

INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The municipal government bears an extraordinary responsibility to provide basic services to residents within its boundary. Development patterns have prevented some residents from direct access to municipal water and sewer service, but do have access to fire police and emergency service protection

WATER

Access to potable water is the only means by which a society can survive. Water will become one of the most valuable resources in coming years, and the supply of water must be equitably discharged to maintain a safe and efficient water supply.

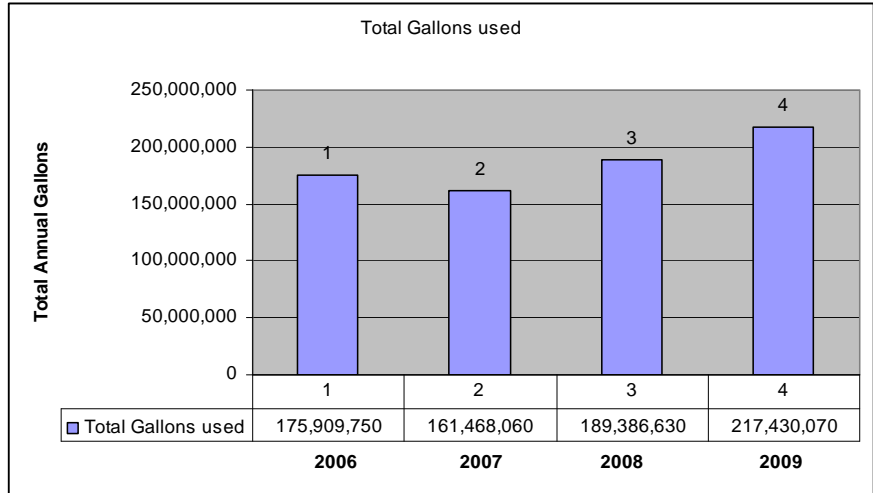
In the same way it is necessary to reduce water consumption so that less is removed from the ground, it is also necessary to hold water upstream in order to reduce downstream waste further supporting healthy groundwater recharge.

Efforts must be made to recharge groundwater sources at all points up and down the watershed. The introduction of bioswales and small scale detention features to clean and recharge groundwater sources could benefit upstream and downstream property owners equally.

Significant expansion to the water system has occurred during the last 10 years and is expected to continue at a slower pace as new homes along existing water lines tie into the system. The expansion of water lines in primarily commercial areas is likely to continue at a rapid pace as development in downtown Choctaw occurs. Proposals to install

Total Water use from 2006-2009 indicates an average increase in water use of nearly 12% each year. A minor decrease in use during the 2007 calendar year is likely the result of unseasonably rainy periods. Only 51% of water is consumed by residential users, where 15% is consumed by institutional users, and the remaining 34% is used by businesses and industry. Monthly variations

City of Choctaw Comprehensive Plan 2011



WATER SERVICE ZONES

The municipal water system is comprised 7 wells in 4 pressure zones which are individually regulated and metered to measure monthly use.

<u>Well locations;</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
NE 36 th Street	
Choctaw Trails	(out of service)
NE 4 th street	
Oak Ridge Manor – E. Reno	
10 acre lake	
S. Indian Meridian near Fire Station #3	
Pointon Place at N. Westminster	
Choctaw Industrial Park	

SEWER

Seventy-one (71%) percent of Choctaw households use septic tanks rather than public sewer. Sewage treatment is provided publicly by the Choctaw Utilities Authority; the treatment plant is located north of the Choctaw Business and Industrial Park. Public sewer serves the Old Town section of Choctaw between NE 36th and 23rd Streets; NE 23rd Street; and extends through Choctaw Creek Park to NE 10th Street to serve the Choctaw High School, the Seikel Oaks Addition, and the City of Nicoma Park to the west.

