DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Water Supply Planning Updates

Claudia Hochstein | Water Conservation Consultant

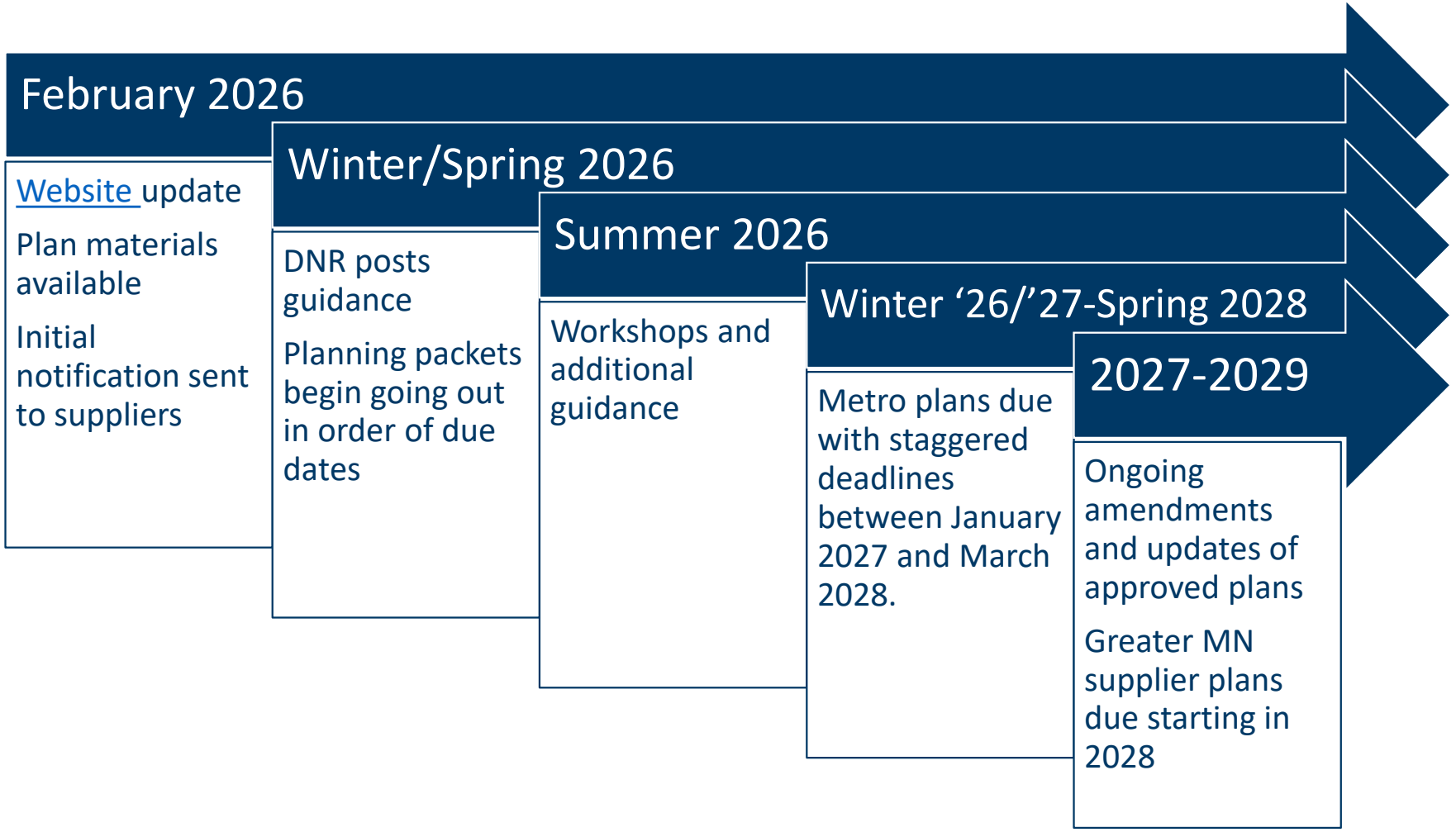
Metropolitan Area Water Supply TAC | February 12, 2026

