West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) is working with local partners and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to update the outdated 2007 Sewer Service Area Plan for the Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire area.

WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

9/1/26

Chippewa Falls - Eau Claire Urban Sewer Service Area Plan for 2045

What is a Sewer Service Area Plan (SSA Plan)?

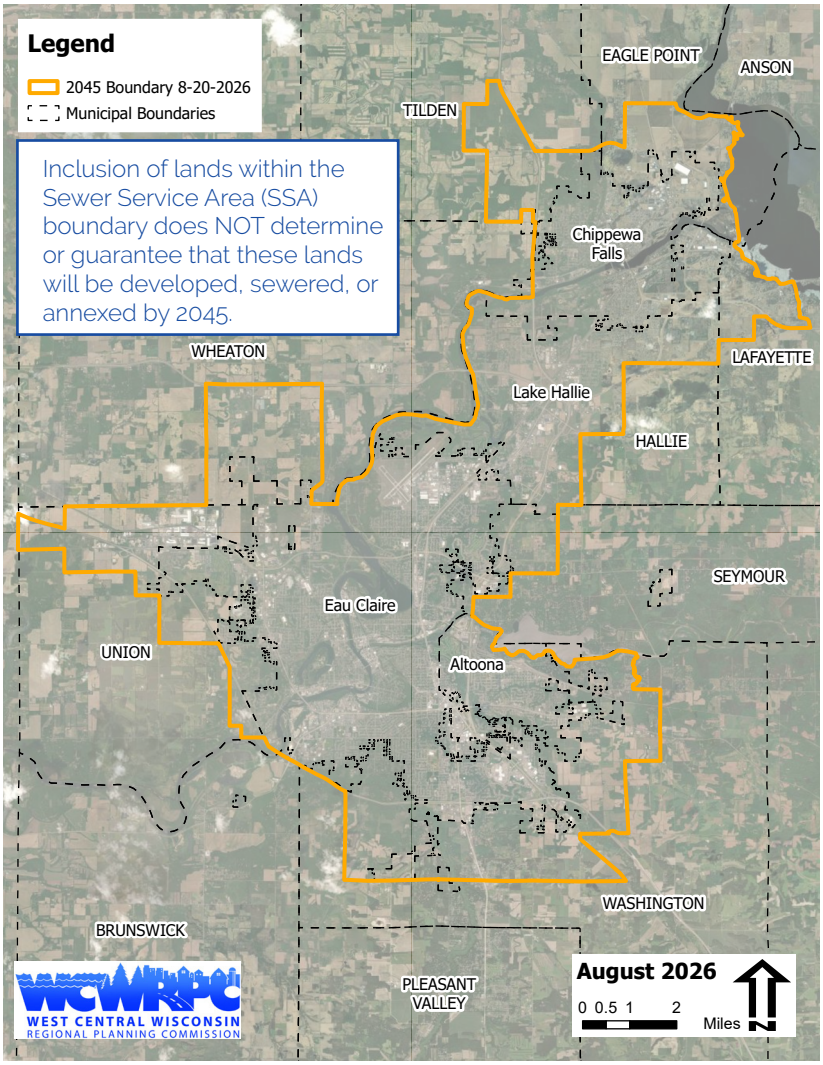
The SSA Plan is a cooperative, areawide water quality management plan driven by Section 208 of the Clean Water Act and NR 110 & 121. The SSA Plan:

- Anticipates future urban (sewered) growth and identifies potential urban growth areas and related needs for wastewater treatment.
- Discourages the development of environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) where development would adversely impact water quality.
- Supports water quality protection plans, programs and policies within the plan area.
- Is used by local, State, and Federal agencies when considering municipal wastewater facility plans, permitting for municipal sewer extensions (called 208-conformance reviews), and certain related grant applications.
- Is not intended to restrict growth, obligate municipalities to provide sewer service, or affect community annexation policies.

WHY YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT

- ☑ Water quality is important to all of us and the factors that influence water quality cross governmental boundaries.
- ☑ This SSA update may influence your community's ability to grow through the next generation of residents.
- ☑ The SSA Plan can impact wastewater treatment facility plans, private mains, holding tanks, smaller shared systems, and land spreading.
- ☑ The SSA Plan is a regional plan with policies that apply to the entire SSA regardless of whether connected to municipal sewer or not.
- ☑ You can provide insight into your community's comprehensive plan, related policies, and any proposed development projects.
- ☑ Our area is required to have an SSA Plan, which should be regularly updated.
- ☑ Help strengthen consistency between the SSA Plan and your community's plans and policies.
- ☑ Municipal sanitary sewer in the area cannot be extended outside the SSA boundary.
- ☑ The SSA Plan defines the process for considering future SSA Plan decision-making.
- ☑ The data and policies in the SSA Plan will influence other regional and local plans.

2045 Draft Sewer Service Area Boundary



Key SSA Planning Roles

Under NR 121, Wisconsin DNR has authority over the preparation and administration of the urban area's SSA Plan. Local actions are advisory to WDNR.

WDNR has designated WCWRPC as the local planning agency to facilitate the SSA Plan's update. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Council serves as the area's Water Quality Advisory Committee to WDNR.

Beginning in Summer 2024, eight technical advisory committee meetings were held with representatives from local governments in the urban area to guide WCWRPC's update of the draft plan. A public comment period and public hearing on the draft plan has been scheduled for September 2026 to be followed by MPO advisory action on the draft plan. WDNR has final approval authority over the plan.

The extension of sanitary sewer requires a 208-conformance review conducted by the plan administrator (currently WCWRPC) to ensure that the area served is located within the SSA boundary and no known ESAs will be encroached upon. The SSA Plan includes an amendment process to modify the boundary if needed.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE SSA PLAN UPDATE?

The SSA Plan content is largely identified in NR 121.05, though the plan may reference (and not duplicate) other plans and policies that address the required elements of an areawide water quality management plan. Major components of the SSA Plan update include:

- An overview of water quality and related plans and programs for the planning area. (Chapter 3)
- Definitions of environmentally sensitives areas, such as surface waters, wetlands, floodplains, and steep slopes, that should be protected from intensive land disturbance. (Chapter 3.5)
- Analysis of wastewater treatment systems, capacities, and needs. (Chapter 5)
- A review of growth trends and 20-year population and land use growth forecasts. (Chapter 4)
- An updated sewer service area boundary where sanitary sewer may be provided in a cost effective and environmentally sound manner over the next 20 years. (Chapter 6)
- Goals, policies, and administrative procedures for implementation of the plan. (Chapters 7-9)

Questions or Comments?

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