

Addressing Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Issues in Lemont

VILLAGE OF LEMONT - CSO CONTROL PROGRAM SUMMARY

What are Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)?

CSOs are the result of historic infrastructure practices in which stormwater and wastewater were directed to the same sewer system. In the event of large rainfall or snowmelt events, these sewers may overflow, releasing a mixture of rainwater and untreated sewage directly into surface waters. In Lemont, our combined sewers overflow at two locations.

Where are the Combined Sewers Located?

Combined sewers are located in the original part of Lemont, generally bounded by the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, McCarthy St., Freehauf St., and Park Place (See Map for locations). The combined sewer area is approximately 1 square mile and includes 16 miles of sewer pipe.



Where are the Combined Sewer Overflow Locations?

There are two CSO discharge locations: one is located under the Stephen Street bridge over the I&M Canal and the other is past Industrial Park Drive, at the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (See Map for locations).

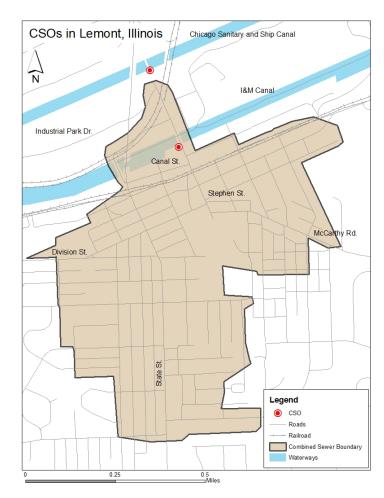
Why do Lemont's Combined Sewers Overflow?

- Insufficient sewer system capacity Combined sewers were not designed to convey all storm events to the water reclamation plant and were likely built without much consideration for future growth.
- Additional sewer connections As Lemont grew, additional connections to the sewer system have been made, which sometimes can overwhelm the system.
- Aging Systems Lemont's combined sewers were built in the early 1900s and are showing signs of age. As a result, unplanned sources of water enter the combined sewer system, which is called infiltration.

Why is Lemont Investing in CSO Control?

CSOs can adversely impact human health and the environment. Bacteria and viruses may pose a health risk to individuals using the canals. The Federal *CSO Control*

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Policy, enacted in 1994, requires communities with CSOs to develop a Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP). This requirement is listed in Lemont's IEPA issued discharge permit. The information collected to develop the CSO LTCP will allow Lemont to:

- Better understand when and where overflows are occurring.
- Notify the community when an overflow has likely occurred.
- Understand the community's priorities for controlling overflows.
- Develop alternatives for reducing the number and volume of overflows.
- Select and implement a control alternative that will improve water quality in the I&M Canal and Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

All sewer systems are regulated by the State and Federal government, and while CSOs are allowed by the CSO Control Policy, they are to be minimized. More specifically, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is requiring the Village of Lemont to develop a LTCP to meet the obligations of the CSO Control Policy.

What is the Village of Lemont doing to address CSOs?

The village hired engineering consultant, **Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.** (www.cmtengr.com) to develop the LTCP that addresses the following items:

- Characterizing the sewer system response to rainfall.
- Developing a combined sewer system computer model
- Evaluating CSO control alternatives
- Developing preliminary opinions of project cost for each alternative
- Determining the most cost-effective CSO control alternative
- Establishing an economically justified schedule to implement the preferred CSO control alternative
- Updating existing operating plans and developing a post-construction monitoring plan

What kind of actions will likely be taken once the LTCP is approved?

Public sewer improvements may involve eliminating bottlenecks and restrictions in the system, improving sewer capacity, partial sewer separation, storage facilities or some combination thereof.

How does the LTCP affect me?

The Village and its residents are responsible for executing the LTCP and adequately funding it. Public input into developing the LTCP is welcomed. Information about resident's experience with the combined sewer system is appreciated.

Send your comments, questions and/or information to:

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