supply and unable to meet the needs of a new, fast-growing city. Today, careful planning and investment will ensure that we can continue to provide safe and reliable water to our customers for the next 100 years.

The City has prepared an *Integrated Water System Master Plan (iWSMP)* – our most comprehensive look at our water system yet – integrating conservation, operations, and economic analyses to develop recommendations that reflect our community's needs and values. The iWSMP identifies new and existing infrastructure improvements over the next 20 years that are critical to safe and reliable operations of our system.

The *Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP)* documents our surface and groundwater sources, and establishes state-approved benchmarks for a comprehensive approach to conservation and efficiency programs and initiatives to be spearheaded by our Utility.

1. The Water System is Aging and our City is Still Growing Fast

As part of the iWSMP, the City of Bend completed a condition assessment of its aging water system facilities, inspecting older pipes, reservoirs, groundwater wells, and booster pump stations. Though many sections of our system are newer, older parts of the system are showing their age and many parts are well past their expected lifespan. Collaborative teams of experts evaluated the condition of City facilities and indicated where maintenance and replacement projects are most crucial to keep our system functioning, resilient, and ready for the future.

2. Improvements Will Be Built at the Right Time and Place

Using computer modeling, the City of Bend has looked ahead 20 years to identify where water system improvements will need to occur as our community grows. The analysis examines approved land uses and changes, accounts for population and density increases, and considers risk factors and their impacts. It's important for the City to know where and how much water demand will increase to effectively plan and build improvements at the right times and in the right places.

3. We Must Adapt to Bend's Changing Climate

Bend water customers are fortunate to have water supplied by both surface water and groundwater sources to back each other up, and which together provide a lower carbon footprint and climate-resilient supply when combined with conservation and other efforts. Investments to our water sources, such as adding backup power to our groundwater pumps, protect our surface water source from wildfire impacts and keep our pumps running in the event of power outages.



The iWSMP considers these risks and more so that our system is resilient in the face of climate change impacts.

4. Collaboration and Synergy Improves Rate Affordability

The City of Bend is one of the fastest growing cities in the country, and along with that comes the need to invest in all its infrastructure needs. The City coordinates work on water system improvements with road, sewer and other related projects to save time, money, and reduce public disruption.

5. Conservation is Key to Saving Water and Money

Strategic conservation can postpone or reduce the need for new infrastructure. The iWSMP compared the cost of adding new conservation measures and found savings of over \$10 million by delaying the need for three new wells and a large reservoir if these conservation measures are implemented. Conservation programs have been a priority to our Utility Services over the past decade and despite our population doubling since 2000, our highest water-use day demand is less than it was in 2008. These new, innovative conservation measures build on our successful award winning WaterWise program, and fit our expanding community and climate.

For more information visit bendoregon.gov/water-master-plan.



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. please contact Katherina Barguil at kbarguil@bendoregon.gov or 541-388-5558; Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

