



LAKE COUNTY DRAFT COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN
Fiscal Years 2012-2016



Lake County Commissioners

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7-6-616. Capital improvement funds.

- (1) A county, municipal, or special district governing body may establish a capital improvement fund for the replacement, improvement, and acquisition of property, facilities, or equipment that costs in excess of \$5,000 and that has a life expectancy of 5 years or more.
- (2) A capital improvement fund must be formally adopted by the county, municipal, or special district governing body.
- (3) The capital improvement fund may receive money from any source, including funds that have been allocated in any year but have not been expended or encumbered by the end of the fiscal year.
- (4) Money in the capital improvement fund must be invested as provided by law, and interest and income from the investment of the capital improvement fund must be credited to the fund.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 278, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 35, L. 2003.

Provided by Missouri Legislative Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2012/13-2016-17 Lake County Capital Improvement Plan is a five year plan, which identifies capital projects and equipment purchases, provides a planning schedule and identifies options for financing the plan. This plan, although flexible, will be updated periodically to respond to changing circumstances. A capital improvement is a substantial, nonrecurring expenditure for a physical improvement with a long useful life. This document is intended to focus on the planning, maintenance, installation and replacement of solid waste, public water supply and wastewater treatment systems. Strategies for other infrastructure will follow at a later date. This document is not intended to provide a detailed assessment of facility conditions, upgrade schedules and sources of funding. That information is contained in the preliminary engineering reports for the proposed projects. Instead, this document provides a means of evaluation and a statement of needs and priorities regarding the proposed improvement projects within Lake County.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population

Having an understanding of the demographic makeup of a community is an important element of any planning process. It is also relevant to have some comparisons to understand what the demographics mean in context. In this plan, comparisons between Lake County and the State of Montana are generally provided in addition to some comparisons to greater United States.

The population in Lake County as of the 2010 US Census was 28,746. The county is growing, albeit at a slightly slower rate than the rest of the state or the country as a whole.

- Lake County Population in 2010: 28,746
 - Male: 14,223
 - Female: 14,523
- Growth Rates: 2000 to 2010
 - Lake County: 7.5%
 - Montana: 7.9%
 - U.S.: 8.0%

Lake County's Growth Policy, adopted in 2003 projected growth of about 1.8% annually for the past decade. This did not materialize, likely because of the economic downturn.

Much of Lake County overlaps with the boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation. Founded in 1855 by the Hellgate Treaty, the Flathead Indian Reservation is home to three tribes: the Bitterroot Salish, Upper Pend d'Oreille and the Kootenai. Historically, the homelands for these tribes extended into parts of Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia. That range was reduced significantly with the signature of the treaty, and again reduced further in beginning with allotment in 1904.

Today, all tribal lands are governed by the Tribal Government, which is led by an elected Tribal Council and Tribal Chairman. Recreation on tribal lands is also managed by the tribal government. The Tribes have developed extensive recreational opportunities, many of which are available to the general public though a permit and free to tribal members. Much like citizens in the incorporated cities, tribal members are also citizens of the county, and use county recreation facilities and other county provided services.

Cost of Capital Improvements

FACILITY	COST
Transportation & Road equipment	\$1,626,320
Parks	\$30,000
Public Infrastructure	\$17,000,000
Law Enforcement	\$22,710,000
Weed Dept.	\$151,000
Solid Waste	\$1,125,000
Water Facilities & Sewer Districts	\$12,850,000
Total	\$55,492,320

Potential Benefits of a CIP

1. Demonstrate the need for facilities and the need for revenues to pay for them.
2. Insure the timely provision of adequate facilities to maintain levels of service that are important to the quality of life in the County.
3. Maintain satisfactory operating efficiency and safety of the County's existing capital facilities.
4. Provide facilities needed to accommodate potential new growth.
5. Provide evidence to bond rating agencies that the County is planning and managing its debt for capital improvements, thus minimizing interest rates and the cost of borrowing money.
6. Provide evidence to agencies that award grants and loans that the County is planning for capital improvements, including the need for local matching funds and/or repayment of loans.

The Capital Improvement Plan will be updated periodically. The updates should be completed before the County's budget is adopted in order to incorporate the capital improvements from the updated CIP in the County's annual budget.

