

By 1906 the City council had decided to expand the water system further, and built a second dam, two miles below the original Ragged Mountain reservoir. In addition to expanding the water system, they began plans to develop a sanitary sewer system.

Crozet continued to grow through the late 1800's and early 1900's, with its water needs supported by a series of privately owned wells. In 1932, a Baltimore entrepreneur, P.G. Ligon, operating as "Crozet Water Company Inc." saw the opportunities purveying of water offered and purchased the rights to the well system of Crozet. By 1946, Ligon had constructed a water impoundment in the Mint Spring Valley in hopes of meeting the growing water demands of Crozet.

Around this same time the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, at the request of Crozet citizens, had begun to survey the community's water needs. An estimate was created indicating the anticipated cost of meeting those needs and, subsequently, bonds were sold to fund a water supply project.

In 1947, P.G. Ligon sold his water company to the newly formed "Crozet Sanitation District," thereby creating the first publicly owned water system in Albemarle County.

It was not long after the formation of the Crozet Sanitation District that Albemarle County realized its well system and Mint Spring Valley impoundment were not enough to support the growing Crozet community.

The late 1940's and early 1950's saw a water shortage in nearly every summer. Water was quickly restricted to indoor household use only, and the Sanitation District was forced to obtain water from outside the public system to meet the needs of the community. Albemarle County began renting private wells and tapping ponds for additional sources of water. Eventually, a second impoundment was created in Mint Springs.

Meanwhile, in the City, water needs continued to grow as well with the Ragged Mountain reservoirs unable to keep up with the demand of the community. In 1949, the City addressed its growing water needs by building the Sugar Hollow impoundment.

Hope came to Albemarle County in 1954, when the federal government passed a law permitting localities to add water storage for public use if part of a flood control project conducted by the Soil Conservation Service.

Scottsville, previously having a town run water supply separate from the County, now got use of a county owned impoundment on Totier Creek. This project was paid for by the County and hence, Scottsville began receiving service from the public water supply.

By 1958, the Board of Supervisors had endorsed a Soil Conservation Service project that involved the creation of the Beaver Creek Dam. The Board met a stumbling block however, when it determined that despite meeting federal guidelines the state would not permit development of impoundments beyond the needs of the Soil Conservation Service.

The General Assembly was petitioned and by 1960 the Board of Supervisors was purchasing land for the Beaver Creek Dam.

Eventually, it was determined that all of urban Albemarle County was in need of a public water supply and in April of 1964 the Board of Supervisors created the Albemarle County Service Authority and made Crozet and Scottsville part of its jurisdictional areas.

The Service Authority was created as an entity separate from the county. It was to own, operate and maintain its own facilities while extending and increasing water service to the urban area of Albemarle County. All business done by the Service Authority was to be paid for by revenue from sales; it was not to be a tax-funded service. The Board of Supervisors would maintain connection to the Service Authority by appointing its Board of Directors and determining its jurisdictional areas. This would ultimately become a useful tool in achieving desired zoning and land use goals.

In 1961, the City won annexation from Albemarle County causing a considerable blow to the county's tax base, with a significant loss of revenue. The City then began selectively choosing which Albemarle County neighborhoods it would provide water. The county reacted, attempting to stay off additional annexations, by increasing its water service and refuting the notion that the City was the only location that could provide such.

The City continued to look for ways to satisfy its water needs and chose to dam the South Fork of the Rivanna, a project completed in 1966.

In 1968, Albemarle County began acquiring the well systems of neighborhoods that had been developing since the population explosion that followed the end of World War II. These well systems soon proved inadequate and Albemarle County decided to form an agreement with the City to purchase water and deliver it through the County's own transmission lines.

In 1969 an Environmental Protection Act Grant became available, offering 75% funding for sewerage projects. The City and County each applied for the grants in hopes of building wastewater treatment plants.

The State Water Control Board came back to City and County officials in June of 1971 and demanded that a joint authority be established to administer water and sewerage to both localities, as without such, federal funding would not be provided. The goal was to end duplication of efforts in the area, given that all water was being pulled from the same sources.

Shortly thereafter, a "four party agreement" was signed between the City, County, Albemarle County Service Authority and the newly created the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority.

Today, Charlottesville has three public water and wastewater utilities operating. The Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority is the wholesale provider of water and wastewater

treatment. They operate bulk transmission and collection to and from the City and County. The City of Charlottesville owns, operates and maintains all utilities within the City limits and the Albemarle County Service Authority does the same for its service area, as established by the County Board of Supervisors.

From a simple well and pump atop Vinegar Hill, has sprung a water supply system that now includes: reservoirs at the South Fork of the Rivanna, Sugar Hollow and two at Ragged Mountain; water treatment plants at the North and South Forks of the Rivanna River and at Observatory Mountain; wastewater treatment plants at Moore's Creek, Rivanna Village and Camelot on the North Fork; and over 330 miles of sanitary sewer lines and 390 miles of water lines.