

2015-16
Budget Themes &
Initiatives

2015-16 Proposed Budget Themes and Initiatives

The city council adopted five budget themes to guide the City's financial and staff resource investments for the next three years – Public Safety; Economic Development; Park and Recreation assets; Municipal Facilities and Financial Sustainability.

Budget themes are the concepts used to prioritize the Council's investment in personnel and infrastructure to solve the key issues.

1. Public Safety – Continue evaluation of contracts for police and fire services. Invest in emergency preparedness. Using technology to increase public safety by leveraging limited tax dollars.
 - Improve Flood Prevention and Preparedness for residents and business owners
 - Proactively address school safety
 - Improve safety on State Route 532
 - Leverage community partnerships with businesses, non-profits and volunteers
 - Prevent gang activity, drug use and homelessness in Stanwood
2. Economic Development – Invest in public infrastructure to spur private development.
 - Ensure that building and zoning codes align with desired use to attract and retain businesses.
 - Implement incentives to attract desirable private development to the city.
 - Assist property owners seeking to develop and redevelop in the floodplain.
 - Evaluate the city's fee structure to ensure fees for services align with Council policies.
 - Work with community partners to attract new residents, businesses and visitors to Stanwood.
3. Park and Recreation Assets – Continue public and private investment in park and recreation facilities, including the YMCA, to improve the quality of life for Stanwood residents.
 - Improve the City's recreation facilities to support economic development.
 - Develop parks, trails and open spaces that connect Stanwood's neighborhoods to the business districts and surrounding communities.
 - Increase public access to the water.
 - Preserve natural resources and protect farmland surrounding the city.
4. Municipal Facilities – Maintain taxpayer owned assets.
 - Seek opportunities to remodel and/or reuse existing facilities efficiently to serve customers.
 - Evaluate alternatives to flood proof or relocate essential public facilities in the floodplain.
 - Assess whether to surplus or redevelop city owned properties.
5. Financial Sustainability – Ensure policies and programs support long-term fiscal health
 - Match one-time revenues with one-time expenses and ongoing revenues with ongoing expenses.
 - Look for opportunities to reduce expenditures.
 - Ensure rates for services and impact fees cover an appropriate portion of service costs.

2015-2016 Key Initiatives

Key initiatives are the action themes that implement the budget themes on an annual basis. The 2015-2016 Budget includes the following key initiatives.

Police & Fire (Public Safety)

- Provide city residents, businesses and employees with disaster preparedness and prevention training
- Expand block watch programs and national night out event
- Develop programs to reduce collisions on SR532 and improve safety
- Work with community partners to deter vandalism in city parks and open spaces
- Adopt policies and programs to help property owners remove graffiti, reduce the accumulation of trash, and maintain vacant and neglected land and buildings.

Community Development/Building (Economic Development)

- Finalize the annual docket with Snohomish County to amend the city's urban growth area.
- Review and revise existing zoning and development regulations to establish a strong orientation to economic development and development in the floodplain.
- Join the FEMA CRS program to lower the cost to own and develop in the floodplain
- Evaluate the city's permit review process to ensure it is effective and efficient as possible.
- Implement on-line permit tracking to allow applicants to track and monitor permit applications and approvals.
- Create materials that explain the development process, mitigation requirements, techniques and resources for floodplain development.
- Economic development
 - Work with volunteers, business owners and non-profits to promote and support special events, tourism promotion and economic development
 - Support business owner efforts to organize a "Main Street" program
 - Look for opportunities to use the city's municipal parking lots to advance economic development in east and west Stanwood.
 - Evaluate incentives for new development and redevelopment that fills in the gaps between east and west Stanwood.
 - Encourage additional residential development within walking distance of Stanwood's business districts.

Public Works (Park & Recreation Assets / Municipal Facilities)

- Establish a volunteer program and identify potential volunteer captains to improve the city's streets, parks and public spaces.
- Parks and Trails
 - Adopt a non-motorized trail system plan to connect neighborhoods to the business district and to surrounding communities that identifies routes and costs for future grant applications.
 - Work with stakeholders to develop and adopt a master plan for the Ovenell property. Invest in improvements that allow public access to the property in 2015.
 - Work with the railroad to access the railroad right of way from East Stanwood to the Ovenell property for a non-motorized trail
 - Secure funding partners to develop the fourth baseball field, concession stand and complete the walking trail at Heritage Park.
 - Encourage year around use of city recreation facilities such as adult softball leagues and tournament play.
 - Continue renovations at Church Creek Park – replace the restrooms, purchase and install new play equipment, reestablish walking trails.
 - Look for property and funding to develop a downtown park in East Stanwood
 - Evaluate property for a community park in north east Stanwood.
 - Evaluate public support in developing a dog park
 - Work with property owners to secure farmland development rights or negotiate fee simple purchase and sale agreements of key parcels surrounding Stanwood
- Streets and Sidewalk
 - Finish design and secure funding for Viking Way and 90th Street grid roads to give the public access to the interior of large parcels between 88th and 92nd Ave
 - Construct the SR532 berm/bike pedestrian path
 - Design and construct the 68th Street safe routes to schools sidewalk
 - Use funding from the transportation benefit district to increase the functional life of city streets
 - Invest in street and sidewalk repairs that improve safety and attract non-motorized traffic between Stanwood Station, business districts and residential neighborhoods
- Water, Sewer and Drainage
 - Work with the Water Utility Coordinating Committee and other water purveyors to develop alternative sources of water.
 - Install measures to prevent water pipe erosion caused by electromagnetic fields
 - Restore water service from Hatt Slough or develop alternative water source(s)
 - Develop a long-term program and capital improvements to dispose of the city's biosolids

- Design and construct Irvine Slough stormwater conveyance system. Seek funding to separate stormwater from flood water in downtown Stanwood.

Administrative/Finance (Financial Sustainability)

- Support efforts to annex into the Sno-Isle Library District
- Secure funding to relocate City Hall out of the floodplain
- Evaluate all service contracts
- Inventory and develop a schedule to annually fund and replace worn tax-payer owned assets including the city's fleet, facilities, furniture and fixtures.
- Analyze options to apply differential development services fees and impact fees based on development type, size and location. Consider lowering barriers to attract desirable development.
- Evaluate exempt salary and compensation levels to attract and retain qualified management and professional staff.