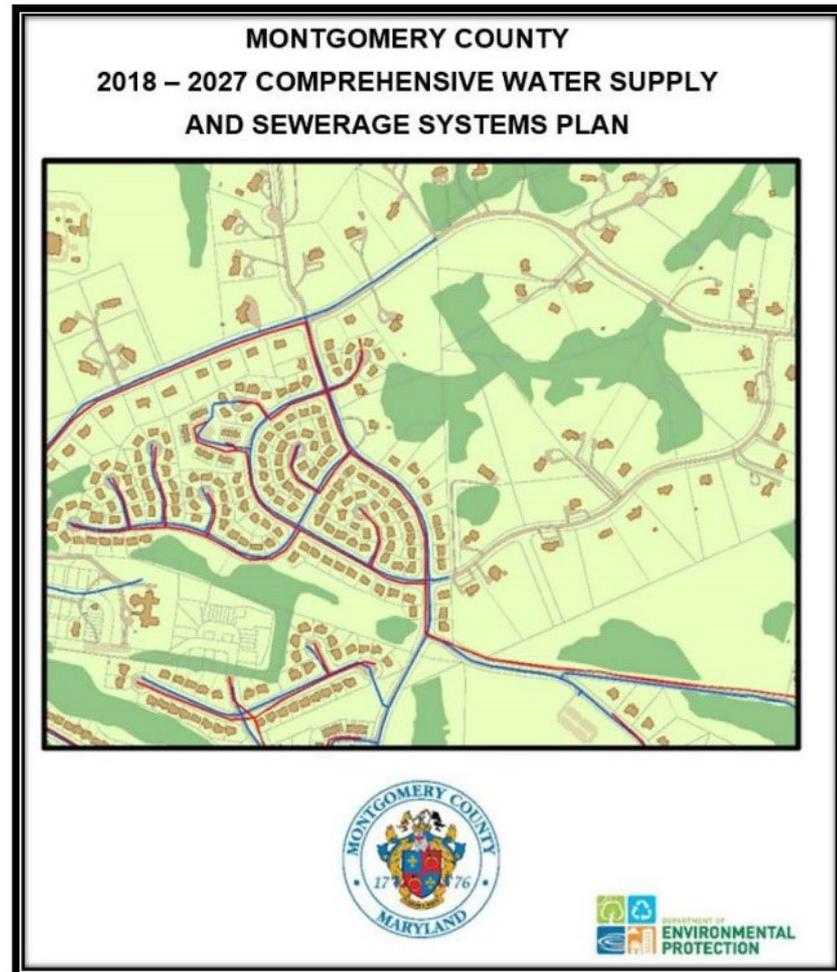


Montgomery County Ten-Year Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan

AN
INTRODUCTION



Prepared by Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

Purpose

- The overall goal of the *Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan* is to ensure that the existing and future water supply and wastewater system needs of Montgomery County are satisfied in a cost-effective manner that:
 - Protects public health and safety and protects environmental resources
 - Supports the goals and objectives of the County's General Plan and the State's smart-growth initiatives
 - Provides information on water supply and wastewater systems serving the county
 - Provides policy guidance to elected officials and agencies

Statutory Requirements

- Section 9-503 Environment Article of the Maryland Code requires that each County have a plan and that it be updated comprehensively at least once every 3 years. Amendments can be approved at any time.

Current Schedule

2018: Comprehensive Plan update approved by Council (October 2018) and MDE (March 2019)

2019: Planned technical update.

2020: Planned technical update.

2021: Planned comprehensive Plan update.

- The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) reviews and approves comprehensive updates and all amendments passed by the County. The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) comments to MDE on the consistency of an amendment with applicable master plans and certain State policies (such as smart growth regulations).

Water and Sewer Plan Components

- Introduction (Executive Summary)
- Chapter 1: Objectives and Policies
- Chapter 2: General Background
- Chapter 3: Water Supply Systems
- Chapter 4: Sewerage Systems
- Appendices
- Service Area Category Maps

Plan text and maps are available on DEP's website:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/supply/index.html>.

Chapter 1: Objectives and Policies

Provides:

- Legal requirements for the plan
- Overall objectives for water and sewer service
- Policies addressing the provision of water and sewer service from community (public), individual onsite (wells and septic systems), and multiuse systems
- Policies affecting public infrastructure, including financing
- Policy issues affecting the use of individual onsite systems
- Procedures and organizational roles through which the County and State adopt, amend, and administer the Plan

Chapter 1: Water/Sewer Service Policies

- **General Service Policies:** Focused primarily on zoned development density and master plan service recommendations
 - Public water and sewer generally assumed to serve moderate to high residential development densities of two or more units per acre (R-60, R-90, R-200, etc.), certain development cluster options, and most commercial and mixed-use development.
 - “Large Lot” Policy: water service *may* be approved to lower-density development (RE-1, RE-2, RC cluster) if service is logical, economical, and provides for adequate protection of surface and ground waters. Areas typically served by septic systems.
 - Rural and Agricultural areas (RC, Rural, & AR) intended for individual, onsite water supply systems (wells) and septic systems.