Transportation and Road Equipment

Current Facilities/Level of Service

Lake County currently maintains approximately 1,000 miles of public roadway. We have not accepted any new roads for public maintenance since 1997. Over the last ten years we have seen significant increases in the cost of diesel fuel and road oil, two major expenditures in the Road, Bridge, and Crusher budgets. Coupled with the fact that traffic and weight has steadily increased our roads suffer significant deterioration. We must systematically establish a road maintenance and reconstruction program. Unfortunately current revenues and budgeting restrictions only allow us to maintain and our road infrastructure continues to deteriorate. Current revenues do not keep pace with increased costs of materials, all of which are tied to petroleum products.

Much of the property in Lake County is non-taxable. We must continue to work with our legislators, both Federal and State, to implement a payment-in-lieu of taxes for lands under Federal jurisdiction. Additionally, while we were unsuccessful in passing a special levy for road several years ago, we must revisit the issue since this method is the most equitable and sustainable source of new revenue. The public education aspect of this effort must begin immediately. Their acceptance is needed within the next five (5) years if there is any expectation the County can continue to provide our current level of road infrastructure.

Capital Improvement Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>Desc.&Justification</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2013/14</u>	<u>2014/15</u>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>2016/17</u>
N. Foothills	Seal 4.2mi.	\$43,850		\$43,850			
Polson Cemetery	Double shot 1mi.	\$15,260		\$15,260			
Pablo West Rd	Double shot 2 nd mi.	\$32,375		\$32,375			
Mollman Pass Trl	Double shot 1.5mi.	\$60,112		\$60,112			
Arlee Town site	Single shot 1mi.	\$11,054		\$11,054			
Foothills Rd	Single shot 1mi.	\$11,022		\$11,022			
Terrace Lake Rd	Double shot .46mi.	\$16,647		\$16,647			
St Mary's Lake Rd	Seal 2mi.	\$45,000		\$45,000			
N&S Finley Pt Rd	Double shot 10mi.	\$500,000		\$500,000			
Pablo West Rd	Double shot 4 th mi.	\$60,000		\$60,000			
Michelle Bridge	New structure	\$200,000		\$200,000			
Christiansen Bridge	New structure	\$26,000		\$26,000			

Pablo streets	Resurfacing	\$250,000	\$250,000
Charlo streets	Resurfacing	\$250,000	\$250,000
Eli Gap Rd	Resurfacing 4mi.	\$80,000	\$80,000
Dublin Gulch Rd	Resurfacing 7mi.	\$25,000	\$25,000
<u>Total-Trans & RD</u>		<u>\$1,626,320</u>	<u>0 \$1,626,320 0 0 0</u>

Financing Available for Courts Capital Improvements Projects

1. Implement a payment-in-lieu of taxes for lands under Federal jurisdiction.
 Revisit passing a special levy as a sustainable source of new revenue.
 Work with public on RID's.

Financing Plan -TBD

The final plan for financing the Transportation capital improvements will be determined by the Lake County Commission and the results will be incorporated into the annual budgets.

Parks

Current Facilities/level of Service

Lake County has an amazing amount of recreational potential and an impressive number of existing opportunities. Shifting population and demographics, and changes in demand over the course of the next twenty years will alter the number of people using parks and way people use them. In order to allocate resources in a method that provides the highest level of recreational services possible, Lake County will require a sound decision making process in order to best serve its citizens and visitors.

This master plan is the framework for how to develop parks, trails and recreational facilities in order to provide for the present and future needs of Lake County residents and visitors. This plan serves as a vision for the type and distribution of parks and trails, ensuring the consistent development of facilities while meeting the values of the citizens. This document is designed to promote the use of trails and parks throughout the county, ensure access to the county's lakes and rivers, provide for a variety of opportunity and provide access for all parks and trail users.

In addition, the master plan establishes a baseline for the conditions of county facilities, in which progress can be measured and success can be demonstrated.

As Lake County continues to grow and it continues to emerge as an important regional recreation center, the need for quality parks, trails and recreation facilities will increase as well. Recognizing that change is constant, the specific focus of the plan is to: Complete a detailed inventory of county owned potential park properties currently without recreational facilities and of existing facilities. Develop a classification system for county parks. Understand the community's desires for parks, trails and recreation facilities. Identify potential park, trail and facility projects. Identify potential funding sources and develop an action plan for implementation.

