

2006 Progress Report



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A new relief sewer under Beverly will help to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows in the River Road area.

More than \$140 million in expansion projects are nearing completion at the Bay View Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Improving Our Sewer System

Since the launch of the Toledo Waterways Initiative five years ago, significant progress has been made in upgrading and expanding the City's sewer system and wastewater treatment plant. More than \$158 million worth of improvements have been completed or are nearing completion at the Bay View Wastewater Treatment Plant, in Point Place, and in the River Road area.

The majority of the construction work is being done by local contractors with 14% minority participation. At the peak of construction in 2006, Toledo Waterways Initiative construction projects employed more than 270 construction workers.

About the Program

In July of 2002, voters approved an ordinance that settled an 11-year-old lawsuit between the City of Toledo and the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies. That agreement launched the Toledo Waterways Initiative — a 15-year, \$450 million program to upgrade the City of Toledo's wastewater treatment facilities and aging sewer system to prevent the release of raw sewage into our waterways.

While the goal of the program is to improve water quality in our area rivers and streams, the Toledo Waterways Initiative has also helped to improve drainage and reduce flooding in Toledo through sewer improvements and by increasing the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant.

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How Our Sewer System Works

Sanitary sewers carry waste from homes and businesses to the wastewater treatment plant

The 25 million gallon Equalization Basin at the Bayview Wastewater Treatment Plant will be completed in 2007.



where the sewage is treated before being released into the Maumee River.

Storm sewers handle rainwater. When it rains, some water is absorbed into the ground, the rest flows into ditches and storm sewers that direct the water to local streams and rivers.

In older sections of our community, some storm water is routed to the main sewer system, so sewage and storm water are carried together in combined sewers to the wastewater treatment plant.

Heavy rains can cause these combined sewer systems to become overloaded resulting in:

- **Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)** — the release of storm water mixed with sewage into the Maumee River, Swan Creek and the Ottawa River.
- **Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)** — the release of sanitary sewage into area waterways.
- **Plant Bypasses** — the release of partially treated waste into the Maumee River when the flow to the plant exceeds its capacity.

Point Place

In May of 2006, the City completed the last phase of the sanitary sewer system improvements in the Point Place area including 26,000 feet of new sewers and two new pump stations.

As a result of these improvements, sanitary sewer overflows in Point Place have been eliminated. All of the sewage generated in Point Place that used to overflow into the Ottawa River and Maumee Bay during heavy rains is now pumped to the Bay View Wastewater Treatment Plant.

River Road Area

More than \$14.2 million of work designed to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows in the River Road area was also completed in 2006.

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Improvements include:

- **The repair of more than 34,000 feet of sewer** since 2000.
- **Installation of a new force main sewer** on Brookford Dr.
- **Installation of a new relief sewer** on Beverly.
- **Installation of a new relief sewer and water line** on River Road.
- **Construction of an underground equalization basin** and an underground pump station in River Road Park was substantially completed in 2006.
- **A new pump station** on Beverly, west of the Anthony Wayne Trail, was also completed in 2006.

All sanitary sewer overflows in the River Road area will be eliminated by 2008.

Community Involvement

The City has worked closely with area residents and Toledo Public Schools to minimize the impact of the construction work and ensure that the new facilities blend in with the neighborhood where they are located. Citizens advisory committees in Point Place and the River Road area provided input on construction scheduling and the exterior design of the new facilities. Toledo Public Schools worked with the City on siting a pump station in front of Edgewater Elementary School.



The new Wet Weather Facility at the Bayview Wastewater Plant was completed in 2006 and is now operational.

In addition, the City formed a Community Program Advisory Committee. The committee serves on behalf of the citizens and sewer customers of Toledo to provide input and feedback to the City and the program manager on issues relating to the program. Committee members were selected to reflect a cross section of community interests and geographic areas.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Most of the work in the first five years of the Toledo Waterways Initiative is being done at the Bay View Wastewater Treatment Plant. More than \$123 million in improvements were substantially completed in 2006. The improvements will double the plant's total capacity and all but eliminate the need to release partially treated waste into the river.

Improvements include:

- **A new Wet Weather Facility** that will allow the plant to quickly treat wastewater created by heavy rains. The Wet Weather Facility was substantially completed in 2006 and is now operating. The results of test operations have been extremely successful. The facility's initial performance has exceeded expectations. A two-year performance study began in 2007.
- **A 25 million gallon Equalization Basin** will temporarily hold wastewater following heavy rains. The waste will then be treated at the plant. Significant progress was made on the Equalization Basin in 2006. It will be completed in 2007.
- **A new water tower** at the plant was constructed in 2006. The tower and other improvements to the potable water system at the plant were needed to effectively operate the expanded facility. The 192-foot tower holds 300,000 gallons of water.

The Point Place citizen advisory committee provided input on the design and look of the new facilities.

Citywide Long Term Control Plan

The final and biggest piece of the Toledo Waterways Initiative is reducing Combined Sewer

This new pump station helped to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows in Point Place.

Overflows. As part of the agreement with the EPA, the City is required to develop a Long Term Control Plan identifying how it will address CSOs.

Over the last three years, the City has completed extensive planning and engineering studies to create its Long Term Control Plan.

This plan represents the most comprehensive overview of the City's

sewer system ever compiled. Studies analyzing the current sewer system were used to help develop a hydraulic model and a water quality model – basically computer simula-

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tions of how the sewer system works. These models helped planners identify problem areas in the system and allowed the City to test the impact of different improvement options on drainage and water quality.

The plan details all of the sewer improvements that the City will make in the system over the next decade and includes projects in all parts of the City.



New sewer lines below Edgewater Drive have reduced basement and street flooding in Point Place.

Implementing the Long Term Control Plan is estimated to cost more than \$250 million.

A draft plan was submitted to the EPA for approval in December 2005. In 2006, the City met with EPA officials to review the plan and has responded to questions and comments by the regulatory agency. The City is still awaiting approval of the plan.

A Long-Term Solution

Because of the immense cost of improvements and the large number of construction projects planned, there is no quick fix for eliminating sewer overflows and reducing flooding. However, the Toledo Waterways Initiative has made tremendous progress over the last five years, and residents can expect more improvements over the next decade.