

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE SYSTEMS PLAN
APPROVED 2003 - 2012 PLAN**

GLOSSARY

To understand the policies governing the provision of water and sewerage service in the county, it is helpful understand the definitions of terms used throughout this text. The following includes relevant definitions – many taken from the State regulations governing planning of water supply and sewerage systems (COMAR 26.03.01.01) – used in this Plan:

Capital Contribution Charge (City of Rockville only)

A fee paid by new users of Rockville's water and sewerage systems, which the City uses to finance the capital cost of sanitary systems growth and improvements.

Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

Provides for the programming of planning, design, land acquisition, and construction on a yearly basis for major water and sewerage facilities. These facilities include project such as water filtration plant s, sewage treatment plants, mains, pumping stations, and storage facilities. The adopted WSSC CIP is incorporated into the County's CIP to make it easily available for review to those interested in County budget issues.

Community Sewerage System

Any system, whether publicly or privately owned, serving two or more individual properties, for the collection and disposal of sewage or industrial wastes of a liquid nature, including various devices for the treatment of the sewage and industrial wastes. The community sewerage system is often referred to as the public sewerage system, or as public sewer service, in other documents.

Community Water Supply System

A source of water and a distribution system, including treatment and storage facilities, whether publicly or privately owned, serving two or more individual properties. The community water supply system is often referred to as the public water system, or as public water service, in other documents.

Existing Service Area

An area that is currently served; individual properties within the area are generally connected to the community system.

Final Planning Stages

The status of community water supply and community sewerage system for which contract plans and specifications have been completed.

Front Foot Benefit Assessment (FFBA)

An annual charge levied on properties abutting water and sewer mains in the Washington Suburban Sanitary District which pays for the extension of local service mains financed by general construction bonds. Additional information is provided in Chapter 1, Section IV.A.2.b. and in Chapters 3 and 4 of this Plan.

Individual Sewerage System

A single system of sewers and piping, treatment tanks or other facilities serving only a single property and disposing of sewage or individual wastes of a liquid nature, in whole or in part, on or in the soil of the property, into any waters of the State, or by other methods. The most common individual sewerage system in the county is a septic system. Septic systems treat sewage through the use of a septic settling tank and subsurface drainfields which discharge their effluent to the ground. Microorganisms in the soil continue to treat the effluent as the fluid percolates through the soil profile.

Individual Water Supply System

A single system of piping, pumps, tanks, or other facilities utilizing a source of ground or surface water to supply only a single property. The most common individual water supply system in the county is a groundwater well. Wells use a pump to draw groundwater stored in the well shaft into the user's house or business.

Interim Individual Water Supply or Sewerage System

An individual system established within an existing or planned community service area for an interim period only and intended to be abandoned and replaced by community service within one year of the availability of community service.

Limited Access Water and Sewer Mains

Limited access water and sewer mains traverse or abut properties which this Plan designates as generally ineligible for community water and/or sewer service, either by the general policies in this Plan or by a specific action of the County Council restricting service.

Multi-use Water Supply and Sewerage Systems

Individual on-site systems, whether owned or operated by an individual or group of individuals under private or collective ownership, serving a group of individuals, and having a treatment capacity of 1,500 gallons or more per day (gpd). Multi-use water supply systems utilize a source of ground or surface water to provide potable water, and consist of wells, piping, pumps, tanks, and/or other facilities. Multi-use sewerage systems collect and dispose of sewage or industrial wastes of a liquid nature, and consist of various devices for the treatment and discharge of sewage and industrial wastes. For the purposes of this plan, multi-use systems include the following:

- A single water supply and/or sewerage system serving a single property;
- A single water supply and/or sewerage system serving two or more commonly-owned, contiguous properties with a common function (religious institution, nursing home, etc.); and
- More than one water supply and/or sewerage system serving a single property with a cumulative capacity of 1,500 or more gpd.

Sanitary District

The entire area where the responsibility of providing community water and sewer service as identified in this plan falls to a single agency. The Washington Suburban Sanitary District (WSSD), which encompasses most of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, is served by the WSSC. Two areas within the County excluded from the WSSD are the Rockville Sanitary District, served by the City of Rockville's community system, and the Poolesville Sanitary District, coinciding with the Town of Poolesville corporate limits and served by the Town's community systems.

Sewer Service Area

That area served, or potentially served, by a system of sanitary sewers connected to a treatment plant, or, in a very large system, sub-areas as delineated by the County.

Systems Development Charge

A fee paid by new users of the WSSC's water and sewerage systems which WSSC uses to finance the capital cost of system growth and improvement.

Water Service Area

That area served, or potentially served, by a single distribution system under control of a single utility, or, in a very large system, sub-areas as delineated by the County.

Water/Sewer Connection

The portion of the service connection for a structure located between the local service main and the property line, or between the main and the sanitary easement for the main. Within the WSSD, the house connection is the responsibility of the WSSC.

Water/Sewer Hookup

The portion of the service connection for a structure located between the property line and the structure served. A single hookup may serve more than one structure on a given property. In exceptional cases, hookups may also be located within an easement on an adjacent property; the WSSC refers to these off-site hookups as "non-abutting connections." Within the WSSD, the house hookup is the responsibility of the property owner.