

APPENDIX

MAY 2010

# water resources

FUNCTIONAL PLAN



## Appendix 1

Information on WSSC Programs and Initiatives, and Excerpts, Selected Maps, and Tables from Chapter 1 of the Water and Sewer Plan



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

[MontgomeryPlanning.org](http://MontgomeryPlanning.org)

## Information on WSSC Programs and Initiatives

### WSSC Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

WSSC submits a Six-Year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) annually to the County for interagency review and for modification and adoption by the County Council. WSSC prepares and submits the CIP for major community water and sewerage projects to the County as part of its responsibility to plan and finance the water supply and sewerage system. WSSC and the Executive work together in the preparation of relevant portions of the WSSC's proposed CIP and related facility plans. The County incorporates the adopted WSSC annual CIP and subsequent amendments as updates to the Water and Sewer Plan, which serve to substantially fulfill the fiscal planning requirements of state law and regulations. Public hearing advertisements shall indicate that the Council's action on WSSC's CIP is also an update to the Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan. WSSC implements the approved County CIP for major water and sewerage facilities by designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining water systems and acquiring facility sites and rights-of-way. The two County Councils annually review and adopt the WSSC CIP and operating budgets.

Appendix A of the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Systems Plan contains a summary listing of major planned water and wastewater projects contained in the approved CIP for the Montgomery County portion of WSSC, and the City of Rockville. The CIP projects listed generally include planning, design, land acquisition, and construction of new facilities. These CIP projects include system improvements to comply with federal and/or state and local mandates, and new facilities to support new development in accordance with the County's approved plans and policies for orderly growth and development. The latest WSSC CIP documentation is available on the WSSC website at: [www.wsscwater.com](http://www.wsscwater.com)

### WSSC Budget

WSSC prepares an annual budget for all its programs and operations. The latest WSSC budget documentation is available on the WSSC website [at: www.wsscwater.com](http://www.wsscwater.com)

### WSSC Programs and Initiatives

#### WSSC Consent Decree

Sanitary systems overflow problems in recent years resulted in a remedial consent decree. On December 7, 2005 a civil consent decree was entered in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland to dramatically reduce, and eliminate where possible, sanitary sewer overflows from the WSSC sanitary sewer collection system. Under the terms of the consent decree, WSSC is required to implement over the next 14 years numerous reporting, monitoring, inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement remedial measures for its sewer collection system in order to eliminate sewer overflows. WSSC is required to perform supplemental environmental projects in the amount of \$4.4 million toward the purchase or acquisition of Patuxent Reservoir buffer properties and easements for water supply protection, and private property inflow elimination. WSSC has worked closely with partners at the federal, state and local levels to develop a proactive plan that will augment our existing efforts to maintain, identify and repair problem areas within its 5,300-mile sewer system. For more information see the WSSC website: <http://www.wsscwater.com/info/sso/index.cfm>

#### WSSC Utility and Asset Management Master Plan

Growing system rehabilitation needs due to aging buildings, tanks, facilities, and buried infrastructure have led WSSC to undertake a utility-wide master plan that will review all aspects of the water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure. To ensure that the master plan meets the present and future needs of the service area, the planning process will consider changes in capacity, required maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement of existing infrastructure, process control, and energy conservation opportunities as a means of ensuring reliability and effectiveness. The plan will include an asset

management strategy to provide for the systematic planning, acquisition, deployment, utilization, control, and decommissioning of capital assets. It will integrate strategic-level, mid-level, and operational-level management decisions to maximize the value of the asset per dollar invested.

The project is planned to be completed in several phases, and will include:

- Development of a 30-year capital projection and 10-year financial plan that will form the basis for future budgeting and rate setting
- Development of a utility-wide master plan and asset management implementation strategy plan
- Development of subsystem and/or facility master plans
- Preparation of economic and technical analyses
- Development of requirements for sub-systems and facilities.

## **Water and Sewer Plan, Chapter 1: Objectives and Policies**

Chapter 1 of the Water and Sewer Plan includes an introduction to the Plan, identifying its purpose, legal context, and governance issues. It outlines the plan's goals and objectives for the orderly and cost-effective development of community water supply and sewerage systems, and summarizes the Plan's structure and content. It describes the government responsibilities, coordination, general financing, and planning process used in Montgomery County to stage and implement water and sewer infrastructure improvements, including identification of policies and a review of the procedures for the adoption of amendments and/or modifications to the Plan. It also includes both general and special-condition policies that have been adopted by the County Council for the designation of community water and sewer service area, which regulate water and sewerage system extensions, connections, and their staging. For more information on these elements, see Chapter 1 of the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan.

