



Michael B. Coleman,
Mayor

Columbus Continues Major Reinvestment to Sewer, Water Infrastructure

As houses in the Columbus area age, so do the pipes in the ground installed decades ago to deliver drinking water into and convey wastewater out of our neighborhoods. The Columbus Department of Public Utilities has been reinvesting in much of the older infrastructure over the past decade - with more work to be done in coming years.

Wet Weather Management Plan

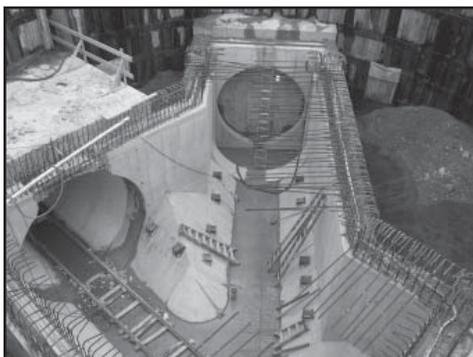
A Wet Weather Management Plan developed in 2005 kicked off 40 years' worth of work to overhaul the sanitary and combined sewer system, some of which is more than 100 years old. Major accomplishments were made in that plan this year: 2010 was the first milestone for much of the combined sewer work to be completed to reduce sewer overflows during heavy rainfall.

Wastewater Treatment Plants

Both Jackson Pike and Southerly, have been under reconstruction to expand treatment facilities the past few years. As the sewer collection system is rebuilt and expanded for more capacity, the plants must be upgraded to treat the additional incoming flow.



Sewer Conveyance System



A deep tunnel to convey combined sewer flow to Jackson Pike for treatment begins construction this year. The OSIS (Olentangy Scioto Interceptor

Sewer) Augmentation Relief Sewer, known as OARS, will significantly reduce wet weather overflows on the Scioto River in the Whittier Peninsula area. This \$264 million project will benefit the water quality of the downtown area greatly.



Other Improvements

Improvements to the sewer system that have been completed or underway include numerous "inflow and infiltration" sewer studies. These studies are performed in neighborhoods prone to sewer issues in order to look

for extraneous sources of water that enter the sanitary sewers and to also detect structural deficiencies.

Older communities that are benefiting from this work include northside Clintonville, Livingston/James areas on the east side, south side areas

like Barthman/Parsons, and additional neighborhoods will be studied to develop future improvements.

Where to Find Help

As sewer work progresses, residents are asked to still report any sewer problems to 311 or 645-3111, which connects to the Sewer Maintenance Operations Center, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Project Dry Basement backflow prevention program remains an option to help Columbus residents as capital improvement projects are being completed on the sewer system.

Stormwater Improvements



Columbus also continues to address stormwater drainage issues in numerous areas that were built many years ago without the kinds of modern systems neighborhoods are built with today.

Stormwater management has evolved a great deal over the past few decades to include not only efficient ways to prevent flooding but also to incorporate best management practices to protect surface water quality whenever possible.

Water Treatment and Distribution

While improvements on the sewer system can now “slow down” to a more reasonable (yet still busy) pace, improvements on the drinking water system will be the next major focus in the coming years. Increased federal regulations for drinking water treatment will require Columbus to install additional filtration facilities by 2012.



Looking Toward the Future

A pilot plant is being tested at the Dublin Road Water Plant to determine which method will be most cost effective, and the future improvement projects will also address additional capacity needs at the water treatment plants.

Upground Reservoir

The long-awaited upground reservoir to be built in Delaware County is scheduled to begin construction in summer 2011. This \$136.2 million project will eventu-

ally provide a still-growing Columbus and its 20 contracting communities with an additional 45 million gallons of water per day.

The reservoir will store water to be released into the Scioto River as needed to be used by the downstream Dublin Road water treatment plant. A joint partnership with the Del-Co Water Company, it will also provide Del-Co with an additional 8 million gallons per day for their Delaware County plant. This project will ensure Columbus has adequate water supplies in the coming years, and will better prepare central Ohio for drought conditions when those occur.

Infrastructure improvements

To reduce main water line breaks, many break-prone and deteriorated lines are being replaced all over the city including downtown on Long Street, East Main Street, Twin Rivers Drive, Markison Avenue and other locations. To report a suspected main water break, please call 311 or 645-3111.

As the Columbus Department of Public Utilities continues to invest in these and other improvements to continue delivering safe, reliable drinking water and provide effective stormwa-

ter and wastewater management, along with maintaining over 50,000 Columbus streetlights, we strive to do so in the most cost-efficient and environmentally responsible way for our ratepayers.

We invite you to learn more about what we do for the quality of life for central Ohio at www.utilities.columbus.gov.

