

\* The WSSC estimates that additional water treatment capacity will be needed by 2005. Also, on-going maintenance, repair and construction will continue in various areas of the County.

\* The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) regulates the amount of microbiological matter and 18 metals, including lead, that may be present in drinking water. Water utilities, such as WSSC, are now required to ensure that lead levels at the tap are below certain levels. Previously, utilities only were regulated on the utility-owned portion of the water system, not for the individual, privately-owned pipes that connect a residence to the water main. Overall, the lead content in the WSSC system complies with the new standards. There are some portions of the system where lead components on private property will need to be replaced. Regulations regarding a utility's responsibility to replace private components have not been finalized.

### 13. SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Handling and treating human wastes is an essential component of public health protection. The WSSC sewerage system has been designed and constructed to minimize health risks due to faulty septic systems and outdated methods of dumping untreated sewage directly into a stream system.

Sewage treatment produces sludge, which historically was disposed by landfilling methods. The WSSC also provides for the beneficial use of treated sludge through composting and agricultural land application.

Like the water system, the sewerage system must be planned and constructed in conjunction with development. Much of the County's sewage is treated at the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant or WSSC-operated plants. The town of Poolesville is served by its own plant, while low-density residential and agricultural areas are served by private septic systems. The safe operation of all types of sewage disposal techniques is essential in protecting the public health and in

maintaining the quality of the County's waterways.

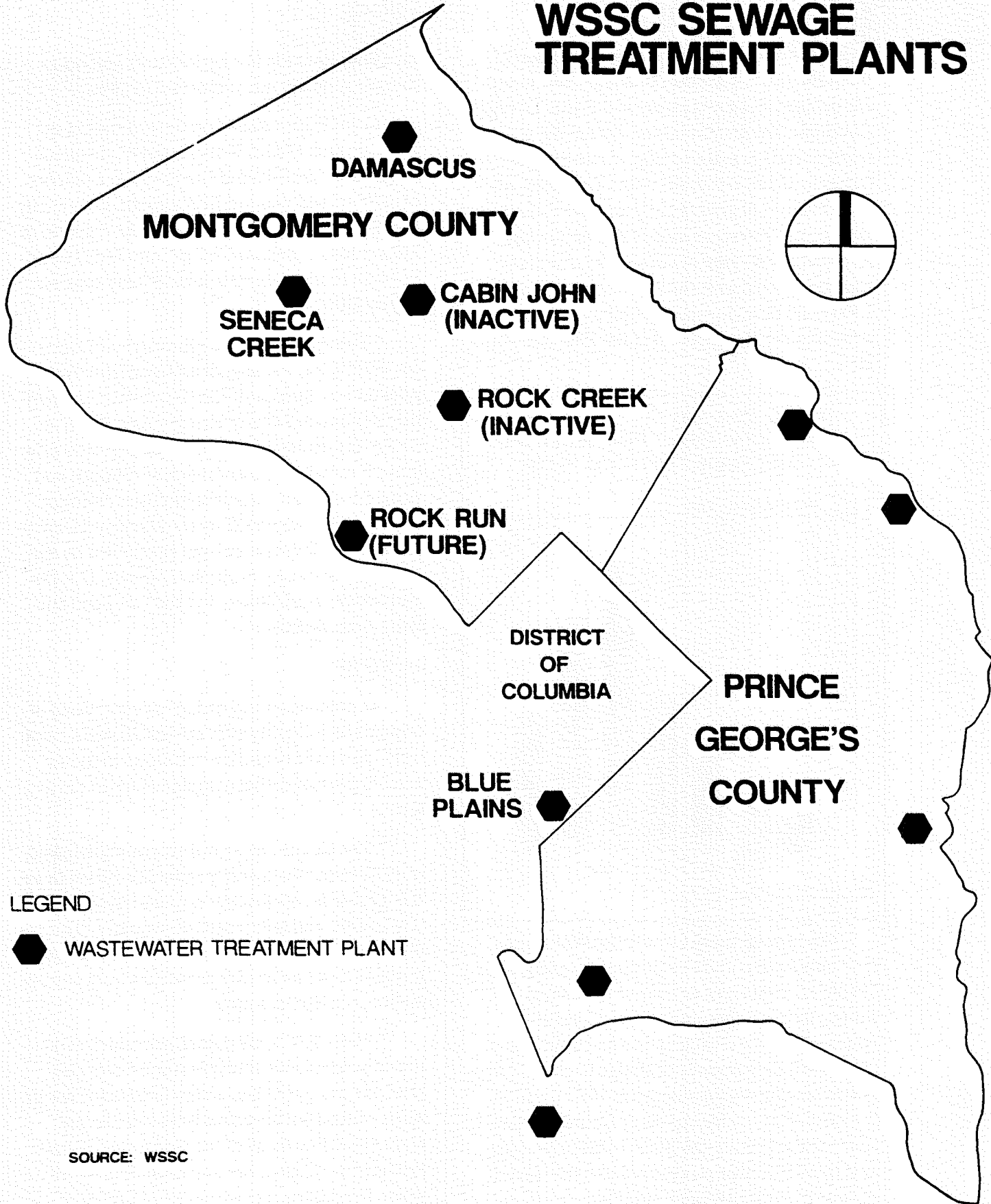
\* The WSSC operates two wastewater treatment plants (WWTP's) in the County, with an additional facility planned. The Seneca and Damascus WWTP's can process approximately six million gallons per day (MGD). Both plants provide secondary and advanced treatment. Secondary treatment removes solid particles by sedimentation (sludge) and skimming (scum) and organic components through microbiological activity. Advanced treatment removes nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous and additional suspended solids, beyond secondary treatment.