# Why require water supply plans?

- Future development plans rely on water availability
- Flag potential issues to prevent conflict
- Prepare for emergencies
- Evaluate costs and benefits of different options

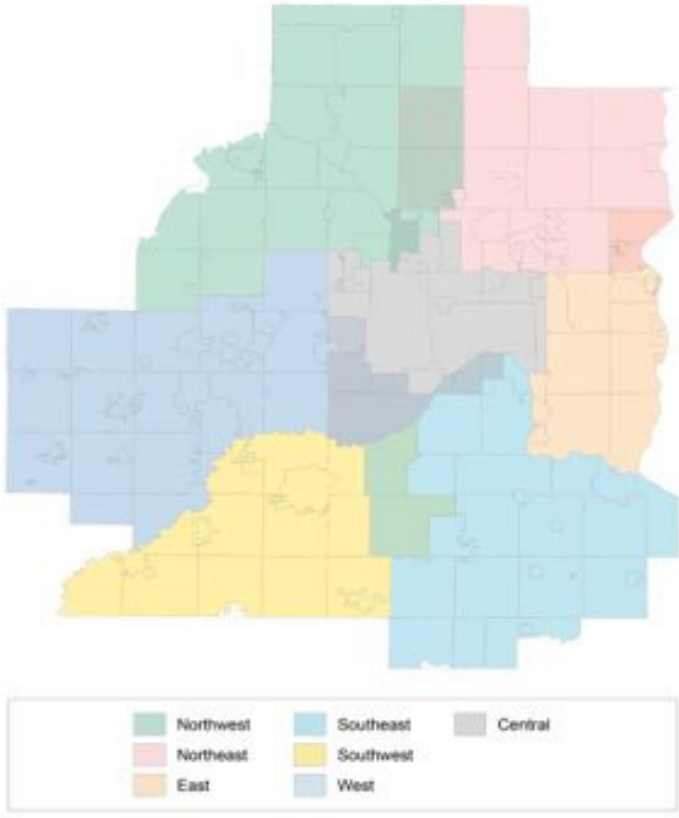


# Timeline


February 2026
Website update
Plan materials available
Initial notification sent to suppliers
Winter/Spring 2026
DNR posts guidance
Planning packets begin going out in order of due dates
Summer 2026
Workshops and additional guidance
Winter '26/'27-Spring 2028
Metro plans due with staggered deadlines between January 2027 and March 2028.
2027-2029
Ongoing amendments and updates of approved plans
Greater MN supplier plans due starting in 2028

# What’s different?

- Online form and Excel workbook
- Less redundant information collection
- DNR will provide a "planning packet"
- Due dates over a longer time for the entire state, starting with the Metro and any suppliers requesting amendments
- Encourage regional collaboration



# Where we started

| Resource Type | Resource Name | Risk | Risk Assessed Through * | Describe Resource Protection Threshold or Goal * | Mitigation Measures or Management Plan | Describe How Thresholds or Goals are Monitored |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Trout stream | | ☐ None anticipated<br>☐ Flow/water level decline<br>☐ Degrading water quality trends<br>☐ Impacts on endangered, threatened, or special concern species habitat<br>☐ Other: | ☐ Geologic atlas or other mapping<br>☐ Modeling<br>☐ Monitoring<br>☐ Aquifer testing<br>☐ WRAPS or other watershed report<br>☐ Proximity (< 5 miles)<br>☐ Other: | ☐ Not applicable<br>☐ Additional data is needed to establish<br>☐ See report:<br>☐ Other: | ☐ Not applicable<br>☐ Change groundwater pumping<br>☐ Increase conservation<br>☐ Other: | ☐ Not applicable<br>☐ Newly collected data will be analyzed<br>☐ Regular check-in with these partners:<br>☐ Other: |
| ☐ Aquifer | | ☐ None anticipated<br>☐ Flow/water level decline<br>☐ Degrading water quality trends<br>☐ Impacts on endangered, threatened, or special concern species habitat<br>☐ Other: | ☐ Geologic atlas or other mapping<br>☐ Modeling<br>☐ Monitoring<br>☐ Aquifer testing<br>☐ Proximity (shwell < 5 miles)<br>☐ Other: | ☐ Not applicable<br>☐ Additional data is needed to establish<br>☐ See report:<br>☐ Other: | ☐ Not applicable<br>☐ Change groundwater pumping<br>☐ Increase conservation<br>☐ Other: | ☐ Not applicable<br>☐ Newly collected data will be analyzed<br>☐ Regular check-in with these partners:<br>☐ Other: |