Capital Improvement Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>Desc.&Justification</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2013/14</u>	<u>2014/15</u>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>2016/17</u>
Parks&Trls Plan	Master Plan	\$30,000	\$30,000				
<u>Total-Parks</u>		\$30,000	\$30,000	0	0	0	0

Financing Available for Parks Capital Improvement Projects

- 1.** Sales of surplus park land properties as determined by the Lake County Park Board and Lake County Commission. Procuring future MTFWP Land and Water Grants and any future levies assigned.

Financing Plan

The final plan for financing the Parks capital improvements will be determined by the Lake County Park Board and Lake County Commission. The results will be incorporated in annual budgets.

Courthouse Infrastructure

Current Facilities/Level of Service

As the Lake County population grows, so then does the demand for services. In no area of Lake County government has the demand increased more than in our law enforcement/judicial system. Our jail is overcrowded, we have two District Judges but only one courtroom, our justice court system has personnel working in less than adequate conditions, and our District Court Clerk maintaining out-of-office storage for files which must, by law, be kept for specified times. In short, we must either construct a new Justice Center or expand the existing Courthouse. We have been investigating these two options for more than ten years. Current estimates put minimum cost construction, (expansion of the Courthouse) at approximately 17 million dollars (\$17,000,000.). Even with debt financing over 30 years, current revenues are inadequate to finance construction. It is our firm belief that the only revenue to finance this need is through a special levy. Administration must refine construction costs, go to the public with the issue, and through the election process determine if the taxpayers will finance this capital need. This process must be implemented within two (2) years.

Capital Improvement Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>Desc.&Justification</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2013/14</u>	<u>2014/15</u>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>2016/17</u>
Courthouse Expansion	New Law Enf. facilities	\$17,000,000					\$17,000,000
<u>Total-Parks</u>		\$17,000,000		0	0		\$17,000,000

Financing Available for Courts Capital Improvements Projects

- 1. Revenue to finance this need would be through a special levy.**

Financing Plan

The final plan for financing the Courthouse Infrastructure capital improvements will be determined by the Lake County Commission, and the results will be incorporated in annual budgets.

Law Enforcement

Current Facilities/Level of Service

The Lake County Sheriff's Office capital facilities consist of 28 patrol vehicles, 1 training vehicle, 45 portable radios, 15 mobile data terminals, 10 mobile video systems, 10 radar units, 1 patrol boat, 2 search and rescue buildings, 6 computer workstations, 10 administrative workstations, 42 bed jail facility with kitchen, and 4 dispatch stations.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is responsible for patrolling and keeping the peace within the nearly 1500 square miles of land and 160 square miles of waterways including Flathead Lake. There are nearly 29,000 full time residents in Lake County with numbers swelling to more than 40,000 in the summer months. The Lake County Sheriff's Office consists of 3 separate sections including: Deputies, Dispatch and Detention. The deputies are assigned to 3 separate divisions including: Investigations, Patrol and School Resource Officers. Detention staff is divided onto 2 sections including: overseeing the daily operations of the detention center and auxiliary staff.

Capital Improvement Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>Desc.&Justification</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2013/14</u>	<u>2014/15</u>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>2016/17</u>
Animal Control Shelter	Facility w/staff (2)	\$700,000					\$700,000
Sally Port with kitchen upgrade	added to current facility for safety & inmate needs	\$500,000				\$500,000	
Armored Response Vehicle	High risk call response	\$200,000					\$200,000
Secure Impound Yard	Current yard ordered vacated by County Commission	\$100,000		\$100,000			
(2) Patrol Vehicles	Current rate of replacement is insufficient	\$90,000	\$90,000				
Shooting range Improvements	Current range requires upgrades	\$50,000					\$50,000
911 Medical Software	Provide a better 911 response to emergencies	\$50,000				\$50,000	
Radio repeater	Improve radio "dead zones" in south part of county	\$250,000		\$250,000			
Replace current portable radios	Aging radios require replacement	\$75,000					\$75,000

Radar Units & Video Systems	Upgrade existing aging equipment	\$150,000		\$150,000
(4) FLIR Units	Nighttime officer safety & suspect apprehension	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Command Center Trailer	Command needed for incident response	\$35,000		\$35,000
Search & Rescue Building	Need for equipment storage in one place	\$500,000	\$500,000	
New Sheriff's Office	Full facility including jail, dispatch center and administrative offices	\$20,000,000		\$20,000,000
<u>Total-Trans & RD</u>		<u>\$22,710,000</u>	<u>\$90,000</u>	<u>\$860,320</u>
		<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$700,000</u>	<u>\$21,060,000</u>

Financing Available for Courts Capital Improvements Projects

Financing Plan

The final plan for financing the Law Enforcement capital improvements will be determined by the Lake County Sheriff's Office and the Lake County Commission, and the results will be incorporated in annual budgets.

