
OUR WATER OUR WAY

OUR INITIATIVE TO RESOLVE WET WEATHER ISSUES IN PEORIA

A dedicated team is working to improve our city of Peoria infrastructure to achieve even greater environmental protection, urban renewal, and reduce combined sewer overflows.

Our water, our way and our initiatives will resolve the wet weather issues we face in the City while providing peaceful spaces and complete streets.



December 2020

A LITTLE HISTORY

Peoria built its first sewers in the late 1800s to carry runoff away from homes, businesses and streets. When indoor plumbing arrived, property owners hooked in their sewage lines. By 1931, these combined sewers were connected to the Greater Peoria Sanitary District (GPSD) treatment plant, but were still able to overflow when sewage levels got too high.

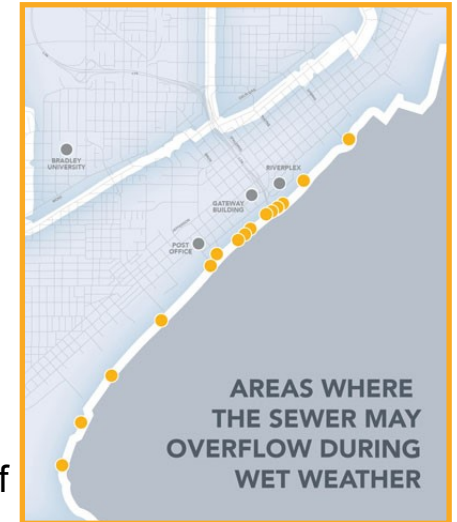
(Without this escape valve, raw sewage would back up into basements and streets. New neighborhoods avoid this problem by separating sewers for stormwater and sewage.)

SAYING NO TO CSOs

The orange dots on the map to the right show where our sewers may overflow during wet weather.

Due to improvements that were completed in the 1990s, some of these overflow pipes are inactive.

During a typical rainfall, CSOs occur at an average of five locations.



THE FEDERAL MANDATE

The Clean Water Act is the primary federal law in the United States governing water pollution. The federal mandate makes it unlawful to discharge pollutants from sewer systems into U.S. waters without a permit from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Peoria has long maintained this permit, but now the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered the City to develop a long-term control plan to get our CSOs as close to zero as possible. We're committed to meeting our federal responsibilities.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

CREATING IMPACT THROUGH NATURAL PROJECTS



Well Farm
at Voris Field

Adams St.
Pecan to
Persimmon

Rain Garden
Public Works

MacArthur
Bridge Infields

Western Ave.
Adams to
Howett

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

PROMOTING THE NATURAL MOVEMENT OF WATER

Green Infrastructure is a natural way to complement Peoria's unique topography and soil composition. Instead of constructing expensive "gray" infrastructure — pipes, tanks or tunnels — we're pursuing green solutions that prevent stormwater from entering combined sewers in the first place.

Green infrastructure works because it works with and not against nature, is economical, beautifies public spaces, decreases pollution and improves air quality.

CSO PROJECT MILESTONES AND COSTS

PROGRAM BEGINS IN 2022

Project Name/Type	CSO Volume Reduction Goal (%)*	Milestone/Deadline (12-31-20XX)	High-Level Capital Cost Estimate**	Avg. Annual Operations/Maintenance Costs***
Green Infrastructure projects and improvements to existing pipe system	20	2024	\$15M	\$200K
Green Infrastructure projects	35	2027	\$16M	\$600K
Green Infrastructure projects	50	2030	\$16M	\$1M
Green Infrastructure projects	70	2034	\$21M	\$1.5M
Storage projects	100	2039	\$41M	\$2.0M
Total Cost			\$109M	

*Based on agreed final performance level in typical year.

**Per 2019 estimates.

***Annual operations and maintenance costs are estimated at 3% of capital costs for Green Infrastructure projects and 1.5% of capital costs for other projects. Annual operations/maintenance costs increase as more projects are built.