

# Bear Creek Watershed Association

Approved May 11, 2011

## Policy 9 - Wastewater Management Policy for Aspen Park/Conifer Village Center

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### Statement of Basis and Purpose

The Association determined that an area-specific wastewater management plan was necessary for the Aspen Park and Conifer areas. Multiple proposals have been made for four treatment plants to serve the area. The Association considered regional wastewater opportunities. A significant concern was raised by residents in the area about converting from onsite systems to centralized wastewater service. However, a clear need to serve the commercial development was not by all major businesses in the area. The Association also took into consideration the Jefferson County community plan and the problems associated with groundwater use in determining the need for area-specific wastewater management strategy.

As a flexible and dynamic planning and decision tool, the Association maintains an area specific wastewater management policy for the Aspen Park/ Conifer Village Center. The wastewater strategy can be modified or updated by the Association at a regularly scheduled meeting of Association Board, as needed to meet community needs and to assure protection of the water quality and wastewater management.

### Policy Direction

The following policy direction supersedes any previous strategy adopted by the Association for the Aspen Park/ Conifer Village Center.

### System of Treatment Works

For multiple reasons, including wastewater, water rights and water quality management, a single operational agency isn't feasible for the Aspen Park/ Conifer Village Center. The Association has applied the criteria from the *Conifer/285 Corridor Area Community Plan* (Jefferson County, September 2003) that states "*as few as necessary*" in determining the necessary number of wastewater operating agencies for the Aspen Park/ Conifer Village Center. The Aspen Park/ Conifer Village Center supports three wastewater treatment facilities with separate operational authorities within the Jefferson County defined urban growth boundary:

1. Jefferson County School District (Conifer High School Treatment Plant (1995) and all associated Jefferson County School District Properties within the Turkey Creek Sub-watershed, including West Jefferson Elementary School, West Jefferson Middle School; West Jefferson Pre-school, West Jefferson Water Treatment Facility, and wastewater haulage from Marshdale Elementary School.
2. North Turkey Creek Regional Plant Operated by the Conifer Metropolitan District (Wastewater Utility Plan August 11, 2004) with the Conifer Sanitation Association as a special connection requiring a lift station (March 1, 2006); and

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3. South Turkey Creek Regional Plant operated by the Aspen Park Metropolitan District (Wastewater Utility Plan November 2004 and February 2008).

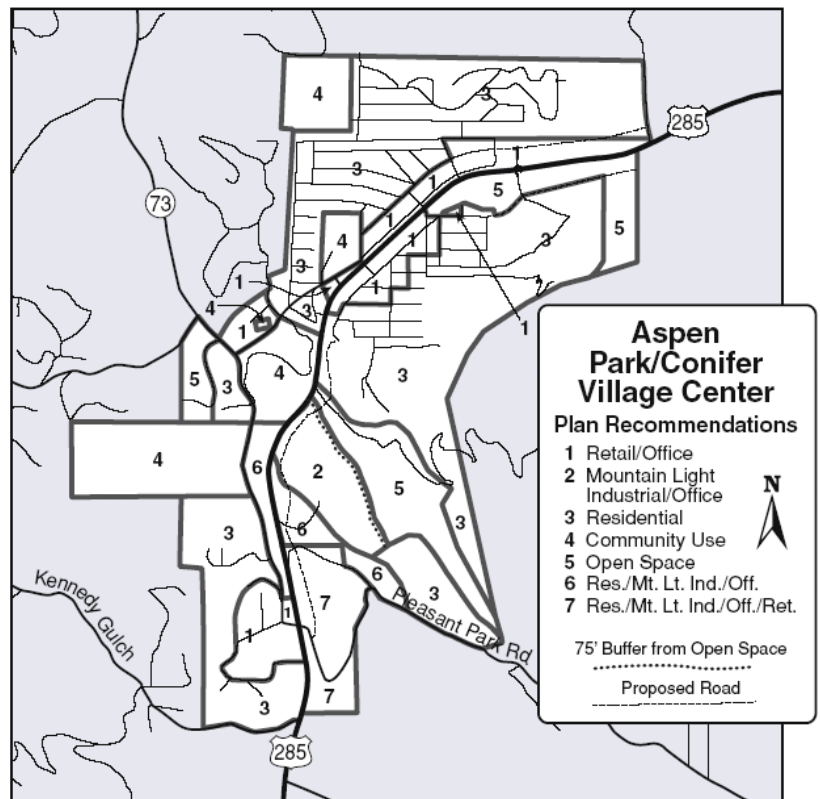
The Jefferson County School District wastewater treatment facility at Conifer High School is not a regional wastewater facility and there is no expectation to have any outside special connections to this treatment works. The Conifer Metropolitan District and the Aspen Park Metropolitan District operate designed regional wastewater facilities with the expectation that they can provide service to outside connectors within their designated drainage basins.

