



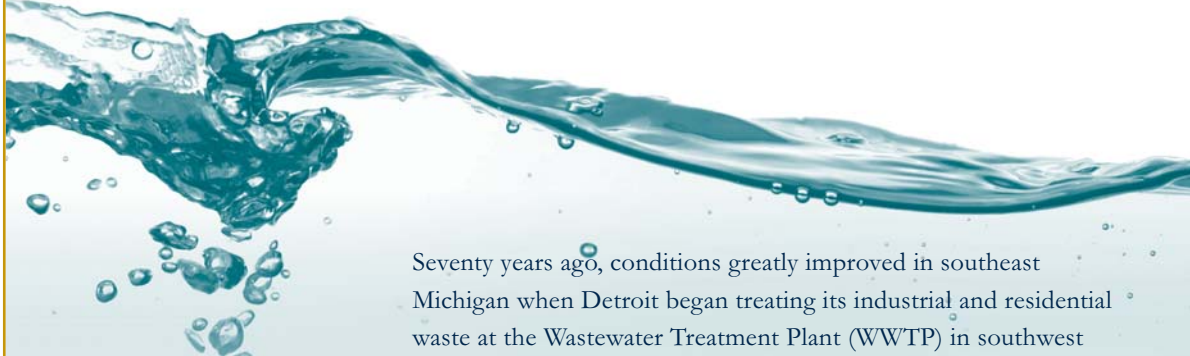
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Mayor, City of Detroit
 Detroit City Council
 Detroit City Clerk
 DWSD Board of Water Commissioners
 DWSD Director

DWSD is a city department that provides water and sewerage service to the Detroit area. The third largest department in the county, DWSD provides service to approximately one million people in Detroit and three million people in neighboring southeastern Michigan communities throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Lapeer, Genesee, Washtenaw and Monroe counties. The 1,079-square-mile water service area includes Detroit and 126 suburban communities while wastewater service covers a 946-square-mile area encompassing Detroit and 76 neighboring communities. By Michigan statute, DWSD is a not-for-profit entity. Water and sewer rates are based on cost of service only and the Department receives no subsidies from property taxes.

DETROIT'S LONG TERM PLAN TO PROTECT SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN WATERWAYS



Protection of area waterways has long been a priority of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, dating back to the 1900's when the city's first wastewater treatment facility was constructed to treat the region's wastewater. Challenges remain, however, in controlling combined wastewater and stormwater flows during heavy storm events. DWSD, its neighboring communities and state regulators are working cooperatively and aggressively to provide even better stormwater controls while strategically scheduling protection projects in a way that benefits the environment while minimizing rate impacts for city and suburban customers.

Seventy years ago, conditions greatly improved in southeast Michigan when Detroit began treating its industrial and residential waste at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in southwest Detroit, one of the world's largest and most comprehensive wastewater treatment plants on a single site. Prior to that time, raw sewage flowed through channels directly to the nearest receiving body of water, the Detroit or Rouge River. Today, the WWTP treats an average of 727 million gallons of wastewater every day before it is safely returned to the environment.

This is particularly notable since the Detroit wastewater system, like systems common to older U.S. cities, is a **combined sewer system**. This means the system in Detroit transports a combination of sanitary wastewater from homes and businesses, plus storm flow from rain and snow through a single, larger pipe to the WWTP for disinfection and disposal. Combined systems provide an efficient and cost-effective way to deal with sewage under normal weather conditions.

"Detroit is committed to controlling its combined sewer overflows," said DWSD Director Pamela Turner. "The revised Upper Rouge Tunnel project will utilize new and innovative technologies taking into account the financial limitations of the city and the cost impacts for Detroit residents."

Problems can occur, however, when the amount of water generated by heavy storms exceeds the pipe's carrying capacity. When this happens, combined sewer systems – like the one in Detroit – were originally designed to release excess flow untreated into nearby waterways (such as the Detroit and Rouge Rivers) to eliminate

Continued on pages 2 and 3



"GREEN" ACTIVITIES AT HOME

There are many things you can do at home to help the environment and your wallet.

Use native plants – Since native plants have been growing in your area for thousands of years and have adapted to local conditions, they can use less water, fertilizer and pesticides. Visit your neighborhood nursery to learn more about Detroit's native plants.

Construct your own rain barrel – Rain barrels collect and store water from your roof instead of allowing that water to runoff to the stormwater system. Rain barrels are easy and inexpensive to construct and can be located wherever is convenient for you. Visit www.epa.gov for instructions.

Design a rain garden – Rain gardens take advantage of rainfall and stormwater runoff by design and through proper plant selection. These gardens are typically close to the source of runoff and slow the stormwater as it travels downhill giving it less chance to enter the sewer system.

