

NEWPORT CSO Program Newsletter



NEWPORT
RHODE ISLAND
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Welcome to the City of Newport's CSO Program Quarterly Newsletter.

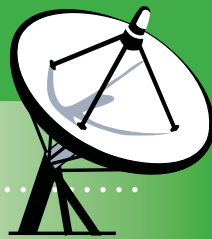
This is the first newsletter in a series of quarterly newsletters that will serve to communicate with the residents of Newport and other interested parties about the status of our CSO Program. We hope that you will find this newsletter informative and beneficial as we work to improve the City's infrastructure and protect the water quality of Newport Harbor.

CSO Program Goals

Continue to identify & implement the most cost-effective solution for reducing the number of CSOs to a level protective of Newport Harbor and acceptable to the community and regulatory agencies.



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Key Terms & Acronyms

Combined Sewer System - a system of pipes designed to capture both sanitary sewer flow as well as stormwater from rainfall events.

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) - the discharge of wastewater and stormwater from a combined sewer system directly to a receiving waterbody during wet weather.

Corrective Action Plan (CAP) - a schedule of CSO control activities that is negotiated with EPA as a part of a consent agreement.

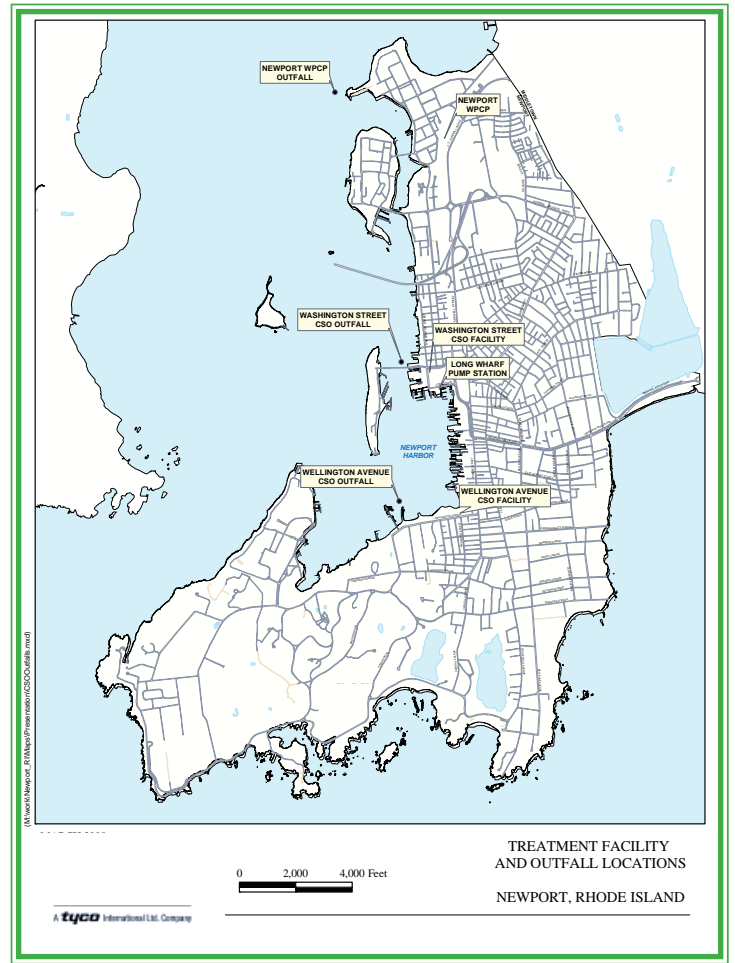
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - federal agency that oversees regulations relating to sanitary sewer systems, combined sewer systems, CSOs and receiving waters.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) - state agency that oversees regulations relating to sanitary sewer systems, combined sewer systems, CSOs and receiving waters.

