



Washburn CSO Control Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Who will deal with concerns about how the project may impact my home or business?

The Commission will respond to your concerns. The Commission is committed to working with the residents and local businesses to ensure that this project proceeds with minimal inconveniences to the neighborhood. You are our customers and we will do everything possible during this project to minimize disturbances in your daily routine.

- We will notify you in advance of upcoming construction activity in your area.
- We will work to maintain safe pedestrian and vehicle access through your neighborhood.
- We will address residents' problems if and when they arise.

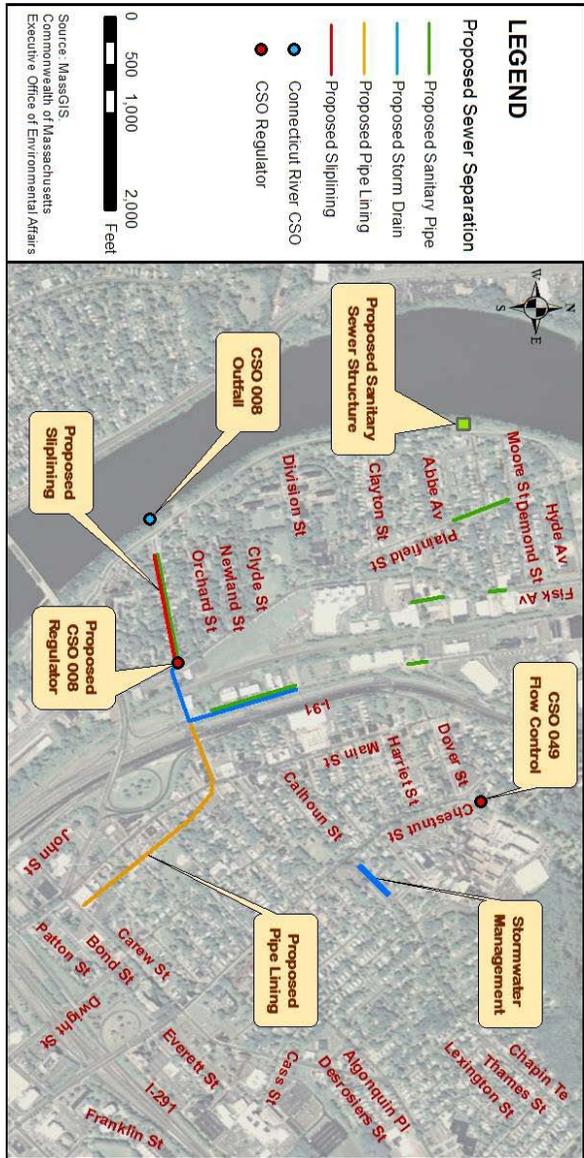
The Commission will be accessible to you. The Commission field staff will oversee the construction and be visible in your neighborhood during the day.

Questions Concerning Construction:

The Commission and our Engineer will have a construction field office in the area of construction where they can be reached.

How can I find out more about the project?

Information will be available on the Commission's web site (www.waterandsewer.org). For further information, call April Kelly at (413) 787-6256, x122





Purpose and Goals of the Project

In 2008 and in 2012 the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission was issued successive Administrative Orders(AO) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Administrative Orders require the Commission to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) by designing and constructing projects in the Washburn Street CSO area,

The goals of the Washburn CSO Control Project include:

- Reduce CSO activations from the CSO 008 (Washburn Street) combined sewer areas from 45 overflows to 4 overflows, or less, per typical precipitation year.
- Reduce CSO discharge volume to the Connecticut River by greater than 99%, from 63.2 million gallons to 700,000 gallons, per typical precipitation year.
- Improve water quality in the Connecticut River.
- Upgrade sewer and drain infrastructure.

The Washburn CSO Control Project area covers the northwest portion of the City of Springfield, including part of the Brightwood neighborhood. The boundaries of the project area are the Chicopee city line to the north, the Connecticut River to the west, Washburn Street/Arch Street/Carew Street to the south, and approximately Main Street to the east, with pockets of improvements along Chapin Terrace and at Springfield Street and Chestnut Street (see map on the back of the pamphlet).

What is the Role of the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission?

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is responsible for providing wastewater collection and treatment services to eight communities, including the City of Springfield. The Commission owns and maintains the water and sewer assets within the City, including the combined sewer overflows.

What is a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)?

In older sewer systems such as Springfield's, combined sewers were commonly constructed to collect and transport sanitary sewage and stormwater together in one combined sewer pipe. During heavy rain events, the combined sewer system fills up beyond capacity with stormwater and diluted sanitary sewage.

In order to prevent the excessive flow from backing up into basements and spilling onto roadways, discharge relief points were installed so that during these events, excess flow would empty into water bodies. These discharge points are referred to as Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). In this project there are three CSOs that discharge directly to the Connecticut River in the Brightwood neighborhood. The most active of these CSOs can discharge up to 45 times in the typical year.

What is an Administrative Order?

The EPA issues permits to water and sewer utilities with conditions to control discharges to water bodies and meet water quality standards. If the permit conditions are exceeded, an Administrative Order is issued.

In this case, the Administrative Order requires projects to control CSO discharges to the Connecticut River and restore compliance with the discharge limits set in the permit.

Administrative Orders are federally mandated and failure to meet their requirements may subject the Commission to further enforcement action and fines. Many communities across the United States that have combined sewer systems and CSO discharges have similar Administrative Orders.

What does the Washburn CSO Control Project consist of?

The Washburn CSO Control Project consists of six components:

- Sewer pipe separation, along Washburn Street and Birnie Avenue, including relocation of the CSO 008 regulator along Washburn Street from Riverside Road to Plainfield Street, a new drain crossing beneath a railroad with trenchless technology
- Maximizing existing storage in the collection system with flow control devices inside existing structures at Springfield and Chestnut Street and at Clayton Street and Plainfield Street and with flow control devices inside new structures at Laurel Street and Plainfield St and at Arch Street and Birnie Avenue
- Short lengths of relief sewers to preserve Level of Service along Plainfield Street, Fisk Avenue, and Birnie Avenue
- Stormwater management within existing grassy median along Chapin Terrace
- Rehabilitation of key large-diameter sewer pipes with pipe liners, along Washburn Street and along Arch Street and nearby Main Street
- Water main replacement along Washburn Street, Birnie Avenue, Sheldon Street, and localized water improvements at Plainfield Street and Orchard Street.

The overall construction period for the entire Washburn CSO Control Project is two years.