Chapter 1: Water/Sewer Service Policies

■ Special Service Policies

Address specific circumstances. Most cases involve properties found outside planned public service envelopes, for issues such as:

- Public health cases – individual cases and area-wide
- Public facilities
- Private institutional facilities (PIFs)
- Properties that abut public service mains

These policies come with service restrictions (type of use, number of connections allowed) to limit their impact.

Chapter 1: Water/Sewer Service Policies

- Service Area Categories designate the type of water and sewerage systems will serve a property:
 - W1/S1: area is approved for and can be served by community (public) systems
 - W3/S3: area is approved for public service, but lacks access to existing mains; service is expected within approximately 2 years of an extension request
 - W6/S6: area is intended to use individual, onsite systems; no community service is planned
 - W6/S6 multiuse system: property is served by an onsite system with a capacity of 1,500 or more gallons per day (gpd)

Chapter 1: Plan Amendment Process

Types of Amendments

– Text Amendments

- *Examples: Changes in the private institutional facilities (PIF) policy (by Council), technical updates (by DEP)*

– Category Changes (Category Map Amendments)

- Individual (single property owner)
Examples: Homeowner currently on well and septic seeking water and/or sewer, development project needing public water and sewer
- Area-wide (multiple property owners) often initiated by DEP
Examples: Laytonsville Water Service, Tune Ave. (Damascus) health problem area sewer service, Clarksburg Ten Mile Creek watershed

Chapter 1: Plan Amendment Process

- Council Review Process (two times per year)
 - Default process for consideration of Plan amendments
 - CE makes formal recommendations and transmits to the Council
- Administrative Delegation (four times per year)
 - DEP Director authorized to approve Plan amendments meeting specific policy requirements in Chapter 1
 - DEP staff recommend qualifying requests based on specific policy requirements (*Examples: consistent with existing plans, public health problems, public facilities, abutting mains, & multiuse systems*)

Chapter 1: Current Planning Issues

■ Extension Costs:

The property owner or developer is responsible for the costs associated with extending public water and/or sewer service to his/her property.

- For properties being subdivided, this is generally not a problem (the developer can build the cost into the price of the new development or defer costs using privately-financed assessments)
- For “Mom and Pop” extensions (to serve existing parcels or already subdivided properties) the “deficit” costs beyond WSSC’s annual front-foot assessments can be and are now typically prohibitive.

■ Onsite Systems Management Programs:

- Develop database of onsite systems for educational outreach
- Future possible onsite system management programs (system maintenance, periodic inspections, etc.)

Chapter 2

GENERAL BACKGROUND

This Chapter Provides for:

- Background information on natural and man-made environments relevant to the provision of water and sewer service including:
 - Generalized Topography and Geology
 - Hydrologic Conditions, Water Resources and Water Quality
 - Growth Policies, Land Use, General Plan and Master Plans
 - Population Projections and Densities

Chapter 3

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS

This Chapter Provides For:

- **Information on Existing Water Supply Systems:**
 - Treatment Facilities
 - Transmission and distribution systems such as pressure zones, water mains, water storage facilities, and water pumping stations.

- **Planning Efforts to Ensure:**
 - That mid- and long-term water supply needs are and will be satisfied in a manner consistent with public policy and the plan's objectives. Factors considered include:
 - Population Projections and Water Consumption Patterns,
 - Projected Water Supply Demands,
 - Projected Treatment and Transmission Capacity Needs,
 - Projected Facility and Redundancy Needs, and
 - National, Regional, and Local Planning Issues and Regulatory Requirements.

Chapter 4

SEWERAGE SYSTEMS

This Chapter Provides For:

- **Information on Existing Sewerage Systems:**
 - Water Resource Recovery Facilities (Wastewater Treatment Plants)
 - Collection and Transmission Systems Such as Sewer Lines, Force Mains, and Pumping Stations.

- **Planning Efforts to Ensure:**
 - That mid- and long-term sewerage system needs are and will be satisfied in a manner consistent with public policy and the plan's objectives. Factors considered include:
 - Population Projections and Wastewater Flow Patterns,
 - Projected Wastewater Flows
 - Projected Collection, Transmission and Treatment Capacity Needs,
 - Projected Facility Needs, and
 - National, Regional, and Local Planning Issues and Regulatory Requirements.