**Wellhead Protection (WHP) and Source Water Protection (SWP) Plans**
Complete Table 11 to provide status information about WHP and SWP plans.

The emergency procedures in this plan are intended to comply with the contingency plan provisions required in the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) Wellhead Protection (WHP) Plan and Surface Water Protection (SWP) Plan.



**Table 11. Status of Wellhead Protection and Source Water Protection Plans**

| Plan Type | Status | Date Adopted | Date for Update |
|---|---|---|---|
| WHP | ☐ In Process<br>☐ Completed<br>☐ Not Applicable | | |
| SWP | ☐ In Process<br>☐ Completed<br>☐ Not Applicable | | |

**WHP** – Wellhead Protection Plan **SWP** – Source Water Protection Plan

## F. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Please note that any wells that received approval under a ten-year permit, but that were not built, are now expired and must submit a water appropriations permit.

**Adequacy of Water Supply System**
Complete Table 12 with information about the adequacy of wells and/or intakes, storage facilities, treatment facilities, and distribution systems to sustain current and projected demands. List planned capital improvements for any system components, in chronological order. Communities in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area should also include information about plans through 2040.

The assessment can be the general status by category; it is not necessary to identify every single well, storage facility, treatment facility, lift station, and mile of pipe.

Please attach your latest Capital Improvement Plan as **Appendix 4**.