### **Excerpts from Chapter 1**

**1.II.C Water and Sewer Service Planning in the Development Review Process** The provision of water and sewer service for new development is an integral part of the County's evaluation of development proposals. DEP's primary involvement in the County's development review process includes the following:

**1.II.C.1 Development Plan Review** The M-NCPPC Development Review Division manages the County's Development Review Committee (DRC), an interagency group which meets regularly to review and evaluate proposed development plans. DEP is the lead agency in the DRC with regard to water and sewer service planning issues. DEP staff report to the DRC on the consistency of the water and sewer service components of development proposals with respect to the County's Water and Sewer Plan. In order for a development proposal to proceed to the Planning Board for consideration, DEP and M-NCPPC staff need to confirm the consistency of the development plan with the policies and service area designations in the Water and Sewer Plan. WSSC staff also participates in this process with a focus on water and sewer systems design and capacity.

**1.II.C.2 Record Plat Review and Approval Process** Record plats legally establish subdivided properties in the County's land records. DEP staff review record plats prior to recordation to ensure that the type of water and sewer service intended to serve the development proposed by the plat is consistent with policies and service area designations in this Plan. As required by MDE, DEP staff also calculates a sewage treatment flow commitment for each plat which depends on community sewer service. MDE and WSSC track these flow commitments relative to the available treatment capacity at the appropriate sewage treatment plant in order to ensure that adequate treatment capacity is available for development approved by the County.

**1.II.D.4 Consistency with Comprehensive Planning Policy** Water and/or sewer service should be extended systematically in concert with other public facilities along the corridors as defined in the General Plan, to

accommodate growth only in areas covered by adopted local area master or sector plans. Guidance for the type, amount, location and sequence of growth is contained in the comprehensive planning policies of the County as adopted by the County Council. These policies are expressed in detail in the General Plan and the various master and sector plans which constitute amendments to the General Plan. Various functional plans, such as the Water and Sewer Plan, should be consistent with these comprehensive planning policies. In addition, the Water and Sewer Plan should consider other adopted or proposed policies of various agencies affecting land use, including guidelines for the administration of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance.

The Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan intends that water and sewer service decisions should follow and implement the land use and development guidance established in the County's General Plan and local area master plans. A variety of factors influence policy decisions concerning the density or type of development for a particular area: overall land use guidance; transportation and school capacity; environmental protection; local and county-wide housing and commercial demand; compatibility with existing development; and suitability for individual, on-site systems. The proximity of water and/or sewer mains to an area of the county, also one of these factors, should not serve as the primary driver of these policy decisions. The availability of community service can provide for development options, such as cluster, which might not be possible with the use of individual systems. (See Chapter 1 of the Water and Sewerage Plan for details on these policies.)

#### Other Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Policies

More specific policies regarding water supply issues may be found in Chapter 3 *Water Supply Systems*, while additional wastewater-related policies are incorporated into Chapter 4 *Sewerage Systems*. See Chapters 3 and 4 of the Water and Sewerage Plan for detailed information on these policies.

### 1.IV Water and Sewerage Systems Financing

**A. Washington Suburban Sanitary District** The planning, design, land acquisition, and construction of water supply and sewerage system infrastructure is financed by two separate programs in the WSSD: the Major Systems and General Construction Programs.

- 1. Major Facilities Program** The WSSC major facilities program includes projects adopted in the WSSC CIP: water and sewage treatment plants, pumping stations, storage facilities, and program size mains. Program size mains are water mains 16 inches in diameter and larger and sewer mains 15 inches in diameter and larger. WSSC finances these projects through water supply and sewage disposal bonds, developer contributions, systems development charges (SDC), grant funds, and other less significant sources. Bonds to construct program-size facilities are amortized through revenues generated primarily by basic water and sewer user charges. Rate-supported debt is used to fund capital projects providing general system and environmental regulation-related improvements. Capital projects which support only new system growth are constructed through the System Extension Permit (SEP) process with either SDC funds or solely financed under Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) so that current water and sewer user rates do not support new growth. This also applies to capital projects which only in part support new growth to the extent that WSSC determines. During construction of major facilities, WSSC provides credit against SDC fees (in the amount of 50 percent of the estimated total construction fees) to the developer financing capital projects. Once the developer completes construction and WSSC performs a final audit, WSSC initiates quarterly reimbursements based on available SDC funds in the geographic area served by the facility.