A proposed advanced WWTP on Rock Run near Avenel in Potomac will have a capacity of 20 MGD. In addition, approximately 169 MGD of the 370-MGD ultimate capacity of the Blue Plains WWTP is allocated to the WSSC. It is anticipated that by 2010 or 2015, the Blue Plains service area will need an additional 20 MGD of capacity, even with the construction of the Rock Run WWTP. Based on the 1983 bi-county Sewage Treatment Agreement, the Rock Run WWTP is the next scheduled increment in capacity for the Blue Plains service area.

\* The WSSC, along with agencies of Montgomery and Prince George's counties, has begun to prepare the WSSC's Strategic Sewerage Plan. The objectives of this study are to determine the long-term (40 year) wastewater treatment and transmission needs within the Washington Suburban Sanitary District, to develop alternatives to meet these needs and to identify staging strategies.

\* WSSC wastewater treatment plants (WWTP's), including Damascus and Seneca, have won awards from EPA while Seneca also received a gold medal from the Association of Metropolitan Sewage Agencies. These awards acknowledge the high quality treatment provided by WSSC.

# WSSC SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS

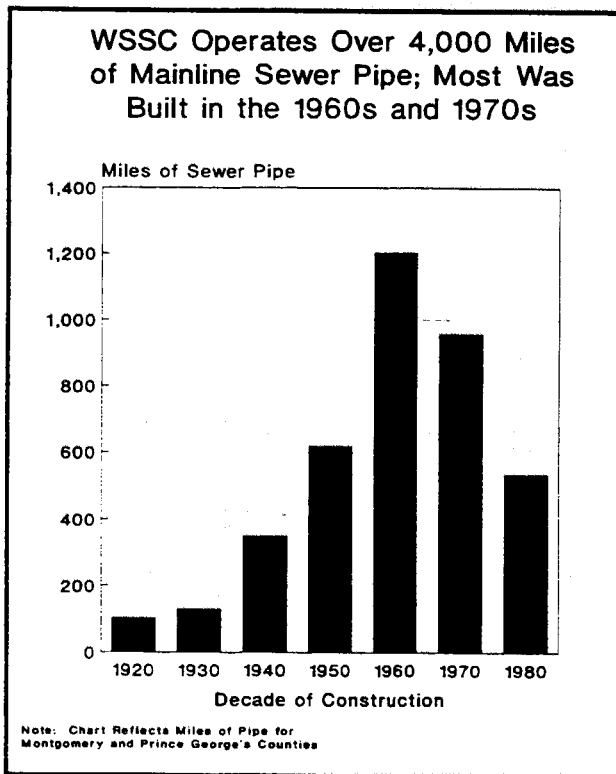


## LEGEND

 WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

SOURCE: WSSC

\* The WSSC operates over 4,000 miles of mainline sewer pipe and 50 wastewater pumping stations in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The gravity sewers within the wastewater collection system range in size from six inches to 102 inches in diameter. The WSSC allocates millions of dollars per year toward the maintenance and reconstruction of the wastewater transmission system, of which a large portion was constructed over the last 40 years. About 1,500 miles of mainline sewer pipe have been constructed since the approval of the 1969 General Plan.



\* In Montgomery County the WSSC uses land application and composting to treat sludge. The WSSC converts a portion of the treated sludge, through composting, into ComPRO, which is sold commercially as a soil conditioner. Over one billion pounds of sludge have been composted since operations began in 1978. ComPRO is produced at the Montgomery County Regional Composting Facility (MCRCF) in Fairland, operated by WSSC. This process reduces the need to dispose of sludge through landfilling, incinera-

tion, land injection (for agriculture), and ocean dumping, which was prohibited in 1988.

ComPRO is utilized on the grounds of the White House, Mount Vernon, and the National Arboretum. The MCRCF has received a number of national and regional EPA awards. Overall, the WSSC is currently responsible for the disposal of 130 dry tons per day of sludge from Blue Plains and will produce an estimated 200 dry tons per day by 2030.

\* The sludge from the Seneca and Damascus WWTP's is dewatered and available for application on farmland. On the average, the two plants produce 2.44 dry tons per day. Applying sludge to farmland improves crop production because it contains nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous and improves moisture retention. Application is regulated by the Maryland Department of the Environment and sanctioned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

#### 14. NOISE

As population and traffic have increased in Montgomery County over the last 20 years, noise levels also have risen. Several efforts to reduce noise impacts have been implemented at the local level.

\* The County noise ordinance, established in 1975, states that every person is entitled to ambient noise levels that are not detrimental to life, health, and enjoyment of property. This ordinance established maximum permissible sound levels allowed on nearby properties from any operation, activity, or source.

\* M-NCPPC staff guidelines which established guidance on transportation noise and land use compatibility, and priorities for use of noise mitigation measures have been in use since 1983. Nearly all of the landscaped earthen berms in the County are the result of this program. In addition, approximately 15 miles of