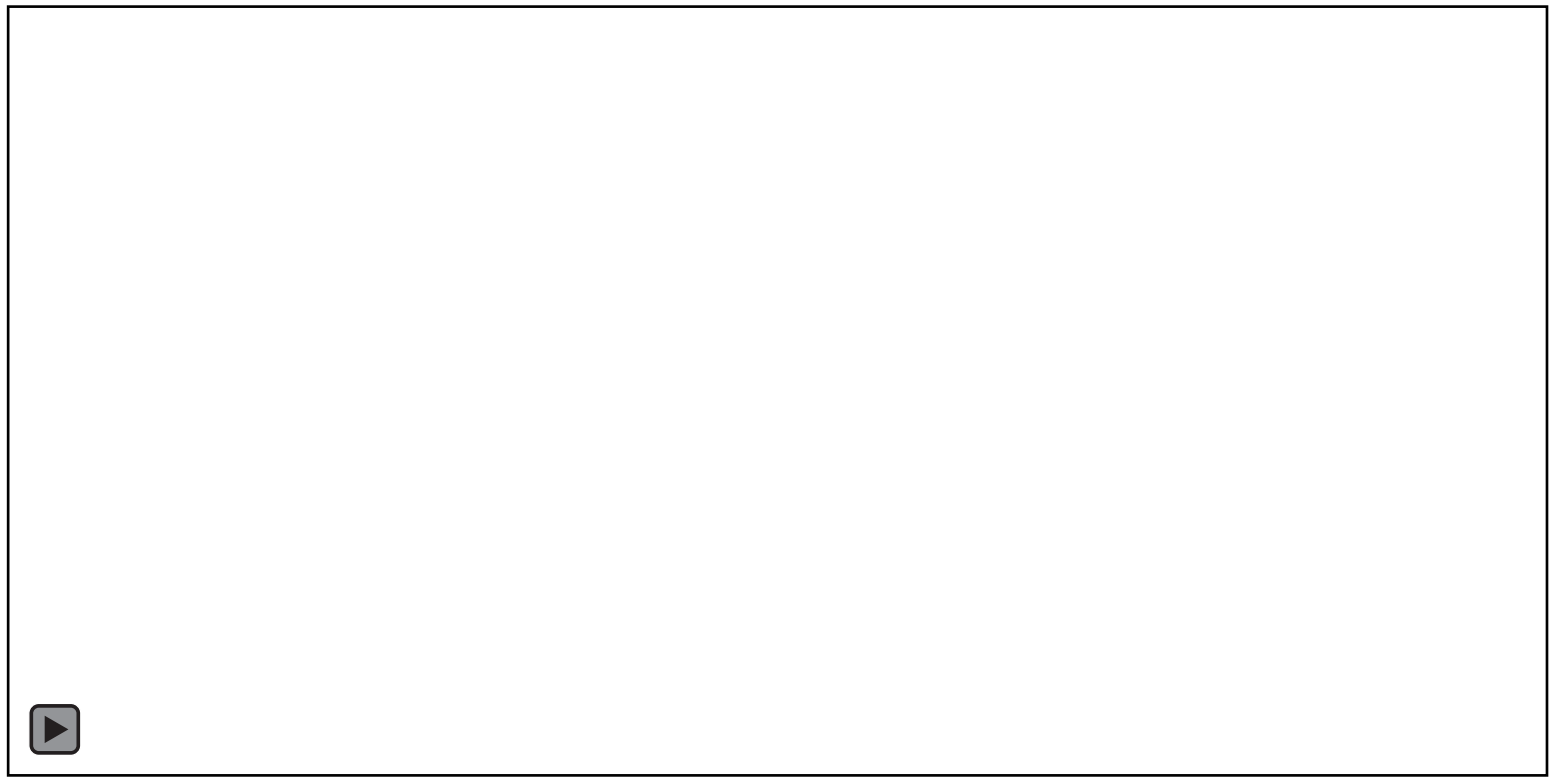
**Table 12. Adequacy of Water Supply System**

| System Component | Planned action | Anticipated Construction Year | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wells/Intakes | ☐ No action planned - adequate<br>☐ Repair/replacement<br>☐ Expansion/addition | | |
| Water Storage Facilities | ☐ No action planned - adequate<br>☐ Repair/replacement<br>☐ Expansion/addition | | |
| Water Treatment Facilities | ☐ No action planned - adequate<br>☐ Repair/replacement<br>☐ Expansion/addition | | |
| Distribution Systems (Pipes, valves, etc.) | ☐ No action planned - adequate<br>☐ Repair/replacement<br>☐ Expansion/addition | | |
| Pressure Zones | ☐ No action planned - adequate<br>☐ Repair/replacement<br>☐ Expansion/addition | | |

# Qualtrics survey platform

- Clear navigation
- Survey logic
- Queryable, consistent format
- Version control

Video on the right illustrates online format and user navigation.



# Water supply planning and permitting



You and your team celebrating that you've already done a lot of the work to show the DNR that you need an appropriations permit amendment!



# Additional considerations for communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

January 2026

Lanya Ross, Environmental Analyst

# Connection to comprehensive plan

## Minnesota statutes, sections 103G.291 and 473.859

The comprehensive plan is a community's vision of how it wants to grow and change through 2050 — how it will develop its land, redevelop older areas, ensure adequate housing, provide roads and sewers, protect natural areas, and meet other community objectives.

