

All Nine Plants Recognized For Excellence

County Treatment Plants Rack Up Awards

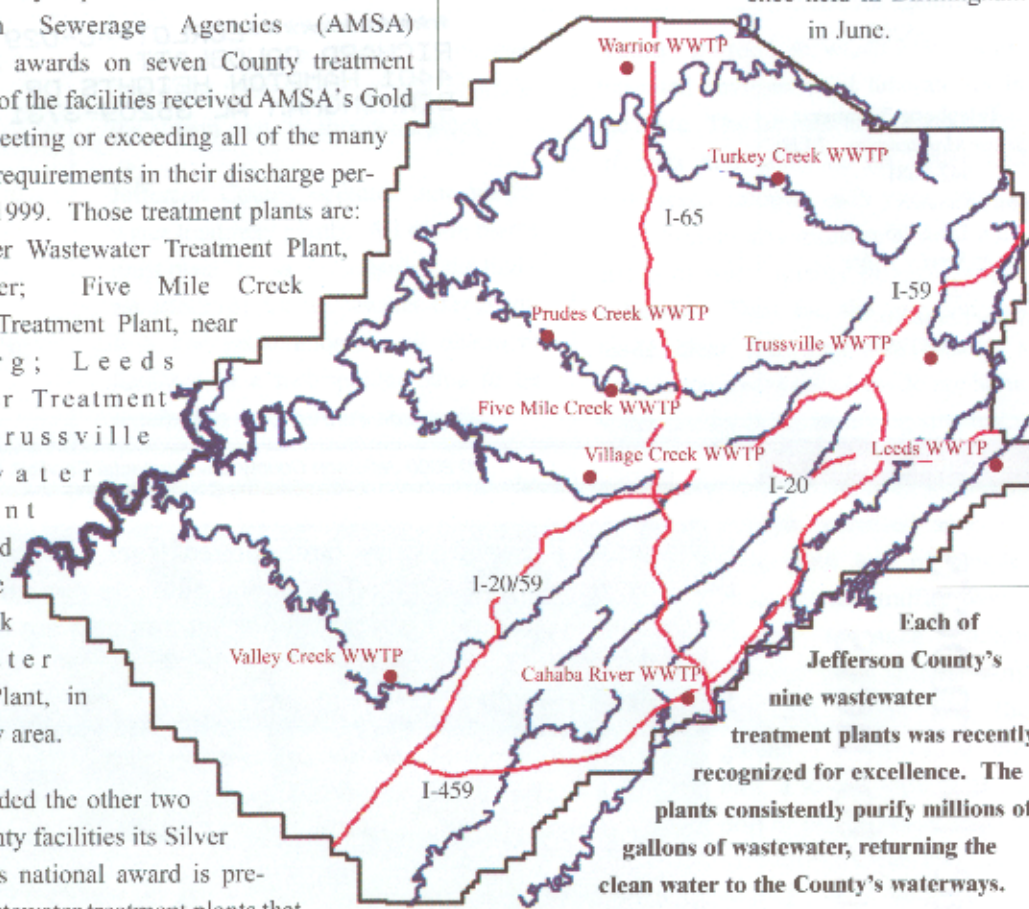
Jefferson County's nine wastewater treatment plants have hauled in the awards lately. Each of the County's facilities has been recognized for excellence in treatment quality and in controlling water pollution.

The nationally prominent Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) bestowed its awards on seven County treatment plants. Five of the facilities received AMSA's Gold Award for meeting or exceeding all of the many hundreds of requirements in their discharge permits during 1999. Those treatment plants are: Cahaba River Wastewater Treatment Plant, near Hoover; Five Mile Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, near Coalburg; Leeds Wastewater Treatment Plant; Trussville Wastewater Treatment Plant; and Village Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, in the Pratt City area.

AMSA awarded the other two eligible County facilities its Silver Award. This national award is presented to wastewater treatment plants that experienced five or fewer exceptions to their discharge permit requirements during 1999. Those plants are: Turkey Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, near Pinson; and Valley Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, near Bessemer.

Two other County treatment facilities were ineligible for the AMSA awards because of their smaller treatment capacities. These facilities made up for the exclusion, however, by sharing the Alabama Water Pollution Control Association's (AWPCA)

top honor, the Best Operated Plant Award, in the category of plants treating less than one million gallons per day. Those plants are: Prudes Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, near Graysville; and Warrior Wastewater Treatment Plant. These awards were presented to the County at the AWPCA conference held in Birmingham in June.



Jefferson County was one of only two wastewater service providers in Alabama to be recognized by AMSA. The achievement of earning the seven AMSA awards is even more remarkable considering that these plants face some of the most stringent permit requirements in the country. The AMSA and AWPCA awards are a tribute to both the dedication of Environmental Services Department personnel and the commitment of the Jefferson County Commission to provide the highest quality in wastewater collection and treatment.