

Water Use Ordinance Executive Summary

This revised Water Use Ordinance represents an update to the regulatory framework governing water service within Lake County Public Works' jurisdiction. A detailed review identified the need for a unified ordinance that better reflects the operational standards, technical practices, and regulatory obligations of the County. The ordinance has been expanded to provide clearer definitions, modernized requirements, and updated references in accordance with state and federal guidelines. Below is a summary of the primary upgrades:

Section 52.01 – Introductory Provisions: The Definitions subsection has been expanded to provide clarity on commonly used terms and to reflect terminology consistent with the Illinois Plumbing Code, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and relevant environmental regulations (Section 52.01).

Section 52.02 – Connection to Water System: Updates to this section improve oversight and long-term planning for water main extensions. A significant change is the addition of a new section that establishes clear standards and requirements for extending public water mains. Changes to this section are as follows:

- A new section on Water Main Extensions gives the County authority to review, permit, and inspect any proposed extensions to ensure they meet current design and construction standards.
- Developers are now required to design mains that accommodate future growth, extend service across full properties, and connect to the system with proper termination points and hydrants.
- All extensions must be tested and approved by the County before being accepted into the public system.
- Developers must provide detailed plans, obtain necessary state approvals, and transfer ownership of the infrastructure to the County upon completion.
- Service lines must be kept as short as practical to reduce water aging.
- When service lines are abandoned, they must now be disconnected at the main to prevent stagnation in the system.

These changes align the water ordinance with the County's sewer standards, close existing enforcement gaps, and ensure new water infrastructure is built to serve both current and future needs (Section 52.02 (I)).

Section 52.05 – Cross-connection Control: This section was revised to align with our current procedure, which provides an option for backflow device certification test results to be uploaded to a specified website rather than sent directly to the department (Section 52.05 (I)).

Section 52.09 – Variance and Appeal Process: Updates were made to clarify that approved variances are case-specific and valid only for the circumstances under which they are granted. If the variance relates to physical improvements, a re-review is required if those improvements are not completed within two years of the decision date (Section 52.09(D)).