



Bellevue Utilities Services and Programs

Overview

Bellevue Utilities' business is to actively support public health and safety, neighborhood livability, a healthy and sustainable economy, and the environment by effectively managing drinking water, wastewater, storm and surface water, street maintenance, and solid waste. Following is a summary of these services and programs.

Major issues currently facing Bellevue Utilities include:

- Utility systems described below are aging; increased maintenance and capital investments are inevitable.
- Future capital investments will focus primarily on renewing and replacing aging system infrastructure.
- Each utility is at a different stage of system renewal and replacement.
- Additional system capacity is needed to ensure service for anticipated population growth.
- State and federal mandates to protect drinking water and surface water quality are increasing.

Drinking Water

Bellevue's drinking water comes from the Tolt and Cedar River Watersheds in the Cascade Mountains. Bellevue purchases water from Cascade Water Alliance, an organization that purchases water from Seattle and provides it to Bellevue and seven other cities and water districts in the Puget Sound region. Bellevue Utilities operates and maintains all water pipes, valves, pumps, and reservoirs to ensure safe and reliable drinking water to our customers. The water is also monitored daily to make sure it meets or exceeds local and federal drinking water quality standards. Bellevue's drinking water service area covers over 37 square miles, including Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Medina, Yarrow Point, sections of the Cities of Issaquah and Kirkland, and areas of unincorporated King County.

Bellevue's drinking water system serves over 38,000 customers and includes:



- 40,810 water meters
- 5,812 fire hydrants
- Over 600 miles of water pipes
- 27 water reservoirs that store 42.5 million gallons
- 22 pump stations
- 63 pressure zones
- 616 miles of water pipes

Bellevue's wastewater system serves over 37,000 customers and includes:



- 13,378 manholes
- 654 miles of wastewater pipes
- 46 pump and flush stations
- 34 major connections to Metro wastewater system
- 20 miles of lake lines

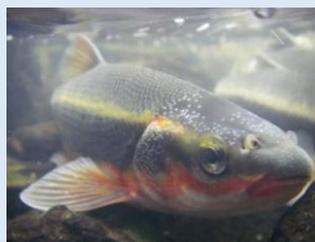
Wastewater

All wastewater that flows from a Bellevue home or business travels through City-owned wastewater pipes and pump stations, is treated at King County-Metro's sewerage system, and is then discharged into Puget Sound. Utilities operates and maintains all wastewater pipes and pump stations to ensure reliable service and prevent overflows into streams, lakes, and onto private property. Bellevue's wastewater service area covers over 37 square miles, including Beaux Arts, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Medina, Yarrow Point, and sections of the City of Issaquah.

Storm and Surface Water

Bellevue's storm and surface water utility, one of the first established in the nation in 1974, provides for maintenance and repair of the piped drainage system, flood control, and water quality facilities throughout the City. These systems work in concert with private drainage systems, as well as robust capital program, to provide flood control and water quality protection for streams, lakes, and wetlands. When stormwater flows off streets and sidewalks, it enters storm drains and eventually reaches a stream, lake, or wetland. Programs like Stream Team remind residents that only rain should go down the storm drain.

Bellevue's storm and surface water conveyance system serves over 33,000 customers and includes:



- 26 drainage basins
- Over 70 miles of open streams, home to sockeye, chinook, coho, and kokanee salmon
- 864 acres of wetlands
- 11 regional detention facilities for runoff control and water quality
- Over 19,000 public storm drains
- 399 miles of storm and surface water pipes

Street Maintenance

Utilities maintains and repairs all non-electrical aspects of the Transportation system, including paved streets and bike lanes, sidewalks, walkways, traffic control devices, signs, and trails in the right of way. Main arterials, residential streets, and bike lanes are swept on a regular basis. Utilities funds half of the Street Sweeping Program as it is more efficient and cost-effective to remove debris before it enters the drainage system. During a snow storm, City crews work around the clock to keep streets cleared of snow and ice.

Designated Citywide and neighborhood priority routes are cleared first for fire, medical, and police response, as well as transit, school buses, and commuter traffic. Utilities also has a vegetation maintenance program for street vegetation and trees located in rights-of-way. Transportation contracts with Utilities to provide streets maintenance services.

Bellevue's streets maintenance operates citywide and includes:



- 942 miles of roadway
- 329 miles of sidewalks
- 103 miles of bike lanes
- 1,600 critical signs, such as Stop and Yield signs
- 18,000 non-critical signs, such as street names

Republic Services (Allied Waste) serves over 27,000 single-family residential, 345 multifamily, and 1,600 commercial customer accounts, and collected in 2011:



- 113,868 tons of solid waste
- 65,605 tons of garbage hauled to the landfill
- 24,049 tons of recyclable materials recovered
- 24,214 tons of organics hauled to compost facility
- Bellevue's single-family recycling rate is 67.7%

Solid Waste

The City contracts with Republic Services (Allied Waste) to provide solid waste services to all properties within Bellevue. Single-family customers are provided curbside collection of garbage, recyclables, yard debris, and food waste mixed in with yard debris. Multifamily and commercial customers are provided garbage and recyclables collection. Along with managing the solid waste contract, Utilities provides outreach, education, and technical assistance to residents and businesses aimed at promoting waste prevention, recycling, and proper disposal of hazardous and moderate risk wastes. Recycling assistance is available at 425-452-6932.

24-Hour Emergency Service

Employees are on call around the clock to handle emergencies such as flooding, sewer overflows, water main breaks, hazardous road conditions, and pollutant spills. Call 425-452-7840 for non-emergency operations and maintenance issues or for emergencies.

Low-income Discount Program

Low-income seniors and low-income disabled homeowners living in Bellevue who pay water, wastewater, and drainage bills to the City can receive a discount off their utility bills if their income is below a specified amount. Senior and disabled renters who do not actually pay a utility bill but pay through their rent can receive a rebate. The City's Low Income Tax Relief Program offers a year-end rebate of local taxes paid on private utilities (i.e., gas, electric, telephone, garbage) and Bellevue's Utilities (i.e., water, wastewater, and drainage).