### **Residential Wastewater service in the Aspen Park/ Conifer Village Center**

Residential interests have shown opposition to centralized services that force residential hookup to wastewater treatment facilities. Currently, the homeowners preferred wastewater service option is individual septic systems with individual wells. The Association supports centralized wastewater services within the Aspen Park/ Conifer Village Center. Jefferson County has designated the village center boundary as an urban growth boundary consistent with county planning. Currently, regional wastewater treatment facilities serve the needs of the commercial development in village center consistent with the recommendation of the *Conifer/285 Corridor Area Community Plan*. The regional facilities both have a potential future service area and staged capacity to serve residential wastewater needs if the preference for service by homeowner/residents changes in the future.

### **Wastewater Service Areas**

The ultimate wastewater service area is defined by the adopted Aspen Park/ Conifer Village Center boundary (Figure1). The regional treatment facility wastewater utility plans designate a phased approach to wastewater service. The Conifer Metropolitan District and the Aspen Park Metropolitan District utility plans are controlling in mapping the service areas (See back plate for general service area boundaries of districts). These districts only serve a small portion of the Village Center under the phase one service developments and this service is currently restricted to commercial developments, subject to legal agreements.



**Figure 1 Aspen Park/ Conifer Village Center**

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Wastewater treatment services are separated between the North and South Turkey Creek drainage regions. The village center within the North Turkey Creek drainage region is split between two hydrologic drainage systems (North Turkey Creek and a small portion of the Deer Creek drainage basin). However, from a wastewater planning perspective the North Turkey Creek drainage region will be treated as a single planning area. If the village center expands toward the south in the future, wastewater service provisions between the North Turkey Creek and Deer Creek drainage basins will be reconsidered by the Association

The Jefferson County School District service area is shown in Figure 1 as “area 4- Community Use”. The Conifer High School wastewater treatment plant is located in the North Turkey Creek drainage. All water rights for the school district originate from the North Turkey drainage area downstream from the High School. Water supplied to the school district properties in the South Turkey drainage originates from the North Turkey Creek and must be returned for water rights purposes.

***Commercial Wastewater Service Recommendation***

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Centralized wastewater service is encouraged for commercial and/ or community use development within the Village Center whenever the intensity of a development exceeds one dwelling unit per five acres or the equivalent. Any additional commercial wastewater service will be provided by either the North or South Turkey Creek regional wastewater plants.

***Onsite System Management in Village Center***

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Existing onsite (septic) systems within the adopted urban growth boundary (Village Center) are subject to a wastewater management option. Residential wastewater service is provided by individual on-site treatment systems within the planning horizon (2025) and can become a consideration in future centralized treatment system planning. Those areas in both the North Turkey Creek and South Turkey Creek drainage basin that are outside the current or proposed commercial service areas but within the Jefferson County designated urban growth boundary are an *onsite wastewater management region*.

A separate onsite wastewater management strategy will be developed by Jefferson County in cooperation with Jefferson County Health Department, the Association and residents living within the Aspen Park/ Conifer Village Center by 2015 through a public involvement process.

The recommendations from this public process will be incorporation into the wastewater management strategy for the village center. Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment is responsible for permitting onsite (septic) wastewater systems under 2,000 gallons per day capacity. The two regional wastewater providers have included language within their wastewater utility plans to acknowledge the onsite wastewater management regions and provide a mechanism for possible future centralized wastewater service planning.

