

The history of Gettysburg water began back in January of 1823 when 36 citizens met to organize a water company. Among them were some famous names, including Thaddeus Stevens and James Getty, who founded the Borough. One woman, Ann Griffin was a member of the group, which was most unusual for that period when women did not participate in civic or political activities.

The water supply for the original company was obtained from springs within the borough. As additional consumers were added, the wells could no longer adequately supply the demand, and in 1894 began the development of Marsh Creek.

Engineers found the most desirable place to withdraw water was from a point about 3 miles south of Gettysburg, near Sachs Bridge. It was decided to erect a pumping station at this place and work began in the summer of 1894.

In the spring of 1912, in response to the increased demands for a better water supply, a new pumping and filtration plant was constructed along with a dam to create a reserve for water.

Gettysburg Municipal Authority (GMA) was incorporated June of 1948. GMA acquired the water system from Northeastern Water Company in October of 1949 and the sewer system from Gettysburg Borough in 1951.

Today GMA provides water and sewer to a population of approximately 11,500. Currently GMA provides service to approximately 4300 water metered connections and 3050 sewer connections. GMA serves Gettysburg Borough, along with portions of Straban and Cumberland townships. The water systems daily average production is around 1.3 million gallons a day (MGD), with a peak of around 1.7 MGD and a low of around 1 MGD. The Gettysburg Wastewater Treatment Plant has a daily average flow of approximately 1.7 MGD while the Hunterstown Plant averages .080 MGD.

The water system consists of approx. 50 miles of water mains, hundreds of valves and fire hydrants, (6) ground production wells, (4) storage tanks,(2) stream wells, (2) water booster stations and the Marsh Creek surface water treatment plant.

The (6) ground production wells combined have a total daily pumping capacity of 1,750,000 mgd. GMA tries to minimize their production throughout the winter and spring in effort to allow the wells to recharge and hopefully be at full yield during the summer months when demand is higher and stream flows are lower.

The current Marsh Creek water treatment plant (WTP) was constructed in 2000 and offers state of the art technology. Marsh Creek WTP is a conventional gravity filtration plant with Superpulsator clarifiers and sand filter beds with granulated activated carbon to help with the removal of organics and taste. The treatment process includes chemical additions of aluminum sulfate and polymer for coagulation, sodium hydroxide for the adjustment of Ph, potassium permanganate for oxidizing of manganese, poly orthophosphate as a corrosion inhibitor, and chlorine for disinfection. Gettysburg Municipal Authority does not add fluoride to its drinking water.

The Marsh Creek WTP is permitted to withdrawal 2.3 MGD based on a yearly average, not to exceed 3.1 million gallons on any given day, while maintaining a pass by flow of 6.68 cubic feet per second or 4.312 MGD. Once the pass by flow falls below the 6.68 cubic feet per second the WTP can only withdraw a daily volume equal to or less than the volume of water being produced and transferred to Marsh Creek via the 2 stream wells.

GMA operates two (2) sewer systems, the Gettysburg system which serves Gettysburg Borough along with portions of Straban and Cumberland townships and the Hunterstown system which serves the village of Hunterstown along with the surrounding area including the NRG electric production plant and the County of Adams prison and emergency center. The Gettysburg system is comprised of approx. 50 miles collection and conveyance mains, over 600 manholes, 6 pump stations and 1 wet weather station and the Melvin D. Crouse Wastewater Treatment Plant( WWTP). These facilities, particularly the collection and conveyance infrastructure within Gettysburg Borough are in excess of 70 plus years, including many of the privately owned service laterals from the property to the sewer main. The Hunterstown system is comprised of approximately 5 miles of collection and conveyance mains, 2 pumps stations and the Hunterstown Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Gettysburg WWTP is located near the intersection of East Middle and South Sixth Street. The plant uses a dual train treatment consisting of extended aeration and Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) processes which utilize biological and nutrient removal technology enhancing the effluent and reducing the organic load into Rock Creek and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. The plant has a rated capacity of 3.0 MGD. The Hunterstown WWTP is located just north of the intersection of Route 394 and Hunterstown Road. The plant uses the SBR treatment process. This plant has a rated capacity of .232 MGD