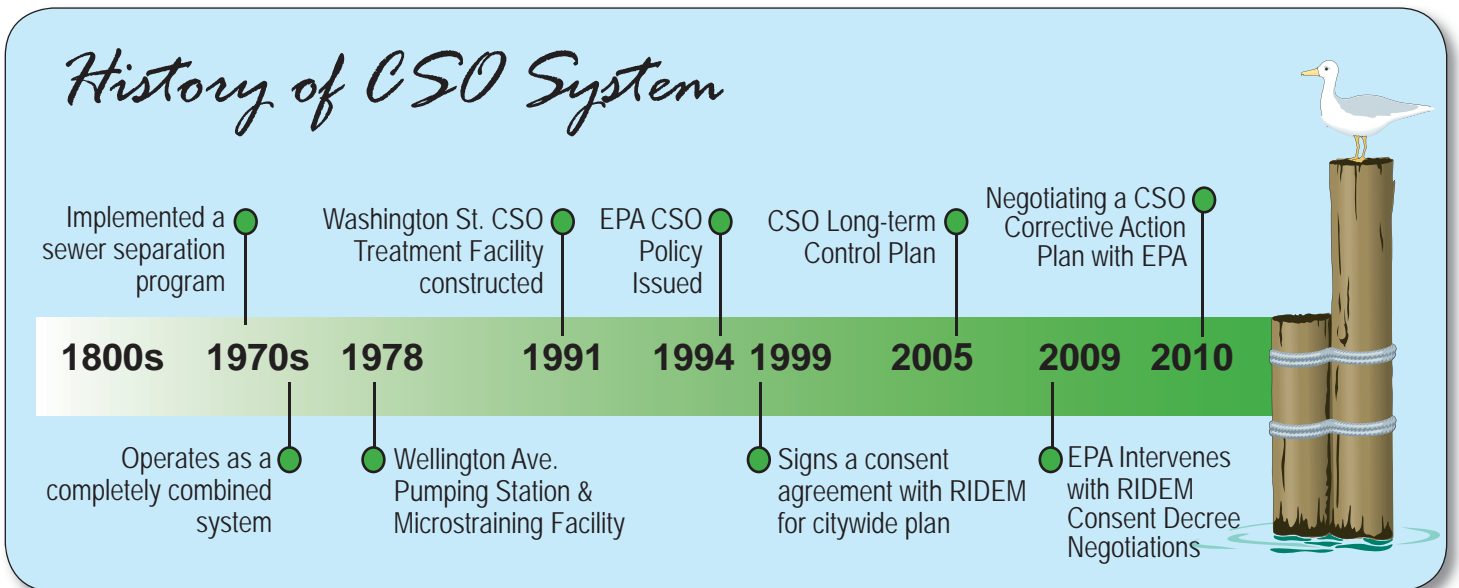
History & Background of the CSO System

Originally designed and built as a combined system, collecting both sanitary sewage and stormwater from rainfall events, the City of Newport's wastewater collection system consists of approximately 90 miles of gravity sewers and force mains, many of which have been in operation for over 100 years. With a combined wastewater collection system, the system is designed to send excess flow during wet weather events directly to a receiving waterbody without the typical treatment that sanitary sewage flow receives during dry weather periods. These combined discharges can result in impacts to the receiving waterbody.

The City's system, as well as many wastewater systems across New England and the United States operated in this manner for decades until better understanding of water quality impacts, better testing and more advanced treatment technologies were developed around the 1970s. At this time, the Environmental Protection Agency as well as state environmental agencies began to require that efforts be made to separate combined systems in an effort to reduce the number of overflows during wet weather events. The timeline below shows some key milestones in the City's efforts to reduce the impact of CSOs to Newport Harbor.



In spite of separation work conducted to date, the system still sustains increased flows during wet weather of a magnitude that indicates that portions of the Wellington Avenue service area are not fully separated, which leads to the CSO Program the City is currently implementing.



Current CSO Program & Recent Accomplishments

The City is currently in the process of negotiating a CSO Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with EPA that will direct the CSO Program for the next 8+ years. A CAP is a schedule of CSO control activities that is negotiated with EPA as part of a consent agreement. The purpose of these CSO control activities is to identify and remove sources of stormwater flow from the collection system in an effort to reduce the number of CSOs. Although the CAP is not finalized, the City has been proactively addressing items from the draft CAP, and recent achievements are listed in the Recent CSO Program Accomplishments below.

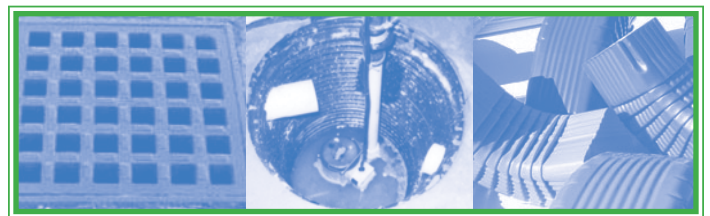
Recent CSO Program Accomplishments

- Program Manager hired to implement CSO program
- 35 sewer system meters installed to identify sources of extraneous flow to the system
- GIS collection system mapping initiated
- Water Pollution Control Facility Optimization Study Initiated
- Long-Wharf Force Main project completed
- Railroad sewer interceptor improvement project completed
- High priority sewer replacement project construction on-going
- Catch Basin Disconnect CA-6 project completed
- Wellington Ave. interceptor replacement design completed and proceeding to construction
- Thames St. interceptor rehabilitation design completed and proceeding to construction award

