What is the Bridgeport WPCA doing to address CSOs?

The Bridgeport WPCA is embarking on a multi-year program that will bring the entire combined sewer system into compliance with federal requirements including implementation of these "nine minimum controls":

- Proper operation and regular maintenance programs for the sewer system and the CSOs
- Maximum use of the collection system for storage
- Review and modification of pre-treatment requirements to assure CSO impacts are minimized
- Maximum flow to wastewater treatment plants for treatment
- Prohibition of CSOs during dry weather
- Control of solid and floatable materials in CSOs
- Pollution prevention
- Public notification to ensure that the public receive adequate notification of CSO occurrences and impacts
- Monitoring to effectively characterize CSO impacts and the effectiveness of CSO controls

The Bridgeport WPCA is in the process of preparing an updated Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) that will identify specific projects designed to achieve the objectives outlined in these nine minimum controls.

Who should you contact?

If a CSO discharge occurs, you are encouraged to contact one of these agencies by phone or by regular mail if you have any questions or concerns about a CSO occurrence:

City of Bridgeport – Water Pollution Control Authority
695 Seaview Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607
Phone: 203-332-5550
For sewer emergencies, call 203-576-7171

Connecticut Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06134
Phone: (860) 509-8000

City of Bridgeport
Department of Health & Social Services Administration
City Hall Annex, 999 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604
Phone: (203) 576-7474

Fairfield Health Department
Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
Phone: 203-256-3020

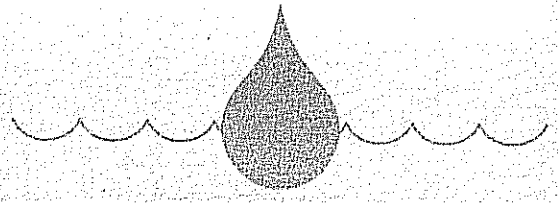
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
Phone: (860) 424-3000

Greater Bridgeport Combined Sewer Overflow

A Guide for Residents

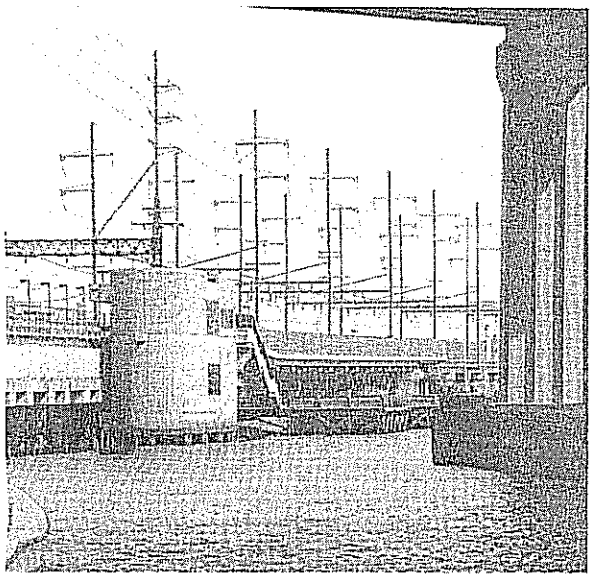
Portions of the Bridgeport sewer system are over 100 years old. When they were built, a single pipe carried both sewage and storm water. This existing system is called a **Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)** system. During a heavy rainfall or when there is significant snow melt, too much rainwater or melted snow gets into the sewers. Instead of following its intended path to the wastewater treatment plant, the overflow goes directly into waterways in the Greater Bridgeport area.

How does this affect you?



How does this impact you?

When there is excessive rainfall, wastewater sometimes overflows into harbors, rivers, brooks and creeks in the Greater Bridgeport area. These overflows can contain bacteria, raw sewage, and other pollutants which can impact public health, aquatic life, and recreational use of these waters.



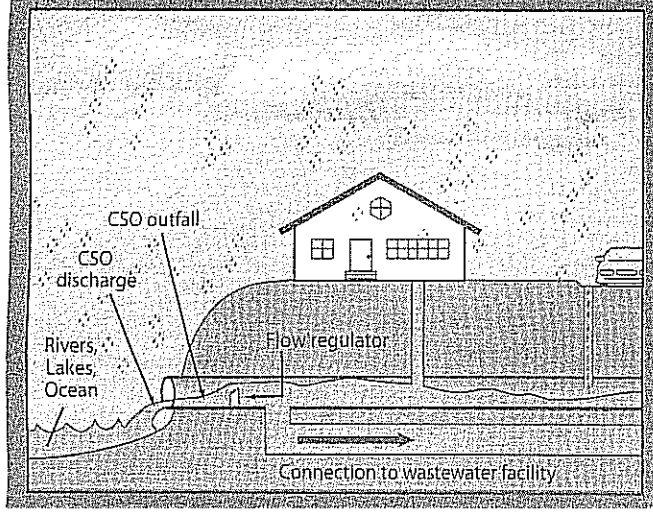
When do CSOs happen?

In Bridgeport, a combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharge may occur when there is 0.4-inches or more of precipitation. A CSO event may result in discharge of untreated, diluted sanitary wastewater and stormwater directly into the following water bodies:

Ash Creek	Johnson's Creek
Bridgeport Harbor	Yellow Mill Pond
Black Rock Harbor	Cedar Creek
Pequonnock River	Burr Creek
Island Brook	

What should you do when a CSO event occurs?

To avoid the possibility of health problems, it is important that the public avoid contact with these waters after any CSO discharge. Contact Bridgeport Health Department Health and Social Services for information on beach closings.



The workings of a CSO:

1. Excessive amounts of rain or snowmelt occurs.
2. Amount of wastewater exceeds the capacity of the sewer system or treatment plant.
3. When wastewater volumes exceed the regulator structure and capacity, the water is released directly to nearby waterways.
4. Bacteria, raw sewage, and other pollutants enter waterways and can affect public health, aquatic life, and recreation.
5. Avoid contact with water after a CSO event. Contact Bridgeport Health Department Health and Social Services for information on beach closings.

What can you do to prevent CSOs and contaminated stormwater?

- **Reduce impervious surfaces:** Surfaces such as roofs, driveways, and concrete patios do not allow rainwater to filter back into the soil, forcing the water into storm drains. Instead of concrete patios, asphalt driveways, and paved paths, try wood decks, gravel or pervious asphalt driveways, and mulched paths. Disconnect roof leaders wherever permissible by ordinance.
- **Install rain barrels:** Water collected in a rain barrel would normally flow from your roof's gutter spouts and end up as stormwater runoff. Collected water may be used to water lawn or gardens.
- **Practice responsible lawn care:** When applying chemicals to your lawn, follow the manufacturer's directions to avoid over-applying. These chemicals can runoff into the sewer system and degrade our rivers.
- **Conserve water:** Using less water on your lawn and garden means less chemical runoff into storm drains. Using less water in your home means less water in the sewer system, making overflows during wet weather less likely.
- **Don't misuse storm drains:** Remember that storm drains are not trash cans. Solid or household hazardous waste (HHW) such as motor oil, anti-freeze, and many cleaning agents should be disposed of properly at a HHW collection facility.
- **Support local efforts:** Support the efforts of the WPCA and your local government to control CSOs. Understand that there are many ways you can become involved in protecting water quality.