

Appendix 4C: Prescriptions for Wastewater Treatment

Default Prescriptions

Local officials can refer to the following default Prescriptions to determine how they want to handle their community's wastewater in the future. Different Prescriptions can be applicable to different areas within the same community. Non-default, Local Prescription definitions are also available and detailed in the "Local Prescriptions" section below. Lastly, Table 4C-1 is a guide that links the default Prescription definitions below to the Facility Planning Area (FPA) maps in Appendix 4B (Figure 4B-1 through Figure 4B-5).

Area Currently Served by Sanitary Sewers

An area is "currently sewered" if adequate wastewater capacity exists at a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) to treat the wastes generated in the area and an adequate collection system is in place to transfer those wastes to the POTW. There may be pockets of unsewered properties within this classification, including:

1. Properties, when developed, that are easily connectable to the central system.
2. Properties that cannot economically or physically connect to the central system (including areas with an insufficient density of wastewater sources to warrant extension of collection lines at the present time).

For facility planning purposes, these pockets are included in the "sewered" definition if the intent is to connect them to the central system when feasible. On-site treatment management practices continue to be in force in the interim. Properties unable to connect to the central system may have on-site systems as needed, unless there is an exception listed in the "Local Prescriptions" section below. All sewer extensions to serve these pockets are consistent with the 208 Plan as long as they do not require treatment capacity expansion of the relevant POTW. On-site systems must be abandoned when sanitary sewer collection lines become available and accessible.

Area Served by a Communal System

Communal systems use central sewers to collect wastewater from a number of individual buildings or parcels and send it to an existing small wastewater treatment facility. These systems can allow the use of conservation developments (concentration of building units to preserve open spaces) in areas where the use of individual on-lot systems would not support such developments. Communal systems must be abandoned when sewer collection lines, connected to a POTW, become available and accessible.

Area Expected to be Served by Sanitary Sewers with the Next 20 Years

Areas where the local management agency perceives that sufficient capacity exists (or can be added) at a POTW to handle wastes generated in the area and that demand exists to extend lines to the



area. The demand could be from growth expectations or the need to address problems caused by failing on-site sewage treatment systems (OSTSs). Local officials, depending on their estimate of when projects will actually move forward, can subdivide the “sewers expected” category into five-, 10- and 20-year time frames. NOACA staff encourage local officials to identify areas where they anticipate sewers within the next five years to assist local health districts (LHDs) with failing on-site systems. For purposes of plan consistency, the timing of all projects is at the discretion of local communities. Timing declarations are estimates only and are not binding in any way. The inclusion of an area as “sewers expected” indicates the intent of local communities to extend sanitary sewers, but does not guarantee future sewer availability. Consistency Reviews are not affected by departures from these time frames. All central sewer projects in these areas are subject to Consistency Review. Individual properties in these areas may have on-site systems, but the systems must be abandoned when sewer collection lines become available and accessible.

Area where Limited Sewers can be Extended in the Next 20 Years if Demand Develops

These areas differ from “sewers expected” areas based on lower confidence in the expectation that a demand will develop in the next 20 years. The designated management agency (DMA) has determined that adequate treatment capacity exists at a POTW and that a limited

collection line extension is affordable. What is different is that there may be no demand to extend lines either because development pressure is low or that individual on-site systems perform well. From a sewer planning perspective, it is reasonable to expect that sanitary sewers will eventually extend to at least a portion of these areas, but not likely, nor guaranteed, within the next 20 years. All central sewer projects in these areas are subject to Consistency Review. Individual properties in these areas may have on-site systems, but the systems must be abandoned when sewer collection lines become available and accessible. Decisions made by LHDs in regard to failing on-site systems in these areas should consider sewer unavailability for the foreseeable future.

Area Designated to Remain Served by On-Site Sewage Treatment Systems (OSTSs) for the Foreseeable Future

Wastewater treatment in these areas will be provided by OSTs. The extension of sanitary sewers connected to a POTW is neither planned nor allowed. Areas classified as “to remain served by on-site systems” embody several cases:

1. Areas (most) that have little demand for growth; likely to remain rural far into the future.
2. Areas (many) where use of individual on-site systems can accommodate expected growth with the existing zoning and building requirements.
3. Areas (few) where local officials actively seek sanitary sewer service but have yet to develop viable projects.



Table 4C-1: Prescriptions for Wastewater Treatment (Facility Planning Area (FPA) Map Labels and Colors)

Prescription Title	Map Label(s) ¹	Map Color
Area Currently Served by Sanitary Sewers	Currently Sewered	Yellow
Area Served by a Communal System	Currently Sewered by a Communal System	Grey
Area Expected to be Served by Sanitary Sewers with the Next 20 Years	Sewers Expected Within 20 Years	Orange
Area where Limited Sewers can be Extended in the Next 20 Years if Demand Develops	Limited Sewers Expected Within 20 Years or May Be Sewered	Light Blue
Area Designated to Remain Served by On-Site Sewage Treatment Systems for the Foreseeable Future	Areas Served by On-Site Systems or No Sewer Service	Light Green
Local Prescriptions for Wastewater Treatment (Non-Default Prescriptions)	Local Prescriptions	Red

¹Geauga County Department of Water Resources opted to use different labels for its default prescriptions within the Geauga County FPA. More information on its wastewater treatment plan is located in the “Local Prescriptions” section.

Local Prescriptions (Non-Default Prescriptions)

Local Prescriptions are from communities that want to vary from the default Prescriptions explained in the previous section. The following community-specific wastewater planning options modify or replace the default Prescription, as appropriate.

Cuyahoga County

City of North Royalton: The City of North Royalton requires developers to bear future sewer extension costs.

Geauga County

Geauga County Department of Water Resources: The portions of Geauga County within the planning jurisdiction of the Department of Water Resources restrict sanitary sewer service to areas that a) have an existing contractual obligation for such service, b) have been previously assessed for such service, c) are part of an existing or planned service area, or d) are in violation of water pollution laws or regulations, as determined by either the Ohio EPA or the Geauga Health District, and the only remedy, after exhausting all possible solutions, is the use of centralized water or sewer facilities. The Department of Water Resources must provide all sanitary service unless specifically exempted by the Geauga County Board of Commissioners.



City of Chardon: The City of Chardon will limit sewer extensions to areas within the City limits.

Chardon Township: Chardon Township requests that no sanitary sewer service be provided for any portion of the township except for Wintergreen Subdivision.

Lake County

Village of Kirtland: The Village of Kirtland will allow the use of communal wastewater treatment systems as part of an approved conservation development plan in areas that are otherwise to be served by on-site systems.

Painesville Township: Painesville Township requests that sanitary sewer service be provided to all portions of the township.

Lake County Department of Utilities (LCDU): For unincorporated areas within a Lake County FPA, any new communal systems will not be owned or operated by the LCDU. Communal systems will be owned and operated privately or by a local municipality; such systems must be abandoned when sewers become available and accessible. Any developments within Lake County's "Local Prescription" area would have the choice of:

1. Extending the LCDU sewer system for regional service
2. Building a communal system owned or operated privately or by a local municipality
3. Installing an OST(s)

Lorain County

City of North Ridgeville: Ohio EPA and the Lorain County General Health District should consult the City of North Ridgeville prior to the issuance of a permit to install an on-site system within the municipality.

Medina County

Medina County Sanitary Engineer (MCSE): The MCSE will extend sewers in identified areas only in consultation with affected townships, cities, or villages.

Sharon Township: Sharon Township requests no expansion of sanitary sewer service within the township.

