

What is the CAF?

The Capacity Availability Fee (CAF) is a fee charged by the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD). All new sewer connections and construction projects that will result in expanded use of the sewer system require that a CAF is paid.

The cost of constructing and maintaining the sewer system has been paid by existing sewer system customers since 1978. A new (or expanded) user of the sewer system pays a CAF to contribute to the cost of their proportionate share of existing sewer system capacity. WLSSD uses the fees collected to reduce the annual debt burden for all new and existing customers. The CAF is typically paid at the time a building or plumbing permit is issued for new construction or remodeling, or for a change of use.

How is my CAF calculated?

The municipality that issues your permit will calculate the cost of a single family residence CAF. The CAF is calculated based on a standardized formula provided by WLSSD that determines the maximum potential volume of wastewater that could be generated. Each CAF unit is equivalent to 260 gallons of daily wastewater flow.

Single family dwellings will pay one CAF unit. For other buildings, WLSSD staff will assist your municipality to determine the appropriate CAF. This process will take into account average wastewater flows for specific activities that will occur on site (e.g. food preparation, laundry, maintenance).

What if I'm demolishing or replacing an existing building?

WLSSD may provide CAF credits toward a new project, provided that a new building is replacing an existing structure which will be demolished. WLSSD will only charge a CAF for expanded use of the sewer system.

Any CAF credits are valid for only one year following demolition or remodeling that occurs on your property. The property owner and municipality are responsible for documenting the time between demolition and any new construction that occurs.

Some common examples of one CAF unit:

- 1 single family dwelling
- 1 single apartment
- 2 automobile service bays (fast service)
- 3 beds in a nursing home
- 10 seats at a full service restaurant
- 22 seats at a fast food restaurant
- 64 seats at a theatre
- 2,400 sq. ft. of office space
- 3,000 sq. ft. of retail space
- 7,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space

How is the CAF collected?

WLSSD functions as a wholesaler of wastewater services within the region. Therefore, municipalities are responsible for collecting the CAF from individual property owners or developers. The municipality will, in turn, pay WLSSD. The CAF payment is typically due when a building or plumbing permit is issued. Each municipality retains a portion of this fee for administration costs.

Large industries connecting directly to the WLSSD system will pay the CAF directly to WLSSD.

If your permit is cancelled, you may be eligible to receive a refund for the CAF. The municipality issuing the permit must provide a copy of the voided permit to WLSSD in order to process the refund.

More information is in the Capacity Availability Fee Procedures Manual at wlssd.com.

Will my project need to have the CAF calculated?

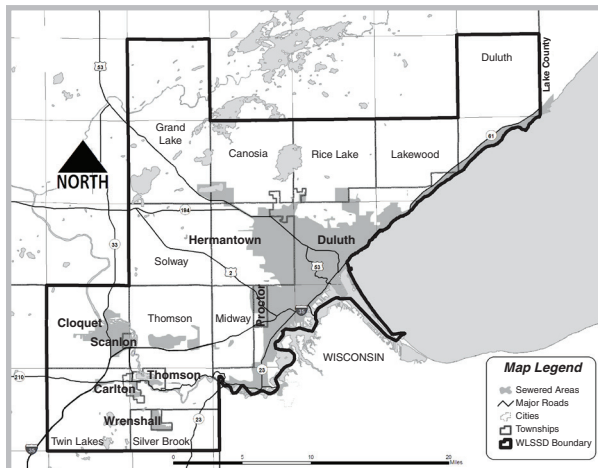
Required	Not Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction of a new residence or business.• Remodeling that results in a change in the number of dwelling units.• Remodeling that is done to accommodate a change in use.• Demolition that is followed by construction or development on the same site.• Development resulting in a change in immediate and future sewer use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deconstruction of a building with no intent to redevelop.• Additions to a residence that will not affect the number of dwelling units.• Development where a septic system will be used.

Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

WLSSD was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1971 to address serious water pollution problems in the lower St. Louis River. WLSSD serves as the wastewater and solid waste authority within its 530 square mile legislative boundary in northeastern Minnesota.

Wastewater is transported from cities and industries to WLSSD's regional treatment plant through a 75-mile network of interceptor sewers. The treatment plant is designed to treat an average daily flow of 48 million gallons of wastewater. Effluent consistently meets strict state and federal regulatory standards for pollutants.

Additionally, WLSSD also operates a Regional Household Hazardous Waste Facility, Materials Recovery Center and Organics Composting Facility as well as a Solid Waste Transfer Station handling about 100,000 tons of solid waste annually.



Questions?

All municipalities within WLSSD's service area have been provided with a copy of the Capacity Availability Fee Procedures Manual. To view this document, please contact the city or township office where your permit was issued or visit wlssd.com.

Other questions regarding the CAF maybe directed to:

Dan Belden
Senior Planner
dan.belden@wlssd.com
(218) 740-4774

Sam Lobby
Senior Planner
sam.lobby@wlssd.com
(218) 740-4787



Clear Answers for Clean Water™

Western Lake Superior Sanitary District
2626 Courtland Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55806
(218) 722-3336 • wlssd.com

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