



Mayor Kicks Off \$44 Million TWI Downtown Storage Basin Construction



Toledo, Ohio. Sept. 6, 2017 – Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson today announced the start of construction for the \$44 million Toledo Waterways Initiative's (TWI) Downtown Storage Basin project.

"The Toledo Waterways Initiative is an example of the City's investment in protecting our waterways for future generations by reducing the amount of pollution that enters our rivers, lakes and streams," said Mayor Hicks-Hudson. "Additionally, an average of 500 full-time equivalent employees per year have been hired from the local community to work on the 18-year program. The TWI program is both economically and environmentally good for our city."

The 17-million-gallon combined sewer overflow storage basin is the second-largest, single project in the program and is one of more than 45 projects across the city designed to significantly reduce the amount of untreated sewage entering Swan Creek, Ottawa River and the Maumee River.

The City's Consent Decree with the USEPA requires eight of the City's 32 permitted Combined Sewer Overflows outfalls be eliminated. Seven have been eliminated to date, with the final CSO outfall to be eliminated at the completion of the Downtown Storage Basin project.

The basin will be built on an area bounded by Summit, Magnolia and Olive streets and the Maumee River. The project also includes the addition of conveyance piping along Water Street between Olive and Locust streets and modifications to drop shafts along Superior Street at the intersections of Jefferson, Adams, Jackson and Orange.

Construction Timeline

- Aug. 1, 2017 – May 15, 2020 Downtown Storage Basin
- May – Nov. 2018 Superior and Jefferson; Superior and Jackson
- May – Nov. 2019 Superior and Adams; Superior and Orange

When complete, the storage basin and its associated structures will not only provide increased capacity for managing sanitary sewer and storm water, but also site restoration efforts will beautify this area along the riverfront.

“We have partnered with the Toledo Zoo’s Wild Toledo program to select native wildflower and prairie grass seed mix,” said David Selhorst, City of Toledo Project Engineer. “It will draw butterflies, bees and birds to the site and provide a park-like setting for residents to enjoy.”

While the TWI program is a long-term investment by the City to protect our region’s rivers and streams, residents are invited to make a few simple changes to help protect our water resources. Citizens are encouraged to get involved with the Clear Choices Clean Water program and take part in volunteer service, water-friendly lawn care practices and the planting of rain gardens.

“The City of Toledo and our entire region rely on Lake Erie for drinking water, recreation, jobs and a remarkable quality of life,” said Hicks-Hudson. “It is our responsibility to be good stewards of our life-sustaining water resources that are such an asset to our community.”

About Toledo, Ohio: Founded in 1837, the City of Toledo is located along the Maumee River and on the western end of Lake Erie. It is a city of culture, education, and a growing economy. With a population of approximately 280,000 people, it is the fourth largest city in the State of Ohio. The city is home to a highly diversified base of companies in a variety of sectors.

About the Toledo Waterways Initiative: The Toledo Waterways Initiative is a federally mandated program requiring the City of Toledo to reduce sewage discharges into its waterways. The multi-year project began following approval by Toledo voters in summer 2002. The TWI encompasses more than 45 separate projects over the course of 18 years, at a total estimated cost of \$527 million. Upon completion of the construction for the TWI program in 2020, 80% less untreated water will enter our waterways. For more information concerning TWI, visit www.ToledoWaterwaysInitiative.com or call 419-720-0929.

About Clear Choices Clean Water – Greater Toledo Lake Erie: Clear Choices, Clean Water - Greater Toledo Lake Erie is a cooperative effort between Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments’ (TMACOG) Stormwater Coalition members and other local partners to increase awareness about how the choices residents make impact streams and lakes. By educating individuals on these important actions and providing citizens with water-focused volunteer opportunities, the group empowers everyone to do their part for water quality and conservation. To learn more, visit <http://toledolakeerie.clearchoicescleanwater.org>.