***Local Wastewater Utility Service Review***

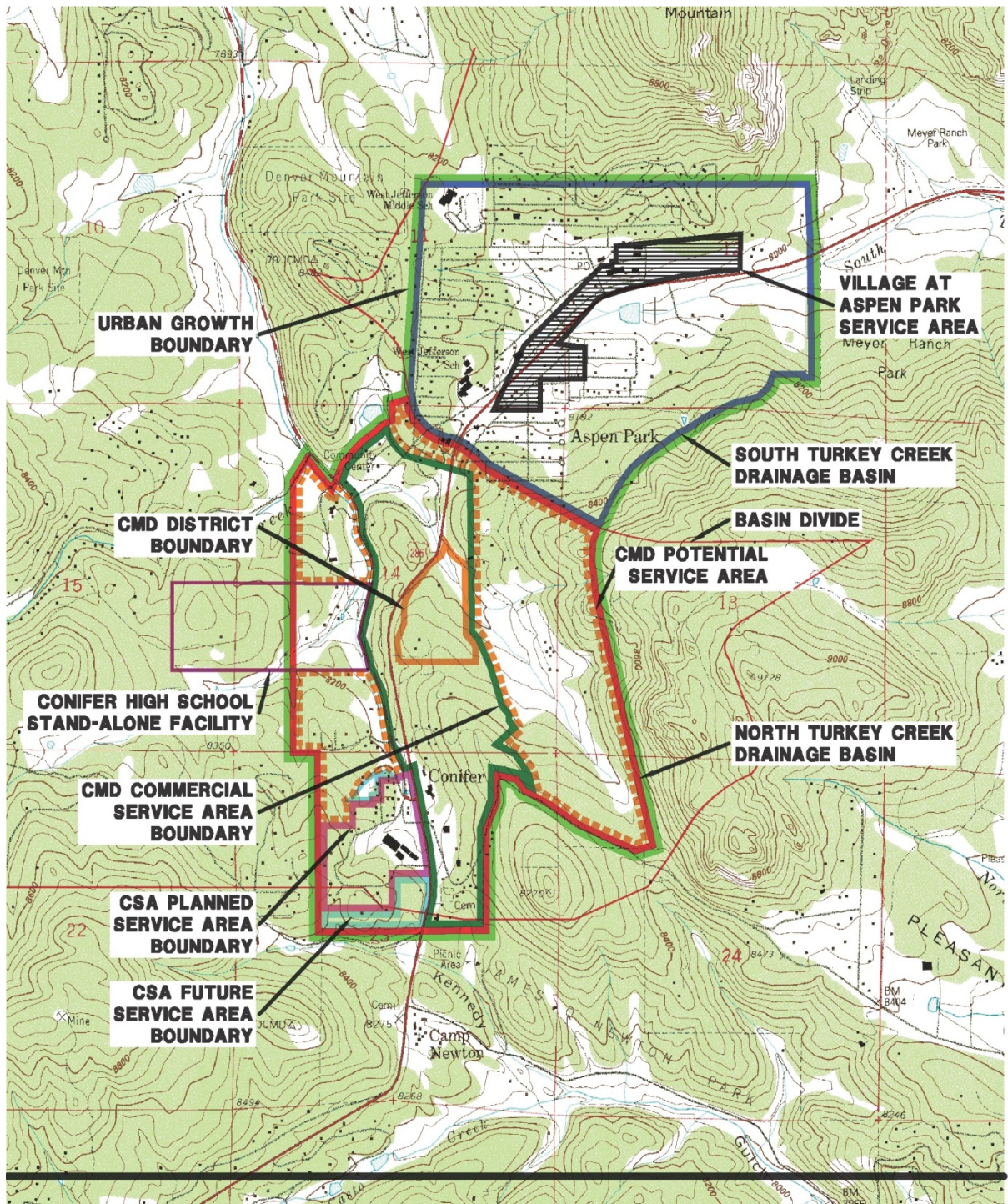
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Wastewater utility planning efforts (updates and/or amendments) associated with the Village Center maybe subject to a public participation process if requested by homeowners/residents residing within the Aspen Park/ Conifer Village Center. Proposed changes to existing



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wastewater infrastructure may be subject to further public comment after posting on the Association Website. The operational authorities may be responsible for this public participation process. The Association will consider appropriate public comment in the utility plan review and site application processes.



**Figure 2 General Service Areas of Conifer Metropolitan District and Aspen Park Metropolitan District**