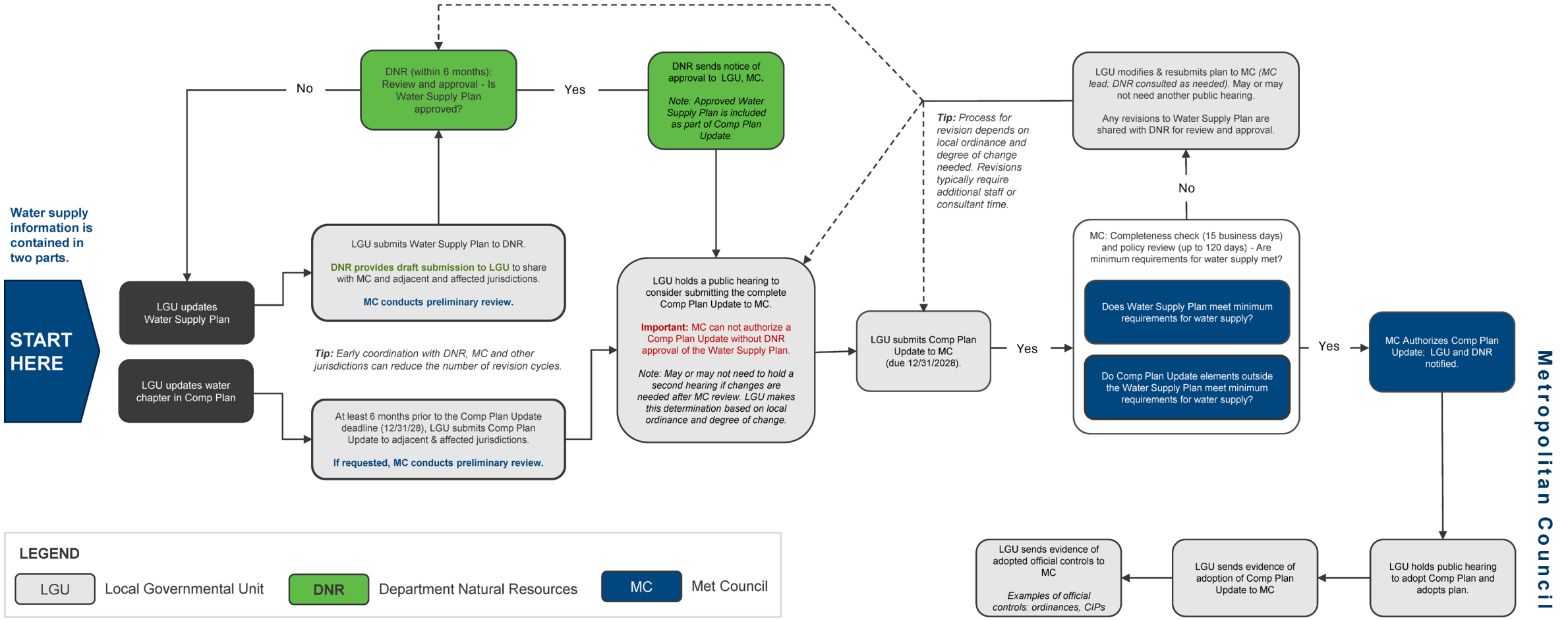
The water supply plan described in 103G.291 is a required component of the comprehensive plan.

# Key milestones

| | |
|---|---|
| **September 2025** | System statements sent to communities in the Twin Cities metro region; technical assistance resources like Local Planning Handbook updated (ongoing) |
| **Fall 2026** | Met Council hosting a planning conference to support local planning updates; additional and ongoing PlanIt programming |
| **Spring 2028** | If not already done, comprehensive plan updates should be shared with adjacent and affected jurisdictions (including DNR) for 6-month review |
| **December 31, 2028** | Comprehensive plan updates, including DNR-approved water supply plan, due to the Met Council |

# Process for Water Supply and Comprehensive Plan Updates

***How the Water Supply Plan and Comprehensive Plan Update move from draft to adoption***




Metropolitan Council

# Differences and improvements compared to last round of planning

- Improved coordination and timing for Met Council-DNR plan review
- Revised regional policy - stronger connection between source water protection and land use, more acknowledgement of privately-owned wells
- Clearer, more predictable review expectations from the Met Council – minimum requirements, guidance on Local Planning Handbook
- New reporting formats (form and workbook) improve data quality and review efficiency
- Support for multiple water demand scenarios, documenting inter-community connections

