

Public Values

In developing its Wastewater Resource Management Plan, LOTT recognized the following public values. These values, expressed widely by citizens throughout the LOTT service area, were drawn from citizen surveys conducted early in the planning. LOTT sought a balance among these key values in preparing its long-range plan for managing the region's wastewater resource, and continues to rely on these values to guide its planning, programs, and capital projects.

1. As a first priority, **maximize utilization of LOTT's existing treatment capacity.** Manage demand to avoid or delay the need for new treatment capacity.
2. Prepare a plan that **meets current and future wastewater needs** throughout the LOTT service area. Accommodate planned growth, consistent with LOTT's legal requirements.
3. Select wastewater facilities for the region's future that yield **maximum benefits to the environment.** Mitigate any potentially adverse impacts of new facilities.
4. Take all possible steps to **control facilities costs.** Carefully consider the lowest cost and most cost-effective alternatives, and evaluate the impact on LOTT ratepayers.
5. **Treasure LOTT's treated wastewater as a valuable, long-term resource** to be cleaned and restored, reused, then ultimately returned to the environment.
6. Clearly define, demonstrate and document the value to the community of new facilities needed for the future. Design any new LOTT facilities to **produce multiple benefits for the community.**
7. **Conduct a pro-active and open facilities planning process** that informs and involves citizens in planning and decision making.
8. **Assure an equitable distribution of costs** for any new facilities between current ratepayers and new development.
9. Establish an organizational structure to build and operate the region's future facilities effectively and efficiently, and that **assures equitable and accountable representation of the public.**
10. **Integrate LOTT's facilities plan with other related local issues, plans and infrastructure programs** to maximize regional cooperation and avoid duplication of effort and cost.