Appendices

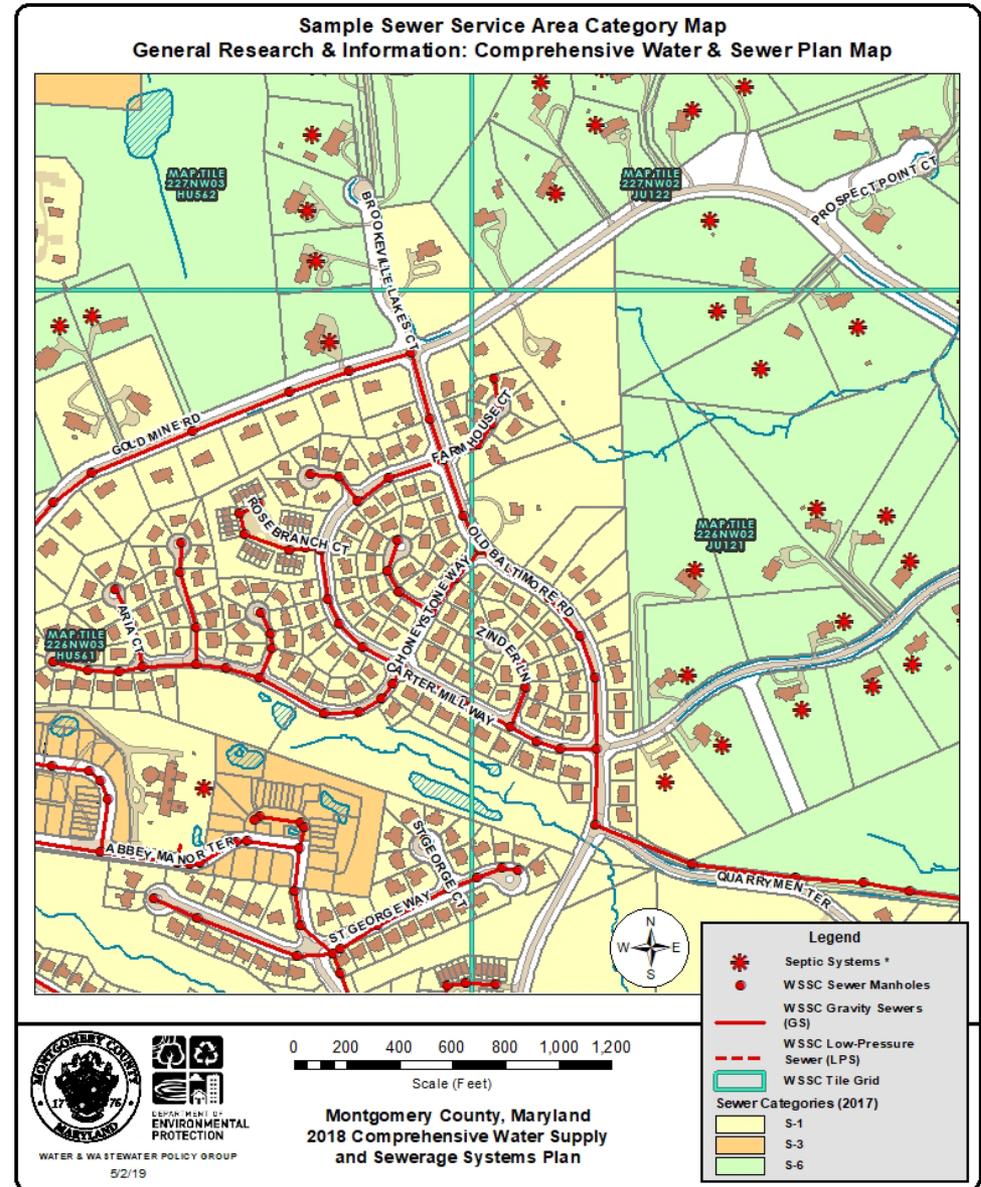
Provide technical or reference information to supplement the Plan's four chapters. DEP may update portions of this information more frequently than the Plan's three-year comprehensive amendment cycle. Appendices include information concerning:

- Terminology used in the Plan (Glossary)
- Existing and planned multiuse water supply and sewerage systems*
- Exceptional water/sewer service areas
- Agency contact information (local, bi-county, state)
- Major facilities and institutions*

**This information is required under State law.*

Water & Sewer Service Area Category Maps

Provide water and sewer service area categories designated in this Plan for all properties within the county (now accomplished with GIS/ArcMap). Categories are updated periodically as changes are granted throughout the year. An updated category database will be provided to County agencies annually.



Montgomery County Ten-Year Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan

(The inevitable)

Questions?