Know Your Utility Representative

We're proud of our 2,200 employees who work throughout the city to ensure our customers receive high quality service around the clock. You can identify every DWSD service representative because:

- ◆ They carry a Detroit Water and Sewerage Department badge
- ◆ They wear an approved DWSD uniform

It is a felony to impersonate a DWSD representative. If you ever need to confirm the identity of our personnel, feel free to call us at 313-964-9600.

Protecting Southeast Michigan Waterways

Continued from page 1

threats to human health and safety by keeping it from backing up into basements and/or onto surface streets. In Detroit, these discharges, or **combined sewer overflows (CSOs)**, were released through 78 outfalls. Thirty-two of these portals were installed along the Rouge River, with 46 along the Detroit River. Environmental regulations recognized the need for this precautionary step.

In more recent years, however, regulations have been enacted to address the issue of storm overflows and cities nationwide have developed comprehensive programs to protect the environment by reducing overflows. In Detroit, DWSD has been at the helm of developing and implementing a massive Long Term CSO Control Plan.

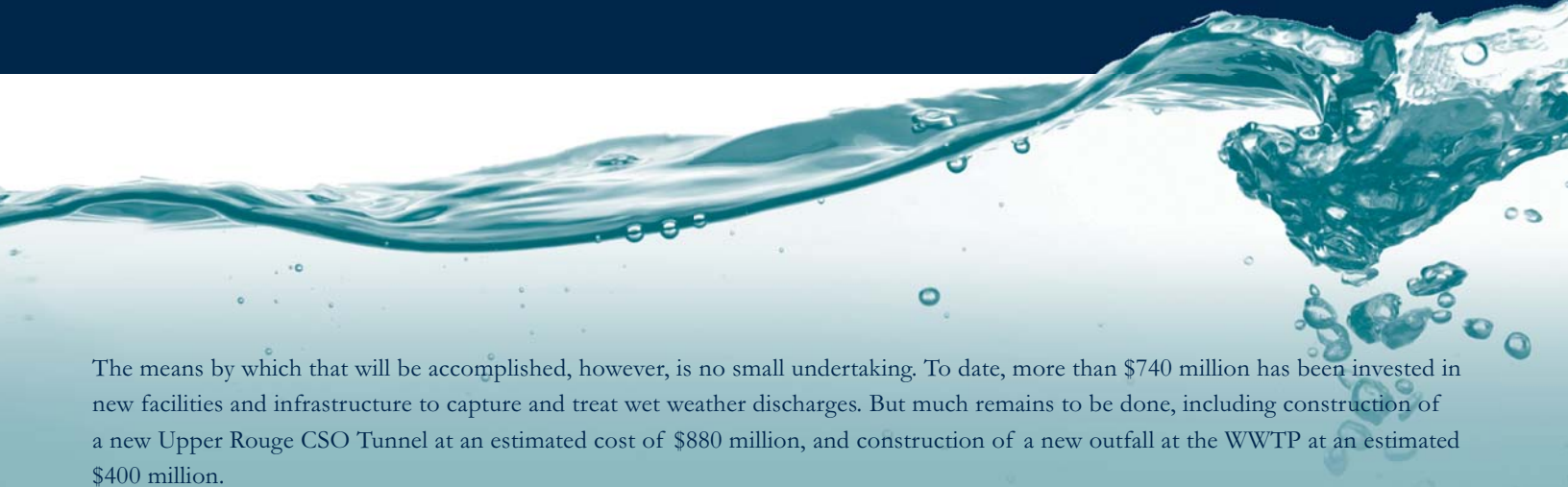
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Since the control plan was adopted in 1995, DWSD and Detroit have come a long way in eliminating CSO discharges into the Rouge and Detroit Rivers. Prior to the advent of DWSD's controls, approximately 26 billion gallons of untreated CSOs were released into the Detroit and Rouge Rivers (1993). The amount of these discharges fell to roughly 11 billion gallons, less than half, by 2005, and is expected to lower to approximately four billion gallons by 2012.

Eliminating Untreated Sewage Overflows Improves Water Quality to Support Wildlife

Thanks to a number of efforts to improve water quality in Detroit waterways – including construction of facilities to reduce stormwater overflows – signs of returning wildlife are appearing.

In 2005, with the completion of the Conner Creek Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Facility, treated water, as opposed to combined stormwater/sewage, has been discharged into the Conner Creek and Detroit River. The subsequent change in water quality conditions, along with habitat improvements undertaken by DTE Energy's Conners Creek Power Plant Green Team, have created ideal conditions for wildlife. Just last spring, a pair of beavers – with their young – returned to an area of the creek near DTE Energy's Conners Creek Power Plant. This was big news since beavers disappeared from the area some 75 years ago after being overhunted. The return is attributed to the ideal setting for the beaver – **clean water**, trees and seclusion.