The wastewater treatment plant was designed and originally permitted for a capacity of 750,000 gallons per day. Due to modification of the treatment plant, DEQ reduced the original permit capacity to 565,000

gallons per day and currently processes approximately 520,000 gallons per day or 92% of design capacity. Improvements to expand capacity beyond 1,000,000 gallons per day are in the planning stages, and will be required to keep up with use.

The City of Choctaw enjoys a topography that is particularly well suited for provisions of sanitary sewer services within the city boundaries. Most of the community drains toward the site of the city's new sewer treatment facility. From a purely physical point of view, the opportunity to collect wastewater using gravity flow is available. However, scattered and large lot developments in many parts of the community do not provide the financial support necessary to provide this desirable public service from an economic point of view. It is generally understood that development on lots of one or more acres cannot financially support the expense of extending publicly maintained wastewater collection and treatment systems.

The map that shows Sewer Service Areas for Choctaw (Fig. X) illustrates the potential for this service in light of existing development and topography. The new areas to be served are outlined and the service collection system routes indicated. The Suburban Transition and Urban Density boundaries should contain lots smaller than one acre to support the sewer service and other public services economically.

The new areas are located adjacent to downtown and will eventually build upon the strengths of a strong downtown district that supports residential and commercial activity equally. As services are extended to the new developments, older areas needing services could also be tied into the system.

SEWER BASINS

A vast majority of homes connected to public sewer service are within 1 mile

Choctaw Creek Main – The Choctaw Creek sewer main closely follows the Choctaw Creek floodway and reaches Choctaw Creek golf course before entering Nicoma Park at N. Hiwassee approximately .2 miles South of NE 23rd Street. The sewer line extends further into Nicoma Park where a force main serves downtown Nicoma Park and properties further to the West.

Additional sewer service lines are expected between Downtown Choctaw and the municipal boundary with Nicoma Park, particularly on the north side of NE 23rd Street between Louise drive

and N. Hiwassee road. Specific projects to extend city water and sewer service to this portion of NE 23rd street will have the greatest economic and social benefit to the city.

Old Town – Downtown Choctaw is served by a patchwork of sewer lines that are reaching their designed life cycle. Further development within Old Town is expected to enhance sewer service as troubled connections and segments are repaired or replaced. As housing densities and commercial activity increase the likelihood of large scale improvements to the sewer system will be necessary to support downtown economic vitality.

Choctaw Creek Park – Choctaw High School and the surrounding neighborhoods are served by the Choctaw Creek Park sewer main. This basin carries the highest volume of effluent from the densest residential quarter section and the largest single site daytime population during the school year. While further additions or extensions to the Choctaw Creek Park Basin are unlikely based on land use projections,

10 Acre Lake (proposed) – While significant residential development south of 10 acre lake is highly unlikely, the need for public sewer service to existing development surrounding 10 Acre Lake Park will significantly improve the water quality and environmental hazards posed by the existing sewage lagoon. While sewer service to this basin will not be a significant revenue generator, service to 10 acre lake park and Alexis Bouse water park will serve the long term development of the park.

FUTURE EXPANSION OF SEWER

Expansion of sewer service will follow the established land use densities outlined in this plan. Access to sewer service should not be used to justify and expansion or modification of the land use plan without careful study and amendments made to this plan.

SEPTIC SYSTEM POLLUTION

Mismanagement of septic systems poses the greatest threat to private potable water supply in the City of Choctaw. The intersection of septic fields and water wells is regulated by DEQ and the City – County Health Department, but too often aging septic systems fail to discharge adequately and overflow causing potentially serious damage to water supplies.

It is beneficial for the City of Choctaw to develop water management guidelines, and support the adoption of grey-water systems to reduce the volume of water discharged into septic fields. Aerobic septic systems have the potential to reduce groundwater pollution where appropriately maintained and monitored by property owners.

SOLID WASTE

Solid waste collection is provided by contract with Waste Management Services of Oklahoma. Currently recycling bins are available to residential customers only. Commercial recycling could provide additional revenue to solid waste handlers and a new commercial collection service should be explored.