Weed Dept.

Current Facilities and Services

The Lake County Weed District has the responsibility to provide Noxious Weed Control on county maintained roads, county owned property, unincorporated cities, subdivision inspections (regarding weed control/plans) within Lake County as well as the responsibility to inform the public of current and upcoming weed issues within the county through education and awareness programs. Issues of concern include both terrestrial and aquatic noxious weeds.

The weed district has authority via the **Montana Noxious Weed Law** and the **Lake County Weed Management Plan**. Currently the weed department receives funding via the tax base, contracted services & sales of materials as well as grant funding for special projects from the **Noxious Weed Trust Fund**. As of now, the majority of the property in Lake County is non-taxable which makes receiving increased funding for the department difficult and unlikely. It is imperative that a payment-in-lieu of taxes program be implemented to address the lack of current funding available for Lake County.

As the county population continues to grow and the need for services continues to increase it will be difficult if not impossible to meet the expectations that are set for the department.

Currently the weed district maintains approximately 1,000 miles of county maintained roadways and helps to prevent the spread of aquatic weeds on approximately 1,000 miles of irrigation canals which service over 3,000 irrigators. In addition to the irrigation canals the weed department works within the perennial streams to stop the spread of aquatic invaders. The department also provides contracted service work throughout the spray season for other governmental agencies including **MDT**, **USFWS**, and **FWP**. The weed department has a limited number of employees, all of which but one are part time seasonal and with agricultural sciences and environmental conditions being ever changing it is difficult to achieve the goals set for the department.

Capital Improvement Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>Desc.&Justification</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2013/14</u>	<u>2014/15</u>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>2016/17</u>
RD Trucks	(2) 1 Ton Spray Trucks Equipped with tanks and controls	\$60,000		\$30,000		\$30,000	
John Deere Gator	(2) Replacement Gator XUV Equipped w/tanks & controls	\$25,000	\$12,500		\$12,500		
Trimble GPS	(3) Juno GPS Units w/software	\$3,500	\$3,500				

Office/Field Vehicle (1) SUV or Truck	\$30,000			\$30,000		
New Rental Equip. (2) Pickup Skid Sprayer	\$8,000		\$8,000			
New Rental Equip. (2) PTO Trailer Sprayer	\$12,000	\$6,000			\$6,000	
ATV/ Tank Rental (1) 4x4 ATV w/Sprayer	\$13,000		\$13,000			
<u>Total-Weed Dept.</u>	\$151,000	\$22,000	\$51,000	\$42,500	\$36,000	\$0

Financing Available for the Weed Department Capital Improvements Projects

1. Funding via the tax base, contracted services & sales of materials as well as grant funding for special projects from the Noxious Weed Trust Fund.

Financing Plan

The final plan for financing capital improvements will be determined by the Lake County Commission and the results will be incorporated into the annual budgets.

Solid Waste

Current Facilities/Level of Service

The Lake County Solid Waste District (LCSWD) serves all of Lake County and parts of Sanders County, with approximately 29,000 residents in addition to government offices, businesses, agricultural and industrial operations.

The LCSWD's primary location is the Lake County Transfer Station at 36117 North Reservoir Rd, Polson, MT. LCSWD built the Transfer Station in 2003-2004 to provide waste disposal for the County in anticipation of the closing of the Landfill on Kerr Dam Rd. Waste hauled from the Transfer Station is disposed of at the regional landfill in Missoula.

LCSWD continues to operate the Landfill on Kerr Dam Rd as a Class IV construction and demolition (C&D) waste site. The Landfill has been in operation at its current location since 1979. Originally operated as a Class II municipal solid waste site, the site was expected to close in 2004. However, between the construct of the Transfer Station and the restriction of materials sent to the Landfill to only C&D, the life of the Landfill has been extended. On November 26, 2012, we received an engineering estimate stating we have about three more years of useful life at the Landfill.