# Local Planning Handbook: https://handbook.metrocouncil.org/



# Supporting collaboration

## Across departments and with neighboring communities

Water supply

Surface water management

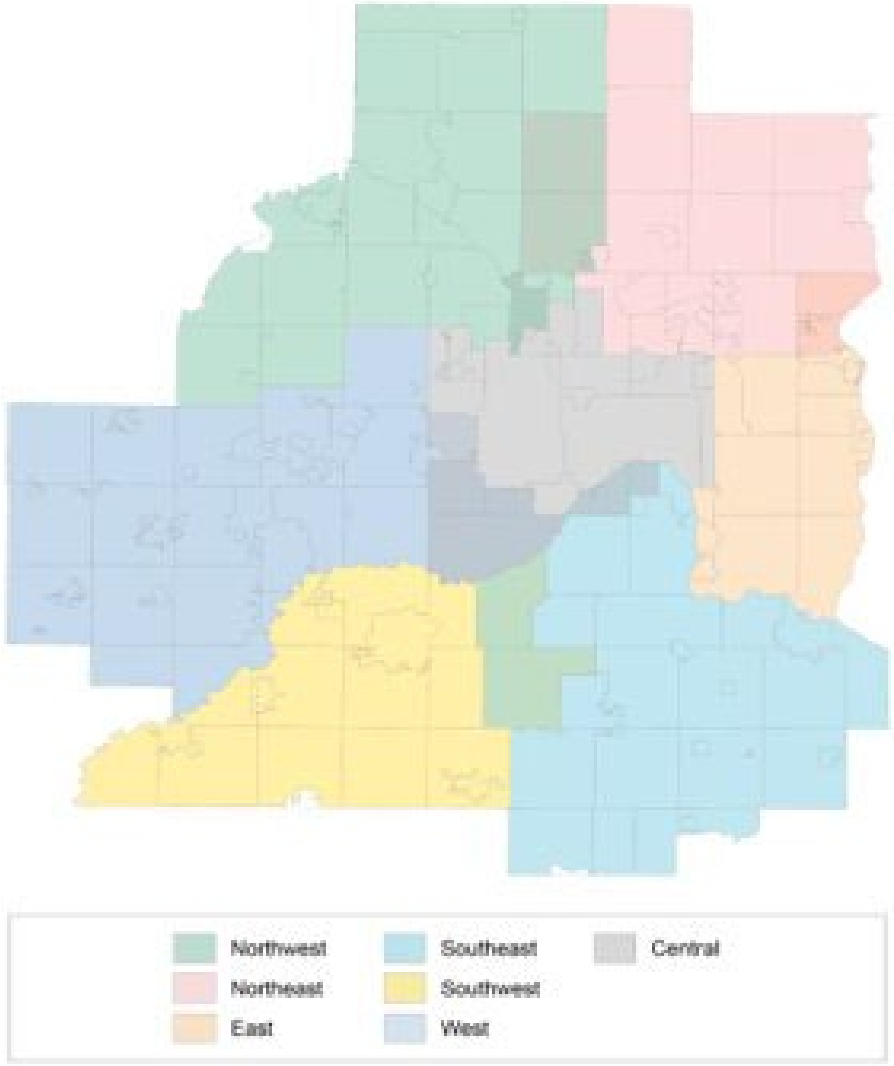
Wastewater

Land use

Transportation

Parks

Housing



# More resources coming soon

## Tools and resources launching in 2026

**Water Chapter Template:** Guidance for creating a water chapter that integrates surface water, water supply, and wastewater.

