



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

CITY OF THE DALLES

City of the Dalles 2026-2028 Strategic Plan



City Council Approves 2026–2028 Strategic Plan

At the February 23 City Council meeting, the Council approved the 2026–2028 Strategic Plan, establishing a clear roadmap for the City's priorities over the next three years. Building on past annual goal-setting efforts, this new plan provides greater continuity, stronger alignment across departments, and a more long-term focus. The plan was developed through collaboration between City Council, leadership staff, and employees.

The Strategic Plan will guide future decision-making, including budgeting and resource allocation, and will remain flexible as priorities and conditions evolve.

View the full Strategic Plan:

https://www.thedalles.org/government/city%20council/The%20Dalles_2026%20SP%20Report_final-2.pdf?t=202603161300250

First Street Streetscape Project Update

Work on the First Street Streetscape Project has officially begun, as most of you have noticed. Road closures are in place and traffic control measure have been implemented to keep everyone safe. All downtown businesses remain open and ready to serve you during construction, please continue to support them.

We'll continue updating details about closures and traffic plans on our Downtwon Projects webpage. www.thedalles.org/DTprojects



QLife Awarded \$15.2 Million for Broadband Expansion

Q-Life Network has been awarded \$15.2 million in federal funding through the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program to expand high-speed fiber internet in Northern Wasco County.

This investment will bring reliable broadband access to more than 900 homes and businesses, particularly in rural and underserved areas west and southwest of The Dalles, as well as areas between The Dalles and Mosier. Over the next four years, Q-Life will install more than 30 miles of fiber infrastructure designed to support long-term needs such as education, healthcare, remote work, and economic development.

This project is part of a historic statewide effort to expand broadband access and close the digital divide, helping ensure more residents and businesses in Wasco County have access to fast, reliable internet.

Click the link below to learn more:

<https://qlife.net/bead-approved-by-ntia/>

The Dalles Watershed Act (H.R. 655)

The City of The Dalles relies on its municipal watershed for 70–80% of its water supply. To ensure long-term water security, address climate change impacts, and improve wildfire resilience.

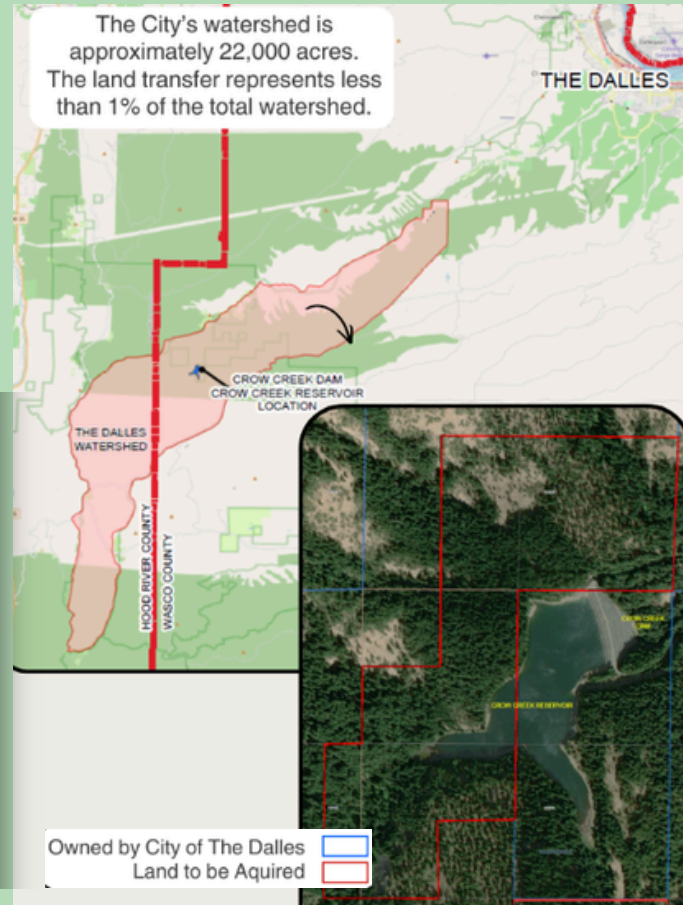
The bill would transfer approximately 150 acres of federal land, surrounding Crow Creek Dam and Reservoir to the City. This would simplify watershed management, reduce administrative complexity, and support future infrastructure planning. The Act supports decades of long-range water planning, ensuring the City can continue to provide reliable water for current and future needs.

Click on the link to learn more about HR 655 and The Dalles Watershed Masterplan: [thedalles.org/HR 655](https://thedalles.org/HR655)

Key Points



- No change to water rights: The Act does not alter existing City water rights or create dedicated water for private companies.
- Future planning only: Any reservoir expansion or infrastructure improvements would require separate environmental review, permitting, and public engagement.
- Improved management: Consolidating ownership will support long-term water planning, climate adaptation, and wildfire resilience.
- Community benefit: The watershed serves the entire community, including homes, businesses, and essential services.



City Updates on Actions Taken from Resolution No. 26-002

In January 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 26-002, acknowledging community impacts related to increased federal immigration enforcement activity and reaffirming the City's commitment to providing accessible services and operating within the law. While the City does not control federal enforcement, the resolution focuses on addressing local impacts such as fear, confusion, and barriers to accessing services.

