



# Comprehensive Plan 2009



## 2.4 SANITARY SEWER

**Goal 1: Provide environmentally safe and efficient wastewater treatment and disposal systems.**

***Objective 1** By 2010 correct projected facility deficiencies by implementing recommendations in the current approved 201 Wastewater Facilities plans for all wastewater systems owned and operated by the County.*

**Policy 1.1** By 2003 the County will acquire land required to construct a 3.0 MGD expansion, improve and expand the existing WWTF, or otherwise provide for additional wastewater treatment, and upgrade pumping stations as approved in the Wastewater Facility Plan for the Garniers Service Area.

**Policy 1.2** By 2002 the County will participate in the upgrade of the Niceville Valparaiso Okaloosa County (NVOC) WWTF as approved in the Wastewater Facility Plan for the NVOC Regional Wastewater Service Area.

**Policy 1.3** By 2009 the County will make improvements to its collection system in the NVOC Regional Wastewater Service Area.

**Policy 1.4** By 2004 the County will make fire protection and looping improvements and increase disposal capacity for the Bob Sikes Service Area.

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***Objective 2** Coordinate the extensions of sanitary sewer collection lines and the increase in capacity of sewage treatment facilities with all applicable municipal and private wastewater providers in order to meet future needs for areas within the urban development area boundaries established in the Future Land Use Element.*

**Policy 2.1** Consideration of land use amendments shall include the relationship of the amendment to the water and sewer service areas, and shall ensure that the land use category is appropriately based on the land use category definition, density or intensity, and location of the site of the proposed amendment within or outside water and sewer service areas. The boundaries of the various water and sewer service areas, as depicted

on the Water and Sewer Service Area Map shall not be changed as a result of annexation or a land use map amendment, but shall only be changed through a specific boundary amendment approved by the BCC unless such alteration is pursuant to a currently existing or subsequently entered into written agreement, entered into between the County, a municipality, or some other sewer service provider, which governs such boundary change.

**Policy 2.2** The County will provide extensions and increases in sewer capacities as scheduled in the five-year Schedule of Capital Improvements and will review projects on an annual basis.

**Policy 2.3** The level of service standards for sanitary sewer facilities shall be:

- a. Provide the capacity to collect and treat a minimum of 100 gallons per capita per day (225 gpd peak demand) for the Garnier and West Okaloosa systems;
- b. Provide the capacity to collect and treat a minimum of 100 gallons per capita per day (225 gpd peak demand) for the East Okaloosa system; Provide the capacity to collect and treat a minimum of 100 gallons per capita per day (225 gpd peak demand) for all other County operated systems; and
- c. If served by other than County operated systems, the provider's LOS must be met.

**Policy 2.4** All improvements for replacement, expansion, or increase in capacity of facilities for all entities having operational and maintenance responsibilities for sewage facilities in the unincorporated areas shall be consistent with adopted level of service standards and concurrent with the needs of the development.

**Policy 2.5** The County will continue to cooperate and coordinate with Eglin Air Force Base on the use of spray fields located on the base.

**Policy 2.6** The County shall require for water-saving plumbing devices in accordance with the Northwest Florida Resource Management Plan.

**Policy 2.7** The County will continue to participate, coordinate and cooperate with the Regional Utility Authority in the consideration of regional sanitary sewer issues.

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**Objective 3** *Maximize the use of existing facilities and discourage urban sprawl through coordination of facility locations with land use requirements of the Future Land Use Element. Existing facilities will be maximized by maintaining and expanding central sanitary service within the urban development area boundaries, phasing out the use of septic tanks and package plants within these boundaries, and limiting or prohibiting the extension of sanitary sewer facilities outside of these boundaries.*

**Policy 3.1** Use of on-site wastewater treatment systems shall be limited to the following conditions:

1. Existing septic tank and package treatment plants may remain in service as long as they perform satisfactorily in accordance with FDEP and FDH standards;
2. For areas not characterized by severely rated soils, use of septic tank systems for new development shall be limited to areas where central service or package plants are not available, and shall only be permitted subsequent to the receipt of all applicable FDH and FDEP permits; and
3. Use of new package treatment plants shall be prohibited, unless it is the most environmentally sound alternative. Central facilities shall be required for subdivisions in areas where septic tanks are prohibited due to severely rated soils, and for land uses proposing generation or processing of hazardous waste or high density or intensity use (based upon FDH and FDEP rules).

**Policy 3.2** The County shall establish inter-local agreements and other coordination mechanisms to ensure that all public and private utilities coordinate with the County regarding provision of sewer service to existing unsewered areas within urban development boundaries.

The County will acquire, as the opportunity occurs, smaller water and sanitary sewer systems for incorporation into the larger County treatment systems in order to achieve economies of scale and for water resource management.

**Policy 3.3** Future development in North Okaloosa County shall be consistent with the following guidelines:

1. Projects presently being processed for development approvals shall be allowed to proceed by providing septic tanks, until such time as central wastewater treatment can be provided, subject to meeting all local and state regulatory requirements;
2. A joint Master Wastewater System Plan shall be prepared for the urban services boundary in Mid Okaloosa County by 2009 that shall include the location and proposed size of treatment plants to serve development within this boundary, the proposed method and location of effluent disposal, phasing plans, implementation schedule, financing and related information; and
3. Development proposed after the adoption of the Master Wastewater System Plan shall provide wastewater service consistent with that plan.

**Policy 3.4** The Comprehensive Plan will be amended, as appropriate, based on the Okaloosa County Master Wastewater System Plan, after it is prepared and adopted.