In certain cases, WSSC may authorize a developer to not only construct, but to also maintain and operate, elements of the community system. Most often, these are private, on-site, central

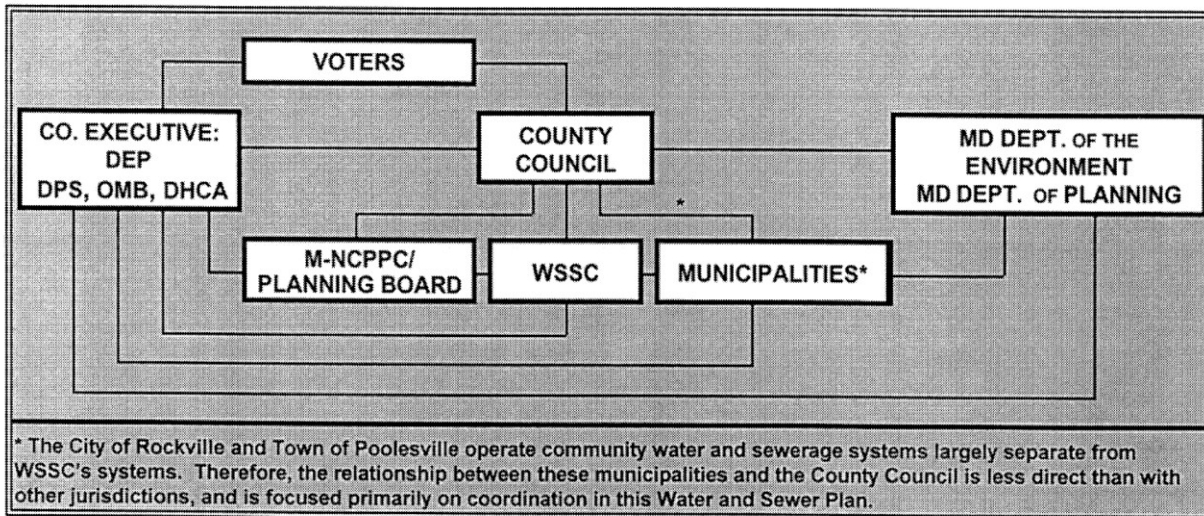
wastewater pumping stations serving commercial development. WSSC may also authorize the construction of private interim wastewater pumping stations to serve residential development pending the construction of permanent, WSSC-owned and -operated facilities. WSSC shall coordinate the approval of these private facilities with DEP prior to their authorization, especially where those facilities could appear, or have appeared, as projects in the WSSC CIP.

#### **Selected Maps and Tables from the Water and Sewer Plan, Chapter 1: Objectives and Policies**



Table 1-T2: Service Area Categories	
Service Area Categories	Category Definition and General Description
W-1 and S-1	Areas served by community systems which are either existing or under construction. – This may include properties or areas for which community system mains are not immediately available or which have not yet connected to existing community service.
W-2 and S-2	<b>Categories W-2 and S-2 are not used in Montgomery County.</b> (State definition: Areas served by extensions of existing community and multi-use systems which are in the final planning stages.)

