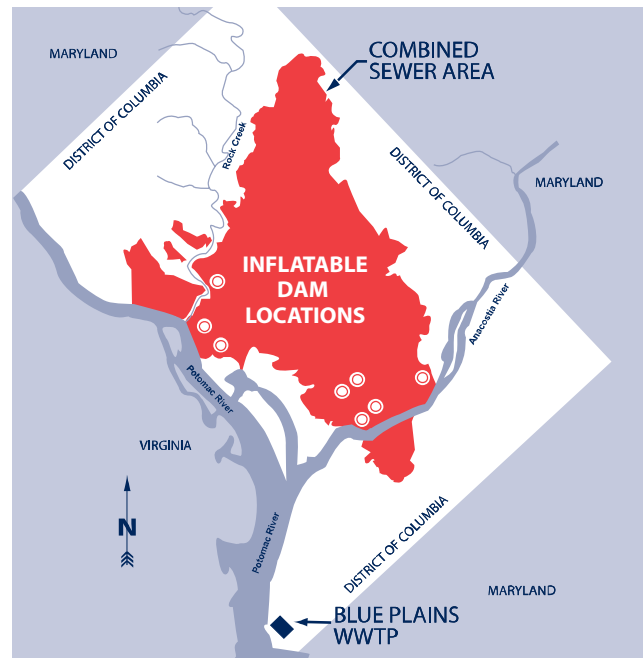


Inflatable Dam Replacement Completed

In March 2004, WASA completed the replacement of 12 inflatable dams at eight locations in the combined sewer system. Inflatable dams are made of a rubber-like material and are filled with air like a balloon. The dams are installed in large combined sewers in the District. The dams are normally kept inflated so that during rain events, the combined storm water and sanitary waste water can be stored behind the dams in the large sewers and then diverted to Blue Plains for treatment. During very large rain events, the dams deflate when the capacity of the sewers is exceeded and allow the excess water to overflow to our waterways to prevent flooding of streets and homes. Replacement of the inflatable dam reduced the volume of combined sewer overflows by about 23% in an average year of rainfall.

WASA is also in the process of rehabilitating its pumping stations to increase their capacity. The pumping station rehabilitations are to be complete by 2008. Both the inflatable dam replacements and the pumping station rehabilitations are part of WASA's overall plan to reduce combined sewer overflows and to improve the quality of our waterways. See our website at www.dcwasa.com for more information on WASA's efforts to reduce combined sewer overflows.



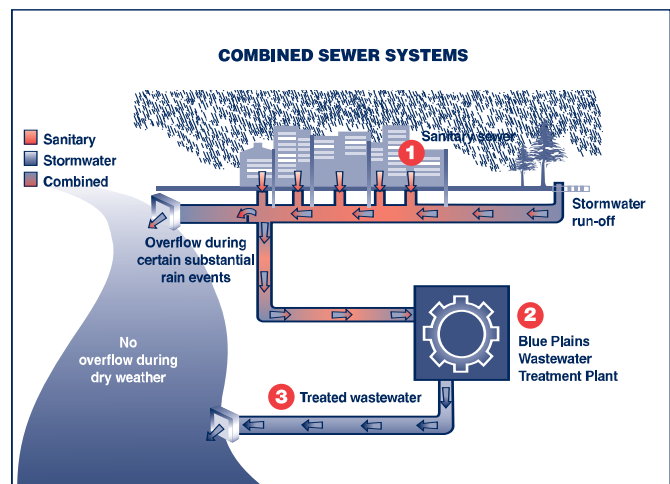
Background on Your Combined Sewer System

What Is a Combined Sewer?

Many older cities in the United States are served by combined sewers. A combined sewer carries both wastewater and runoff from storms in a single pipe. Modern practice is to build two pipes in the street – one for storm water runoff and one for wastewater from homes and businesses. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the system of combined sewers, but new combined sewers have been built in the District since the early 1900s. Combined sewers are located mostly in the older developed areas of the District.

What Is a Combined Sewer Overflow?

During dry weather, wastewater from homes and businesses is conveyed (step 1, shown at right) to the District's Wastewater Treatment Plant at Blue Plains, where it is treated (step 2) to remove pollutants before being discharged (step 3) to the Potomac River. During certain rainfall conditions, the capacity of a combined sewer pipe system may be exceeded. When this occurs, the excess flow, a dilute mixture of sanitary waste water and storm water runoff, is discharged to the Anacostia River, Potomac River, Rock Creek and tributary waters. If these flows were not released to local waterways, there would be widespread street flooding and basement backups. There are a total of 53 CSO outfalls in the system.