LCSWD also operates a Class III inert waste landfill (wood products, concrete, etc.) next to the Transfer Station and seven unsupervised rural collection sites spread throughout the county. Included in the operation of the Transfer Station is LCSWD's recycling program along with three community recycling drop-off sites.

The LCSWD disposed of 18,996 tons of waste at the Missoula landfill in 2011. 14,945 tons came from the Transfer Station, the local waste hauler directly hauled 292 tons, and 3759 tons were directly hauled by LCSWD (primarily from the two southern container sites). 22,521 cubic yards of C & D were disposed of at the Landfill on Kerr Dam Rd.

The local commercial hauler handles the majority of the waste (58 percent) entering the Transfer station. LCSWD brings in 24 percent from the five rural container sites not directly hauled to Missoula, and 18 percent comes in private vehicles driven by self-haulers.

LCSWD recycles motor oil, antifreeze, tires, scrap metal, some electronics, automotive batteries, cardboard, newspaper, mixed paper, aluminum cans, tin cans, and plastics #'s 1 through 7. Through eleven months of 2012, we have seen a 30% increase in the amounts of fibers and plastics that we have processed. This increase is most likely due to the addition of the three community recycling drop-off sites. Other communities are requesting LCSWD to bring recycling to their areas as well. Composting of organic wastes at the landfill continues on a small-scale.

The LCSWD principally collects service fees via property tax statements issued in Lake County. The annual fee for a family residential unit is \$135. Because the landfill is located within the exterior boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation, many residents and tribally owned enterprises live and are located on trust land, where taxes are not assessed. The Salish-Kootenai Housing Authority does pay for solid waste disposal services on approximately 490 housing units. In order to pay for waste disposal services at homes not covered by SKHA, the LCSWD directly bills the non-taxed parties.

The LCSWD is required to provide financial assurance for both the costs of closing the landfill and for 30 years of post-closure care. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has given interim approval for a closure plan for the landfill. Based on the project engineer's most recent cost assessment, the amount required for closure is approximately \$468,000 and post-closure treatment is expected to cost approximately \$521,000. The LCSWD currently maintains two funds for these expenses with balances sufficient to cover the projected costs.

Capital Improvement Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>Desc.&Justification</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2013/14</u>	<u>2014/15</u>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>2016/17</u>
New Shop	New service & repair	\$500,000			\$500,000		
Increase Pavement	Recycling area & container sites	\$40,000			\$40,000		
Class A Truck	Increased needs	\$175,000					\$175,000
Remodel containers	(5) Remodeling up to code	\$260,000		\$80,000		\$180,000	
Container site	New container site location	\$100,000					\$100,000
Recycling	(5) Expand recycling services	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
<u>Total-Solid Waste</u>		\$1,125,000	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$550,000	\$190,000	\$285,000

Financing Available for Solid Waste Capital Improvements Projects

1. Service fees via property taxes, current annual fees for a residential unit is 135. LCSWD directly bills the non-taxed parties for services.

Financing Plan

The final plan for financing the Solid Waste capital improvements will be determined by the Lake County Commission, and the results will be incorporated in annual budgets.

Water & Sewer Districts

Current Facilities/Level of Service for Water Districts

Most of the rural residents of Lake County use individual wells or private community water supply systems. Many rural residents who live adjacent to area lakes and streams use those sources for drinking water. Surface and subsurface water is relatively abundant in the populated areas of Lake County, enabling homeowners to develop comparatively cost effective individual water supply systems.

The Cities of Polson and Ronan and the Town of St. Ignatius have municipal water systems. Those entities have the jurisdictional authority to levy taxes and sponsor grant and loan applications related to improvement of their public facilities. St. Ignatius has a well-functioning water system and is not seeking any expansions or significant upgrades at this time, while Ronan and Polson have had significant upgrades to their systems in recent years.

The unincorporated area of Charlo has a water district with 425 hook-ups. The water system is working well, although the limited pumping and storage capacity are of concern in case of emergency, particularly during the summer months when residents use district water for lawn and garden care. Because of the concern, the Charlo district has secured funding to develop an additional well and more water storage capacity. Charlo is also a high-growth area with developable land adjacent to the town's boundaries. Based on potential impacts to public health and safety and the potential to bring new residents to the community where services exist, this project is a high priority for Lake County.

