



Worcester County wants to thank our Ocean Pines residents for their cooperation, as we continue to improve your water and wastewater service. We hope the information provided in this brochure is informative and helpful.

Worcester County
Water and Sewer Advisory Council
for the Ocean Pines Service Area

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WATER &
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Who We Are

The water and wastewater facilities in the Ocean Pines community are owned and operated by Worcester County through the Worcester County Department of Public Works, Water and Wastewater Division. As part of the operation, the Worcester County Commissioners appoint a Water and Sewer Advisory Council for the Ocean Pines Service Area, as a resource for input from Ocean Pines residents. This brochure was prepared to provide Ocean Pines residents, with information on the operation of the water and wastewater systems and activities in the service area.

What We Do

Ocean Pines water is provided by a system of water supply wells pumping water into two (2) elevated water storage tanks and the water distribution system. Wastewater is collected from the homes and pumped through a system of 24 wastewater pumping stations to the Ocean Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant (OPWWTP). The wastewater is then treated at the OPWWTP to produce a very high quality effluent before it is discharged.

The Ocean Pines wastewater collection system is a unique vacuum system (one of only 2 to 3 in the State), which is heavily dependent on the mechanical operation of the vacuum pumps, valves and tanks. Should a homeowner notice a problem with the operation of their sewer system, they should immediately contact the Water and Wastewater Division at (410) 641-5251 (answers 24 hours per day) to allow system operators to diagnose the problem. Contacting a plumber without calling our system operators first could result in charges to the property owner that cannot be reimbursed by Worcester County.



What's Going On

There are a number of activities that have taken place around the Ocean Pines service area that most customers may not be aware have occurred. The most significant of these are described below.

In 2005, the State of Maryland began assessing all State residents and commercial establishments an annual "Bay Restoration" fee. This fee generates funds to enable upgrades to the performance of wastewater treatment plants throughout the State in the Chesapeake and Coastal Bay Watershed. Since the performance of the OPWWTP meets the upgraded performance standards, customers in the Ocean Pines service area are not assessed that charge. Through the end of Fiscal Year 2018, the performance of the OPWWTP has saved Ocean Pines service area customers approximately **\$4.6 million** in fees.

With the Ocean Pines community now 50 years old, upgrades are needed to maintain the reliability of the utility systems. Between 2014 and 2017 the service areas completed approximately \$5.3 million in improvements to the water and wastewater facilities, including:

- Upgrades to sewage pump stations throughout Ocean Pines service area
- Upgrades to a major sewage force main along Ocean Parkway
- Structural improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Replacing deficient water service lines along Ocean Parkway

The next phase of system upgrades will begin in 2019 and run through 2022. The focus will again be on aging pump stations, and upgrades to the OPWWTP and water supply systems.