How You Can Help Reduce CSOs to Newport Harbor

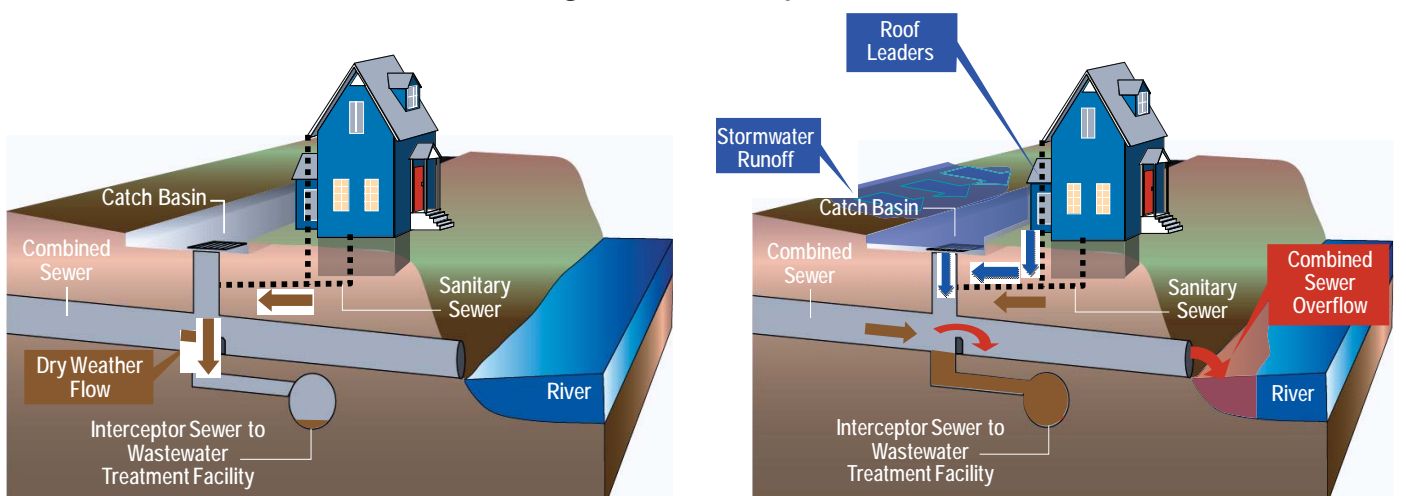
The City of Newport has a Sewer Use Ordinance that prohibits the discharge of surface runoff or groundwater to the sanitary sewer system as these discharges contribute directly to CSOs. In Newport, these discharges may enter the sanitary sewer system through the following methods:

- Roof downspouts
- Foundation drains
- Areaway drains
- Basement sump pumps



If you believe there are connections of this nature entering the sanitary sewer system please contact the Department of Utilities at 401-845-5600 and the City will assist you in removing these sources from the sanitary sewer system.

How Combined Sewer Systems Operate



Funding Sources for CSO Program Implementation

CSO Program work is funded through sewer rates and the CSO fixed fee. Whenever possible and beneficial, the City applies for Rhode Island State Revolving Fund (SRF) low-interest loans to cover the capital cost of infrastructure improvements, but these loans are repaid over time via sewer rates and the CSO fixed fee. As the City moves forward with the implementation of the CSO Control Program, least cost and greatest benefit projects will be implemented first in an effort to minimize the impact of this program to the City's rate payers.

CSO Program Stakeholder Workgroup Mission Statement

To review proposed plans and projects for the CSO Program and provide recommendations to the City about the potential benefits and impacts of proposed plans and projects to City businesses and residents.

To share CSO Program plans and project information within each stakeholder's organization to aid the City in its efforts to communicate CSO Program information.

To support the CSO Program's public education efforts through participation in CSO Program public education activities.

CSO Program Stakeholder Workgroup

The City is forming a CSO Program Stakeholder Workgroup to work with the City in more detail on CSO Program progress as well as to provide input to the City on future CSO Program action items. The stakeholders will cover a diverse range of interest groups in order to bring all perspectives to the CSO Program. A list of the stakeholder groups that will be involved in the CSO Stakeholder Workgroup is shown in the table below.

Proposed CSO Stakeholder Workgroup Representatives	
Ad-Hoc Committee Representative	Naval Station Newport
Alliance for a Livable Newport	Newport County Chamber of Commerce
Beach Commission	Newport County Convention & Visitor's Bureau (NCCVB)
Business Representative	Newport Harbor Master
City Council Liaison	RIDEM & EPA
City of Newport Resident-At-Large (2)	Save The Bay
City Planning & Public Services Departments	Town of Middletown
Fishing Industries	University/College Technical Advisor (URI, Roger Williams, etc.)
Marine Industries	

Opportunities to Learn More & Provide Input to the Program

The City will be providing many opportunities for those interested to learn more about the CSO Program and provide input and feedback:

- Department of Utilities page on the City's web-site: <http://www.cityofnewport.com/departments/utilities/pollutioncontrolhome.cfm>
- Quarterly newsletters will be published and made available on the City's web-site, at City Hall, and the Department of Utilities offices.
- Twice yearly public meetings will be held to provide updates on CSO Program progress, review upcoming activities and gather feedback.
- A CSO Program Stakeholder Workgroup will be formed, consisting of a wide-range of stakeholders to review in more detail CSO Program progress as well as to provide advice to the City on future CSO Program action items.

CONTACT: Comments, suggestions and feedback can be provided at any time to the Department of Utilities at 401-845-5600 or by e-mail to NewportCSOProgram@cityofnewport.com.