



Wastewater Management Options for Rural Areas

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

The City of Ottawa, Ontario expanded its municipal boundaries to include a large area of rural hinterland. Population in these rural areas is largely centered in discrete village centers, and the City wished to retain this characteristic village center development pattern. One strategy to sponsor such smart growth development patterns is to manage the infrastructure for wastewater disposal so that village center growth is encouraged while sprawl growth is discouraged.

The Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (HW) worked with the City and created a matrix of wastewater planning options from which management decisions can be based for village centers, while keeping in mind the goal of retaining vibrant village downtowns.

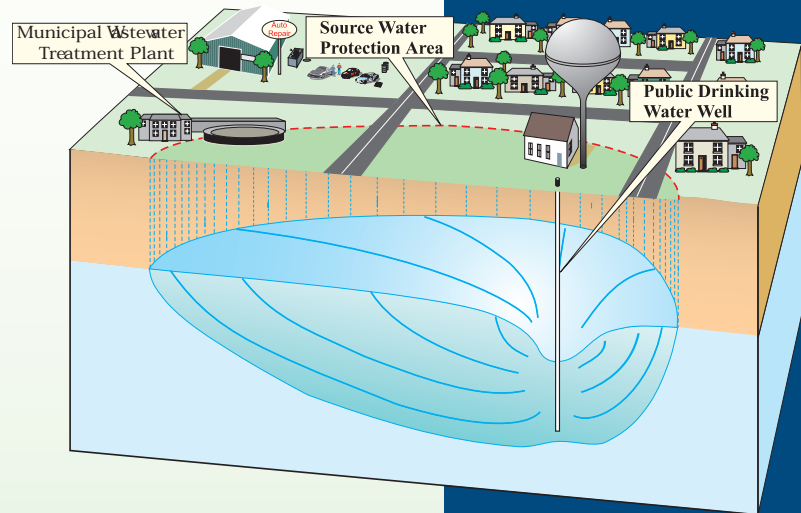
Given the limitations of the existing population distribution, physical features, land usage and existing infrastructure, some village centers were suited to a combination of community water supply and individual wastewater disposal systems and others to individual water supply with smaller cluster systems. Different areas would benefit from both community water supply and wastewater disposal. In all, 23 management considerations—and their pros and cons—were identified in the matrix.

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