

## Facility Planning

### **What is facility planning?**

Facility planning is the evaluation of existing and future wastewater infrastructure needs for a community or service area, along with detailed recommendations to address these needs. Facility planning typically includes an analysis of alternatives, which for wastewater treatment may include:

1. Comparing alternatives for repair, upgrade or expansion of:
  - The sanitary sewer collection system,
  - The treatment works; or
  - The management facilities for sewage or sewage sludge;
2. Considering “no-action” alternatives; and
3. Evaluating soil-based wastewater treatment alternatives, such as individual on-site systems and land application treatment systems, where appropriate.

### **What are the benefits of facility planning?**

Facility planning provides the evaluator with:

- A comprehensive look at system needs, helping to better plan for current and future expenditures, including the potential for major public infrastructure;
- A big picture comparison of the available alternatives for wastewater treatment, making sure to consider the potential for positive and negative environmental impacts, as well as the associated costs for capital improvements, useful life, replacement, and operation and maintenance;
- A basis-of-design that can be used for developing subsequent detailed plans and specifications;
- Immediate and future infrastructure cost estimates, which can be used as a foundation for developing a more dependable user-rate structure;
- A record of public information and public involvement activities; and
- A tool to compile other important information, such as facility historical information, contact phone numbers, diagrams and schematics, and operation and maintenance schedules.