The unincorporated area of Woods Bay (Sheaver's Creek) has an operating water system with 88 connections. The system has a number of serious problems. The district uses a combination of surface water and groundwater. The surface water does not meet state drinking water standards for filtration and is of variable quantity. According to the project engineer, the well water exceeds state drinking water standards for fluoride by four times. The entire distribution system is antiquated and needs to be replaced. In fact, at certain high-demand times of the day, no water is available to some users, which presents a potential safety risk in the event of a fire. The total project, which would serve 120 users, is estimated to cost over \$2 million and construction should take place as soon as possible. Because the system is out of compliance with state standards and public health is at risk, this project is a very high priority for Lake County.

The Pablo/Lake County Water and Sewer District was formed in 1987. Initial construction of the Pablo water system occurred in 1972 with the drilling of the community's first well (Well 1), prior to the formation of the District. The majority of Pablo's distribution system was constructed in 1973. Three additional wells were added to the community's water system in 1973 (Well 2), 1979 (Well 3), and 1989 (Well 4). The District has a 200,000 gallon elevated steel water storage tank that creates the

community's only storage capacity, all four of the District's wells pump to the storage tank.

Pablo has a water district that serves approximately 400 hook-ups. The district population is expanding rapidly and two distribution line upgrades are planned. The district has a high percentage of low- to moderate-income persons and the area provides many affordable housing opportunities. Upgraded lines will provide for better fire flows, allow more low-income users on the system, result in fewer wells in a vulnerable, near surface aquifer (described below), and provide a significant growth management tool. For those reasons, the distribution line upgrades are a high priority for Lake County. Nitrate and coliform contamination continue to be a problem in shallow drinking water wells. The District is in the preliminary stage of investigating a public water supply system. With the reduction of grant monies available to construct such a system it is unlikely to be implemented in the foreseeable future. Funding sources will continue to be investigated as the projected cost to develop a public water supply within the District exceeds 2.5 million dollars.

The Lake County government is in full support of public water facilities for a number of reasons including the benefit to public health and safety, the efficient expenditure of homeowner dollars, and the ability to direct growth so that cost effective services of all kinds may be provided to the public. In order to encourage the formation of new water districts and to aid those already in existence, the Lake County Government and the Planning and Environmental Health Departments will take the following steps:

1. Aid all current water districts in their facility upgrade efforts by writing letters of support and providing other services as appropriate.
2. Monitor information regarding surface and subsurface water quality trends in areas where public water facilities may some day be needed due to threats to human health and safety.
3. Provide guidance to early-stage water districts and encourage the formation of new ones where appropriate.
4. Update this plan on an annual basis to measure priorities and address current needs. Administer grants as appropriate.

Public Water Districts Data for Lake County

Location	Jurisdictional Authority	Planned Improvements	Current Status	Estimated Cost
Charlo	Charlo Water and Sewer District	Additional supply well. Additional storage capacity.	Attempting to secure water right.	\$150,000
Pablo	Pablo Water and Sewer District	Additional storage, new well, and main replacement.	Reducing debt, pending funding.	\$2,000,000
Arlee	Arlee Water and Sewer District	Construction of a community water system.	Planning completed on water system, pending funding.	\$2,500,000
Woods Bay	Sheaver's Creek Water and Sewer District	Water wells, pump, storage and distribution system for 120 users.	Preparing preliminary engineering report and seeking funding. Obtained funding	\$2,200,000

Financing Available for Water Capital Improvements Projects

1. Grants funding from: TSEP, DNRC, CDBG, RD, and STAG/WRDA. RD and SRF loans.

Financing Plan

The final plan for financing capital improvements will be determined by the Pablo/Lake County Water and Sewer District, and the results will be incorporated in annual budgets.

Sewer Districts

Current Facilities/Level of Service for Sewer Districts

Most of the residents of Lake County use individual septic tanks and drainfields to treat their septic effluent. The Cities of Polson and Ronan and the Town of St. Ignatius currently operate public wastewater facilities and maintain jurisdiction over system upgrades. The Polson and Ronan facilities have excess capacity at present while the St. Ignatius facility is at or above capacity and is seeking to expand. St. Ignatius has completed planning for expanding and upgrading the treatment facility and is now seeking funding. Outside of the incorporated areas, residents of Arlee, Charlo, Pablo, and the Greater Woods Bay/Lake County have active sewer districts.