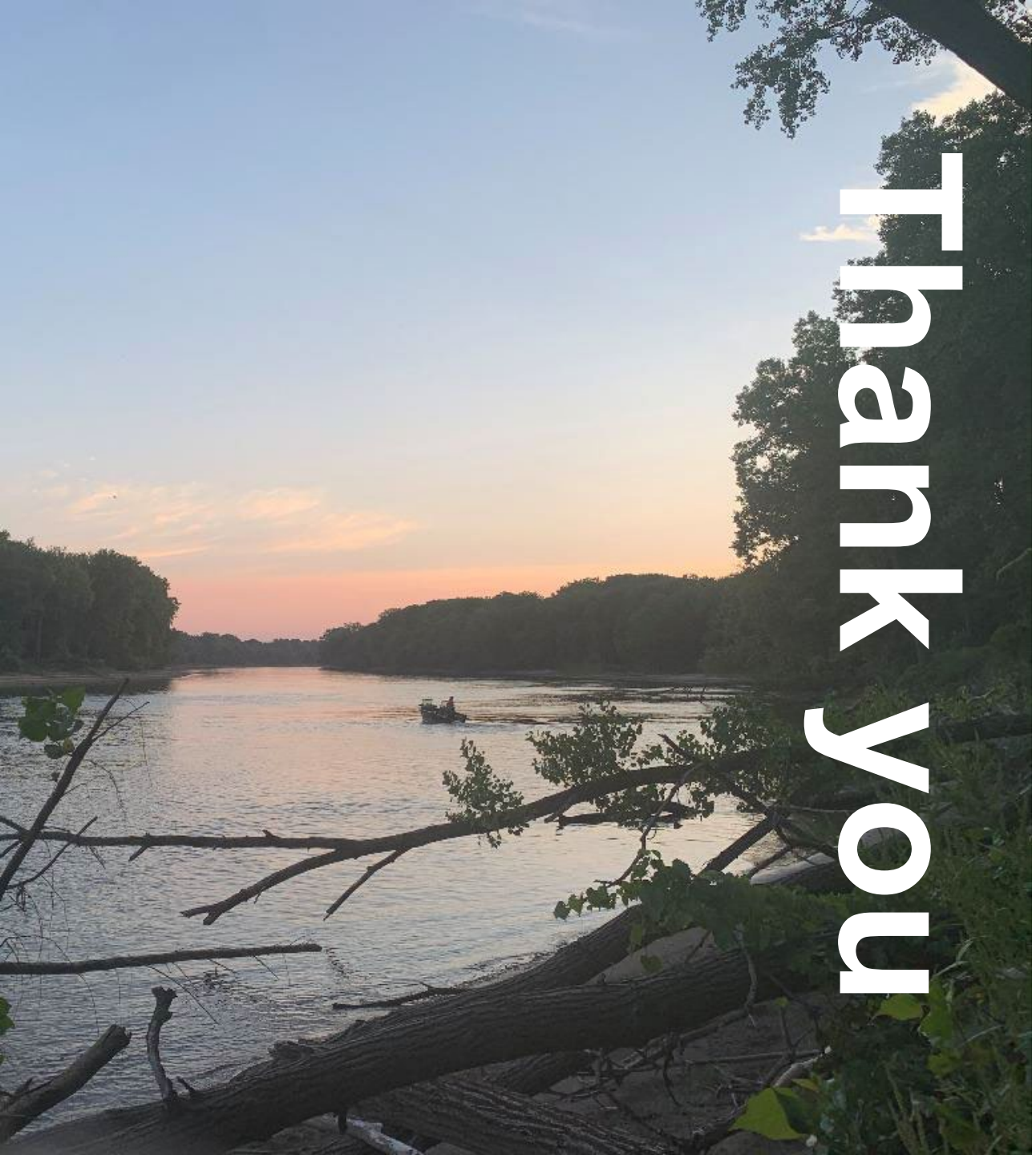
**Water Supply Planning Guide:** Directions, tools, and local examples to help you meet all required water supply elements in your local plan

**Natural Systems Planning Tools:** Available now as a Beta tool. Interactive map and story map resources linking data to planning requirements.

**Local Housing Data Tool:** (Early 2026) Interactive housing data visualization tool to explore existing conditions.

**Housing Policy Implementation Toolkit:** (Summer 2026) with strategies, examples, and funding options.

**Climate Action Toolkit:** Available now as a Beta tool. Technical resource with climate actions across mitigation/adaptation sectors, including impacts, examples, environmental justice considerations, and ease of implementation.




DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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