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## **Montgomery County Water Resources Plan Goal:**

County land use, growth, and stormwater management that is consistent with adequate drinking water supplies, wastewater treatment capacity, water quality regulatory requirements, and inter-jurisdictional commitments.

## **Policies and Recommendations**

### **Land Use and Growth Policy**

**Policy 1.** Plan future growth to not exceed water supply and wastewater treatment capacity.

#### **Recommendations**

- 1.1 Continue to assure that future development and redevelopment is coordinated with the County's 10-Year Water and Sewer Plan and with WSSC.
- 1.2 Reassess the Patuxent River Functional Master Plan, and update if needed to respond to and coordinate with the Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed Management Plan and the updated Patuxent River Policy Plan.

**Policy 2.** Ensure that future growth is consistent with Smart Growth principles.

#### **Recommendations**

- 2.1 Accommodate future growth as much as possible through redevelopment and infill development in existing urban areas within the Priority Funding Area.
- 2.2 Continue to support agriculture as the preferred land use in the County's Agricultural Reserve.
- 2.3 Evaluate the success of the Building Lot Termination (BLT) Program for limiting non-agricultural development in the Agricultural Reserve.

**Policy 3.** Plan future growth to minimize impacts to water resources and not exceed water quality limitations.

#### **Recommendations**

- 3.1 Design and implement redevelopment and infill to maximize water resources improvements over existing conditions.
- 3.2 Evaluate and recommend new or enhanced incentives for constructing new green buildings, green redevelopment, and green retrofitting of existing development to maximize water resource benefits.
- 3.3 Integrate land use, zoning, redevelopment, and urban design planning and strategies into water resources protection and regulatory compliance programs and plans.

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- 3.4 Use results from approved TMDL and MS4 Implementation Plans, watershed studies, Special Protection Areas, and State and County water resource monitoring to guide the master plan update process.

**Policy 4.** Focus natural area protection, conservation, mitigation, enhancement, restoration and management to maximize water resources protection and quality, as part of actions taken to assure that regulatory requirements and inter-jurisdictional commitments are met.

## **Recommendations**

- 4.1 Increase forest, wetland, meadow, stream buffer, and urban tree canopy area countywide, especially in watersheds with TMDLs, water quality impairments, or Tier II designations.
- 4.2 Adopt a Tree Ordinance.
- 4.3 Revise the Forest Conservation Laws and Regulations and Trees Technical Manual as needed to increase the speed and success of reforestation efforts.
- 4.4 Continue to support natural land preservation programs and activities, especially in watersheds with known water quality impairments.
- 4.5 Coordinate park planning and development with countywide efforts to address water quality regulatory requirements.
- 4.6 Develop and implement natural resource management plans for lands owned by local government agencies.
- 4.7 Identify ways to maximize water quality protection and improvement through protecting, restoring and enhancing natural areas.

## **Water Quality and Stormwater Management**

**Policy 5.** Manage stormwater and non-point source pollution to maximize water quality and quantity benefits, and meet regulatory requirements and inter-jurisdictional commitments.

## **Recommendations**

- 5.1 Develop and implement a collaborative interagency and external stakeholder process to effectively address existing and evolving water resource-related regulatory issues and needs.
- 5.2 Re-evaluate the Clean Water Task Force recommendation for an overarching Water Resources Policy Coordination Committee, and implement an institutional framework to assure broad-based interagency coordination and collaboration.

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- 5.3 Identify and implement means to assure coordination with County municipalities that have planning and zoning authority, adjacent counties, and federal and state property-owners to meet water quality protection, compliance, and improvement needs.
- 5.4 Evaluate guidelines, regulations, and practices, including rainwater harvesting and reuse, and identify improvements needed to maximize water quality improvement and protection associated with new development, redevelopment, infill, roads, and retrofitting of older development.
- 5.5 Evaluate water quality models for subwatershed analysis and for use in developing TMDL Implementation Plans for pollutant sources not covered by the County's MS4 Permit Implementation Plans.
- 5.6 Use results from approved TMDL and MS4 Implementation Plans, watershed studies, Special Protection Areas, and State and County water resource monitoring to guide the development review process.
- 5.7 Identify and pursue for priority implementation those recommendations of the County's Climate Protection Plan and any subsequent efforts of the Sustainability Working Group which will have direct benefits on water quality and quantity.

**Policy 6.** Maintain effective public outreach and educational programs to convey the vital role of water resources and water quality to the County's overall health and sustainability.

## **Recommendations**

- 6.1 Evaluate existing efforts and implement more effective programs to foster a general awareness of the importance of viewing stormwater as a resource to be valued and used as much as possible.
- 6.2 Enhance stewardship, education, and outreach programs for all stakeholder groups to increase the voluntary implementation of pollution prevention and runoff management practices.
- 6.3 Continue the development, refinement, and promotion of on-line tools to raise awareness and encourage stewardship for water resources and promotion, of public management and water quality improvement.

## **Drinking Water and Wastewater**

**Policy 7.** Continue to ensure that the County 10-Year Water and Sewer Plan supports and is consistent with the land use component of the General Plan as amended by area and sector master plans.

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**Policy 8.** Continue to use the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Systems Plan to ensure that water supply and wastewater treatment capacities are sufficient for existing and planned development and redevelopment.

**Policy 9.** Continue to ensure adequate and safe water supply and wastewater conveyance throughout areas served by community systems.

**Policy 10.** Continue to foster, through public outreach and education, a general awareness of the importance of viewing drinking water as a resource to be valued, conserved, and used as wisely as possible.

**Policy 11.** Continue programs and actions to minimize pollutant contributions to surface water and groundwater from water and wastewater infrastructure, and meet applicable water quality regulatory requirements.

## **Recommendations**

11.1 Continue to incorporate appropriate and progressive technology at wastewater treatment facilities to meet wastewater point source pollution limits, while allowing for planned growth.

11.2 Continue studies and programs to reduce inflow and infiltration into wastewater collections systems.

11.3 Continue programs to reduce sanitary overflows and pipe failures, in accordance with WSSC's Consent Decree agreement with EPA.

**Policy 12.** Continue programs and actions to protect and recharge source water resources.

## **Recommendations**

12.1 Continue to promote and implement local and regional source water planning and recommended actions to protect the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers as drinking water sources.

12.2 Reduce nitrogen contributions to surface and groundwater from septic systems.

12.3 Continue to address well and septic system issues according to the policies and procedures included in the County's Water and Sewer Plan.