Open burning of household refuse is not allowed and residential waste collection services are mandatory. However, when all safety regulations are observed: by ordinance, permits must be obtained for each burning of trees/leaves, etc.

ELECTRICITY

Choctaw receives electric service from OG&E which operates and maintains electric lines throughout central and western Oklahoma. Residents receive service from a variety of power lines that originate in municipalities surrounding Choctaw. Only one substation exists at the intersection of NE 10th and Indian Meridian.

Some homes and businesses are serviced through underground lines which can provide added reliability when weather related events disrupt service. It is advisable that new developments and businesses strongly consider locating electric service lines below ground and plan accordingly for landscaping and site features that could disrupt service.

Demand side management of electrical service is an important component of any long term plan. By reducing direct use of electricity there is a potential to reduce outages and brownouts during hours of peak demand.

Onsite solar and wind generated power can reduce the overall demand for power and provide more reliable sources for electricity in times of emergency. Permitting guidelines and site planning assistance from the City of Choctaw would likely improve installation times and expedite development of privately funded projects.

SUMMARY

It is beneficial to all parties present and future, to concentrate intensive utility and public facility services in the downtown area, while preserving space for future development.

GOALS & POLICIES

WATER AND SEWER

GOAL A Provide safe, clean drinking water to residents and businesses in Choctaw.

POLICY A 1 New residential development construction within 300 feet (measured from the nearest property boundary) of an existing water line would be required to extend the water line across the public right of way and connect to public water service.

POLICY A 2 New residential subdivisions of 2 or more lots would be required to extend water lines across the public right of way and connect to public water service. If a public line is not readily available, but lies within 1320 feet of the site (measured from the nearest property boundary) for which a permit is desired, said water or sewer main shall be extended by the developer in accordance with the standards and specifications established by the City of Choctaw and the Oklahoma State Department of Environmental Quality.

POLICY A 3 Water lines shall be looped in all cases unless it is determined by the City Engineer not to be feasible.

POLICY A 4 To encourage orderly urban development, water lines shall be installed and extended as required by the Choctaw Municipal Code and Subdivision Regulations.

POLICY A 5 In order to obtain desired water and sewer line extensions, the City may choose to participate in the cost of such extensions when deemed appropriate for the public benefit. Other alternatives include the establishment of assessment districts and the establishment of a payback system to provide reimbursement to developers whose line extensions will benefit surrounding property owners.

POLICY A6 The acquisition of Community Development Block Grant funds and any other available funding sources shall be pursued so that the replacement of substandard lines will be affordable and can be accomplished in an expedient manner.

SEWER

GOAL B Provide reliable and sanitary removal of sewage to residents and business near downtown Choctaw.

POLICY A 1 New residential and commercial development near downtown Choctaw will be required to connect to public sewer service where available.

POLICY A 2 To encourage orderly urban development, sewer lines shall be installed and extended as required by the Choctaw Municipal Code and Subdivision Regulations.

POLICY A3 If a public line is not readily available, but lies within 1320 feet of the site for which a permit is desired, said water or sewer main shall be extended by the developer in accordance with the standards and specifications established by the City of Choctaw and the Oklahoma State Department of Environmental Quality.

POLICY A4 In order to obtain desired water and sewer line extensions, the City may choose to participate in the cost of such extensions when deemed appropriate for the public benefit. Other alternatives include the establishment of assessment districts and the establishment of a payback system to provide reimbursement to developers whose line extensions will benefit surrounding property owners.

POLICY A5 The acquisition of Community Development Block Grant funds and any other available funding sources shall be pursued so that the replacement of substandard lines will be affordable and can be accomplished in an expedient manner.

ELECTRIC

GOAL C Plan for and provide a public utility system that adequately serves the population.

POLICY A1 Electric, telephone, and cable television lines shall be installed underground in new developments in accordance with Municipal regulations.