The Arlee/Lake County Water and Sewer District has completed the installation of their municipal wastewater system. This includes collection lines, pump stations, an aerated lagoon, and spray irrigation system. The pump stations and treatment facilities are designed for a 20+ year build out within the District Boundaries. It is not anticipated that there will be a need for capital expenditure during this period. Logical extension of the collection lines will be at the developer's expense.

Charlo is a community that has a great deal of undeveloped land surrounding the town site. The project appears to have strong community support and would address the needs of a significant number of low- to moderate-income people. Because the district exceeds discharge standards and expansion of the system would likely be an effective growth management tool for a number of segments of the population, this project is a high priority for Lake County. Charlo does not have a system for channeling, or collection and disposal of storm water and runoff resulting in flooding conditions in most of the town whenever significant rain or snow storms occur. This results in damaged streets and flooded basements, crawl spaces and yards. Discharging sump pumps into the sewer system is prohibited but many homeowners do so since there is no place to get the water away from their property. Those areas which cannot be drained result in mold in the homes and mosquito breeding areas. The few ditches along the streets have been filled over the years and there is no way for water to flow away from town resulting in standing water for long periods following even moderate precipitation. As a low income community now paying for significant water and sewer improvements within the Consolidated Water and Sewer District, there is no chance of passing a special improvement district for storm water work at this time.

The Pablo area is what the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have labeled a vulnerable aquifer. The upper aquifer is in many places less than 25 feet below the ground surface and is overlain by highly permeable sandy soils. The soils allow for contaminants from the surface to quickly enter the groundwater that many residents use for drinking. The district has recently taken measures to ensure that the existing treatment system capacity is not exceeded prior to planned expansion and has passed a

self-imposed moratorium on any additional connections beyond what have already been committed to. Because of a threat to a high quality natural resource and a potential threat to public health, and because expansion of this facility is a proven growth management tool, this project is a high priority for Lake County.

A number of other unincorporated population centers in Lake County may need sewer facilities in the coming years. Lake Mary Ronan, Rollins, Ferndale, Swan Lake, Ravalli, Finley Point and the Melita Island area have been identified as areas that may someday require public systems. All of these border a major lake, except for Ravalli and Ferndale, which border rivers. The impact of existing individual sewage disposal systems on water quality is a concern, particularly where residents use surface water or near surface groundwater for drinking.

In order to determine where the need is the greatest, the Lake County government, in conjunction with other concerned parties, is considering conducting a need- and impact-based study of the above mentioned areas. When the priority areas have been identified and ranked, the local citizens, the Lake County government and other concerned parties may form sewer districts to direct the planning, construction and operation of the facilities, as well as to help pay for the necessary engineering and construction work.

The Lake County government is in full support of public wastewater treatment facilities for a number of reasons including the benefits to public health, safety and water quality and the ability to direct growth so that cost effective services may be provided to the public. In order to encourage the formation of new water districts and to aid those already in existence, the Lake County Planning and Environmental Health Departments will take the following steps:

1. Aid all current sewer districts in their facility upgrade efforts by writing letters of support and providing administrative services as appropriate.
 2. Monitor information regarding surface and subsurface water quality trends in areas where public wastewater treatment facilities may some day be needed due to threats to human health and safety and water quality.
 3. Provide guidance to early-stage sewer districts and encourage the formation of new ones where appropriate.
 4. Update this plan on an annual basis to measure priorities and address current needs.
- Administer grants as appropriate.

Public Wastewater Treatment Districts in Lake County

Location	Jurisdictional Authority	Planned Improvements	Current Status	Estimated Cost
Charlo	Charlo Water and Sewer District	Strom water channeling or collection system	Seeking funding sources.	TBD
Pablo	Pablo Water and Sewer District	20 year expansion project.	Engineering complete. Ready to seek funding.	\$3,500,000
Arlee	Arlee Water and Sewer District	Construction of a community treatment system	Seeking funding sources.	\$2,500,000

Financing Available for Wastewater Capital Improvements Projects

1. Grants funding from: TSEP, DNRC, CDBG, RD, and STAG/WRDA. RD and SRF loans.

Financing Plan

The final plan for financing capital improvements will be determined by the /Lake County Water and Sewer Districts, and the results will be incorporated in annual budgets.