Figure 1-F1: Government Responsibilities for Water and Sewerage System Planning



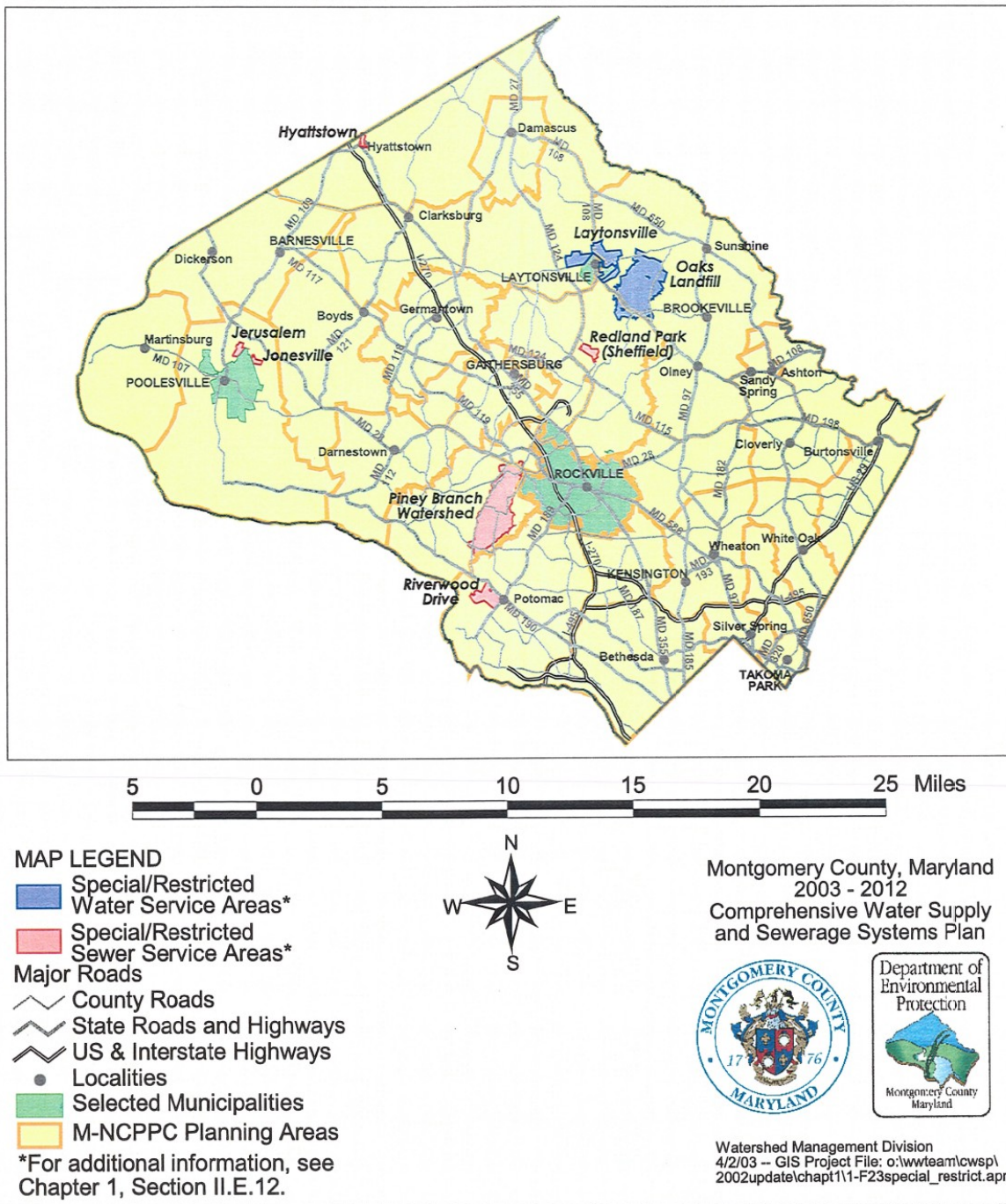
Montgomery County Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan

**Chapter 1: Objectives and Policies**

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Table 1-T2: Service Area Categories	
Service Area Categories	Category Definition and General Description
W-3 and S-3	Areas where improvements to or construction of new community systems will be given immediate priority and service will generally be provided within two years or as development and requests for community service are planned and scheduled.
W-4 and S-4	Areas where improvements to or construction of new community systems will be programmed for the three- through six-year period. – This includes areas generally requiring the approval of CIP projects before service can be provided.
W-5 and S-5	Areas where improvements to or construction of new community systems are planned for the seven- through ten-year period. – This category is frequently used to identify areas where land use plans recommend future service staged beyond the scope of the six-year CIP planning period.
W-6 and S-6	Areas where there is no planned community service either within the ten-year scope of this plan or beyond that time period. This includes all areas not designated as categories 1 through 5. – Category 6 includes areas that are planned or staged for community service beyond the scope of the plan's ten-year planning period, and areas that are not ever expected for community service on the basis of adopted plans.

**Figure 1-F3: Special and Restricted Community Water and Sewer Service Areas**



For more detailed information on water and sewer planning objectives, policies, interagency responsibilities and coordination, and financing, see Chapter 1 of the Water and Sewer Plan.