The means by which that will be accomplished, however, is no small undertaking. To date, more than \$740 million has been invested in new facilities and infrastructure to capture and treat wet weather discharges. But much remains to be done, including construction of a new Upper Rouge CSO Tunnel at an estimated cost of \$880 million, and construction of a new outfall at the WWTP at an estimated \$400 million.

These investments come at a time when the economy is more than struggling and Detroit ratepayers, who are responsible for 83 percent of the cost of these CSO improvements, are experiencing an unemployment rate of 28.9 percent – the highest in the nation for like-sized cities. Consequently, DWSD, its neighboring communities, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) have been working together to find a revamped CSO construction approach that improves environmental protection while minimizing cost impacts for all customers.

The recommended approach, currently under MDNRE review, consists of a combination of **“green” infrastructure efforts** to reduce stormwater flow into the combined sewer system, infrastructure improvements that are **“right sized”** to reflect the lower projected flows, and **phased implementation** of improvements into five, 5-year phases.

In combination, these initiatives in DWSD’s new CSO Control Program still encompass significant investment – totaling \$814 million in new spending – for CSO controls on the Rouge River. This includes a \$50 million investment in Green projects starting in 2010 in addition to \$764 million for conventional CSO control facilities. **And through a phased approach – spreading the cost of the program over 25 years – the average yearly financing costs will drop to levels that are far more manageable given economic conditions throughout Detroit and Southeast Michigan.**

For more information about the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, its Long Term CSO Control Plan, and other programs, be sure to visit our Web site at www.dwsd.org.

GREEN TECHNOLOGIES SAVE COSTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

“Green Infrastructure” projects will be a big part of Detroit’s efforts to significantly reduce the amount of stormwater going through the city’s sewer system. **According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, green infrastructure is an approach to wet weather management that is cost effective, sustainable and environmentally friendly.**

In Detroit, proposed green infrastructure efforts are estimated to reduce combined sewer overflows by 10 to 20 percent or more. Reduction of this magnitude will reduce the size of other needed projects (such as facilities to store stormwater) and will, therefore, reduce costs. Other benefits:

- ◆ Green projects are a fraction of the cost of traditional stormwater projects (basins, tunnels, and pump stations).
- ◆ Green projects can be done NOW without long delays for planning, design, site acquisition, financing and construction so the beneficial impact is immediate.

- ◆ Using Green Infrastructure solutions means that the City’s downsizing can be reflected in a smaller, more manageable sewer system.
- ◆ Green solutions provide additional benefits such as enhanced property values.

Among the green infrastructure efforts proposed are:

- ◆ Disconnecting residential and municipal downspouts from sewer systems.
- ◆ Demolishing and removing vacant structures and replace them with groundcover that allows water to soak into the ground.
- ◆ Using bioswales and tree trenches along roadways and parking lots to intercept runoff and reduce stormwater additions to the sewer system.
- ◆ Planting trees along roadways and open spaces to soak up and absorb water.
- ◆ Managing stormwater runoff in underutilized parks.

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Detroit Residential Water Assistance Program



The Water Assistance Program launched by DWSD and the Department of Human Services (DHS) helps low-income Detroit residents manage their water and sewerage bills. Customers eligible for the Detroit Residential Water Assistance Program will receive a credit on their monthly water bill, but will be required to pay any existing balance. Priority for assistance will be given to eligible households of families receiving Family Independence program (FIP), food stamps, state disability, social security, and supplemental security income (SSI) assistance. Customers can contribute to this valuable community fund through their water payment.

Detailed information about the Water Assistance Program can be found by calling or visiting any DHS Service Center.

Northwest Activity Center
18100 Meyers
313-887-6656

Butzel Family Center
7737 Kercheval
313-852-7486

5031 Grandy
313-852-5634

13303 E McNichols
313-628-0775



Payment Plan Agreements

DWSD understands that bill payment can be particularly difficult for some customers. Those customers may enter into a Payment Plan Agreement for their water and sewer bills. Interested customers should visit any one of DWSD's Customer Service Centers at 735 Randolph Street, First Floor, 13303 E. McNichols (1½ blocks west of Gratiot), or 15600 Grand River (1 block west of Greenfield) to discuss arrangements.

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Detroit Water and Sewerage Department
Public Affairs Division
735 Randolph, Suite 1001
Detroit, MI 48226