Click here to see Resolution No. 26-002: thedalles.org/ORSPL

At the February City Council meeting, Council received an update on the resolution and the City's ongoing efforts to support the community. Since adoption, the City has launched informational videos, created a dedicated FAQ webpage, translated key materials into Spanish, and continued coordination with community partners. Internal initiatives include staff training and engagement through the City's Latino Affinity Group, which meets monthly to provide networking, guide internal policies, and identify practical community engagement ideas. Additionally, the City Manager collaborates with city leaders across Oregon to share information and monitor legislative developments that may inform future actions. The City's involvement with Oregon Latinos in Local Government, including the recent appointment of Abigail Jara to its Board of Directors, provides valuable opportunities to share information and guide decision-making, helping ensure consistent communication and service delivery.

City of The Dalles Proclaims Support for Veterans Stand Down Event

The City of The Dalles proudly supports the 2026 Veterans Stand Down, scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Lewis and Clark Park. Chelsea Perritt, Wasco County Veteran Service Officer, has requested City support for this important event, which connects veterans and their families with essential resources, including medical and dental care, housing, employment, education, and behavioral health services.

In recognition of the Stand Down event, Mayor Richard A. Mays issued a proclamation highlighting the City's deep appreciation for the service, courage, and sacrifice of veterans, active-duty service members, National Guard, Reservists, and their families. The proclamation acknowledges the vital role Stand Down events play in providing one-stop access to critical support through local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and community partners. It also emphasizes the importance of supporting veterans throughout the year and honoring those who work to ensure veterans receive the care and services they deserve.

Following the success of 2024, the 2026 event will feature additional vendors and partners to help veterans access the services they need with dignity and respect.



Call 811 before you dig.

Use the QR code to learn more at thedalles.org/call811



Common Sense Digging

Putting in a new fence? Installing an underground sprinkler system? Contact the 811 Utility Notification Center before digging more than 12 inches deep on your property. This important first step keeps you and your family safe from hitting an underground utility.



Use the QR code to learn more at thedalles.org/sprinklersafety



Home Sprinkler Safety

While sprinkler systems make it easy to water lawns and gardens, they also pose a potential risk. Without the proper plumbing equipment, water can flow backward (backflow), allowing contaminated water from your sprinkler system to flow into your home's drinking water supply and water mains. Install a backflow preventer, to keep your water drinkable.



Use the QR code to learn more at thedalles.org/cleanup



Annual Spring Community Clean Up

The 38th Annual Spring Community Clean Up will take place Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This year the event will be held at the Old Wasco County maintenance yard at the corner of West 10th Street and Walnut Street only at this date and time. Bring household yard debris and large items, such as furniture for free disposal.

2026 Investments in Pavement Management

The Transportation Division will soon begin this year's pavement preservation projects. Road condition evaluations help determine best-value candidates for street maintenance projects. The City directs its limited resources to help protect and extend the life of the transportation system.



Use the QR code to learn more about the City's 2025 investments in pavement management



GET INVOLVED & STAY INFORMED

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CITY HALL?

SPECIAL EPISODE: INSIDE A CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Ever wonder how City Council meetings work? This episode gives you a behind-the-scenes look at:

- How Council conducts official City business in a public setting
- Learn how meetings follow established rules to ensure discussions are fair, orderly, and transparent
- Where to find agenda packets and staff reports in advance
- How Audience Participation works.



Watch the special episode here:
https://www.youtube.com/shorts/YayWxj5c_yE

VIDEO RECAP SERIES

Be sure to catch our ongoing video recap series, where the City Manager breaks down recent City Council meetings, from new projects and policy updates to future plans shaping The Dalles.



Watch on the City's YouTube page



Follow us on Facebook and



Instagram

For updates and for behind-the-scenes insights!



LISTEN TO CITY HALL ON THE RADIO

1ST
FRIDAY
of the Month

Tune in at 10:00 AM to the KODL Coffee Break Show with Al Wynn to hear from the City Manager

4TH
TUESDAY
of the Month

Stay connected and catch the Mayor's monthly updates on KODL at 8:35am

3RD
THURSDAY
of the Month

Listen to the Executive Assistant to the City Manager on Radio Tierra at 7:30 AM (en español).



PUBLIC MEETING INFORMATION

Stay informed about City Committee, Commission, and Board meetings!

Visit our website to view:

- Agendas
- Minutes
- Schedules
- Livestreams OR
- Watch recorded videos



Scan the QR code OR



Visit thedalles.org to explore upcoming meetings

WE ARE HIRING

- SAFETY OFFICER
- SEASONAL MAINTENANCE WORKER (TEMPORARY)
- WATER DISTRIBUTION CERTIFIED OPERATOR



Learn more & apply:
thedalles.applicantpro.com/jobs



CITY HALL CLOSURES

Upcoming Closure Dates:

- May 25th - Memorial Day
- June 19th - Juneteenth

NEW CITY HALL HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY: 8AM-5PM

FRIDAY: 10AM - 5PM