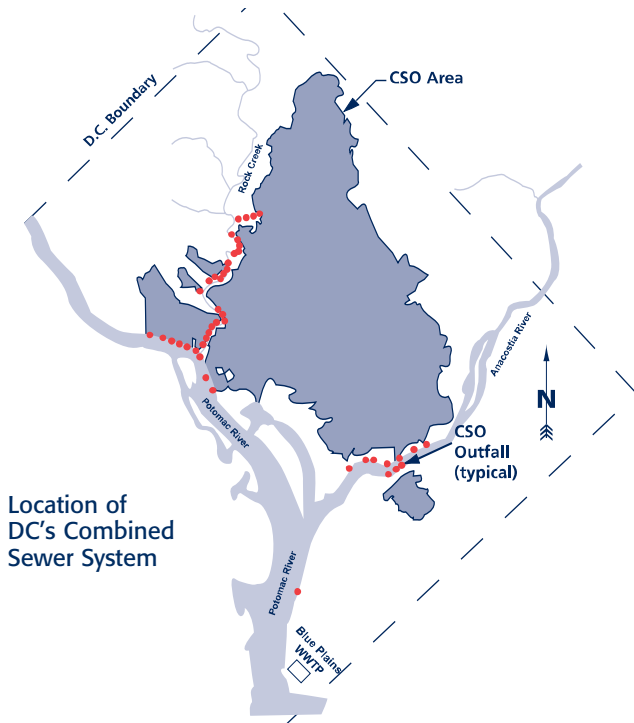
More Background on Your Combined Sewer System

How Can CSOs Affect the Environment and Human Health?

CSOs can adversely affect the quality of our receiving waters by contributing to high bacteria levels and low dissolved oxygen, which is harmful to certain aquatic life. Discharges may also be dangerous to the public due to the high flow of water that may exit these sewer outfalls and the potentially harmful substances that may also be present. The public is advised to stay away from any sewer pipe discharge. For small rainfalls, the effects of CSOs on the receiving waters typically last less than 24 hours. For larger rainfalls (greater than one inch of rain), the effects of CSOs on water quality can last up to three days.

Where Are the CSO Locations?

There are 10 CSO locations on the Potomac River, 15 CSO locations on the Anacostia River, and 28 CSO locations along Rock Creek and its tributaries. The location of each outfall is shown on the map below. WASA has also posted a sign at each CSO outfall, similar to what is shown above. These overflows are allowed by WASA's discharge permit from EPA and are therefore legally permissible.



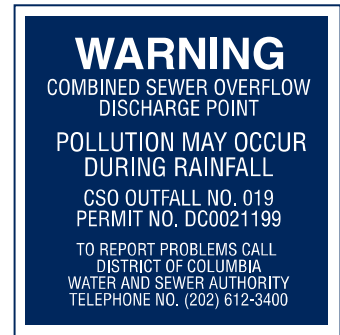
You Can Help Make Our Rivers Cleaner!

Use simple measures to reduce the impact of CSOs:

- Don't litter or use catch basins to dispose of leaves.
- Don't pour cooking grease down the drain.
- Properly dispose hazardous substances such as gasoline, oil and antifreeze.

What is WASA Doing about CSOs?

WASA has proposed an aggressive plan for reducing CSOs and improving water quality called a Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). The plan calls for constructing storage tunnels to capture CSOs during rain events, providing a 98% reduction in CSOs to the Anacostia River and a 96% reduction in CSOs overall. The plan is currently being reviewed by EPA. Details on the plan can be found on WASA's web site.



Example sign at CSO outfall.

When Do CSOs Occur?

CSOs should only occur during wet weather. Whether an overflow occurs, and its magnitude, depend on many factors, including rainfall volume, intensity, and if it has rained in previous days. CSOs typically overflow more in wet years than dry years. In a year with average rainfall, WASA estimates that CSOs in the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers overflow about 75 times per year with associated overflow volumes of about 1,485 and 953 million gallons, respectively. In Rock Creek, CSOs are predicted to overflow about 30 times per average year with an overflow volume of about 52 million gallons per average year.

What Is a Dry Weather Overflow?

The sanitary flow collected in the combined sewer during dry weather is routed to the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant through facilities called regulators. During wet weather, the regulators are designed to let the excess flow from the combined sewers discharge directly to a river or creek. During dry weather conditions, sanitary wastewater in the combined sewer system should not be discharged to receiving waters.

However, regulators can become blocked by debris, trash or other materials. When this occurs, the regulators' functions can be impaired and can result in overflows. These are called Dry Weather Overflows (DWOs). WASA has an intensive maintenance and inspection program to prevent DWOs from occurring. When a DWO does occur, WASA corrects it and takes the necessary measures to prevent its reoccurrence. If you see a CSO outfall discharging during dry weather, call DCWASA at 202-612-3400.

More Information?

You can learn more about CSOs by visiting WASA's web site, www.dcwasa.com, or by contacting Mohsin Siddique at 202-787-2634.

For general WASA information, call 202-787-2000.

Serving the Public • Protecting the Environment

