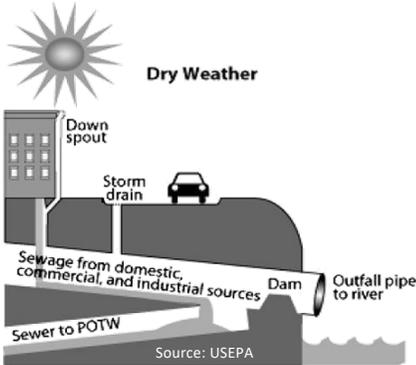


# New Jersey Combined Sewer System Fact Sheet

New Jersey's cities face a multi-billion-dollar price tag to fix combined sewer systems that dump more than 23 billion gallons of raw sewage into our waterways every year. The cost of not fixing them will be even higher.



## What is a combined sewer system?

Combined sewer systems (CSS) were state-of-the-art solutions for the disease-ridden, flood-prone urban areas of the late 1800s and early 1900s when they were built, because they were able to remove sewage and stormwater quickly.

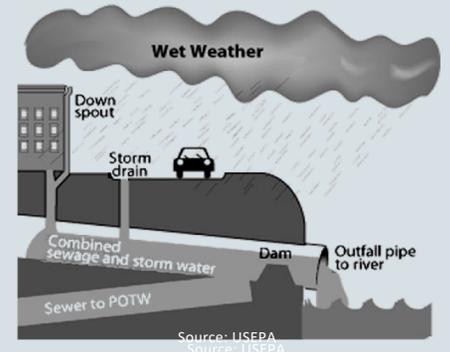
Today, combined sewers convey sewage to a treatment plant, just as separate sewers do. However, they also carry stormwater during wet weather events, collecting rainwater that runs off buildings and roads.

## What are combined sewer overflows?

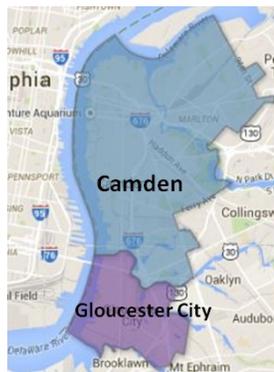
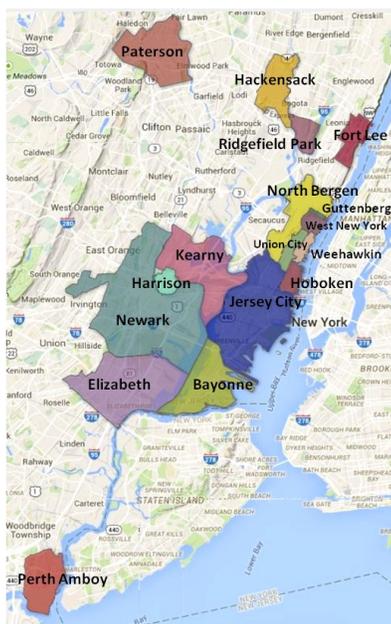
In a combined sewer system, when the combined volume of sewage and stormwater is too great for the treatment plant to handle, the system is designed, quite deliberately, to discharge them directly into nearby water bodies without treatment.

These combined sewer overflows (CSOs) pollute rivers and bays during rain events. CSOs additionally can cause sewer backups into basements and streets, threatening human health. They have a significant environmental impact, causing closure of beaches and shellfish beds and impairing fish and other aquatic life and their habitats.

View educational graphics to inform the public at [JerseyWaterWorks.org/CSOsignage](http://JerseyWaterWorks.org/CSOsignage)



## Where are combined sewer systems in New Jersey?



There are 21 New Jersey cities with combined sewer systems and 210 individual combined sewer outfalls. It is projected that these urban areas will absorb one-fifth of the state's population and employment growth between now and 2040. However, antiquated sewer systems and their CSOs can greatly limit growth potential, quality of life and environmental quality of New Jersey cities.

### The 21 New Jersey cities with CSS and the number of their outfalls are listed below:

Bayonne (28)	Camden (23)	East Newark (1)	Elizabeth (29)
Fort Lee (2)	Gloucester City (7)	Guttenberg (1)	Hackensack (2)
Harrison (7)	Hoboken*	Jersey City (21)	Kearny (5)
Newark (18)	North Bergen (1)	Paterson (23)	Perth Amboy (16)
Ridgefield Park (6)	Trenton (1)	Union*	Weehawken*
West New York*			

\*These cities together have 10 outfalls

## New Jersey CSO Permits Launch Major Planning and Upgrade Effort

More than 40 years ago, the federal Clean Water Act set the ultimate goal of achieving water quality improvements that would allow people to fish from and swim in our rivers, lakes and streams. Under the federal Clean Water Act, combined sewer discharges are prohibited without a permit. In New Jersey, the permit program is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and is an essential tool for the control of CSOs. In March 2015, DEP issued 25 CSO permits for the municipalities, utilities and treatment plants that receive combined sewage.

The permits require the development of a Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) — a system-wide evaluation of the sewage infrastructure, and the hydraulic relationship between the sewers, precipitation, treatment capacity and overflows. As part of the LTCP, the permittee must evaluate alternatives that will reduce/eliminate the discharges, and develop a plan and implementation schedule for that reduction. In New Jersey, permittees will have five years to create their LTCP. Once the implementation plan is approved by DEP, the permittee must immediately begin progress toward implementation.

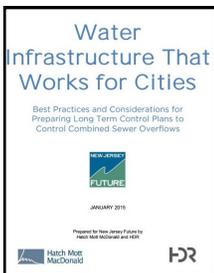
For more information on the permits and LTCPs please visit the DEP's CSO webpage:

[www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cso.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cso.htm)



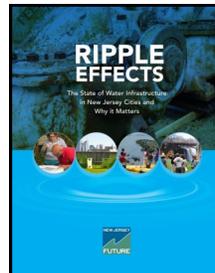
## Resources: Best Practices for Combined Sewer Overflow Solutions

Visit [JerseyWaterWorks.org](http://JerseyWaterWorks.org) for the resources listed below, daily news, updates and more.



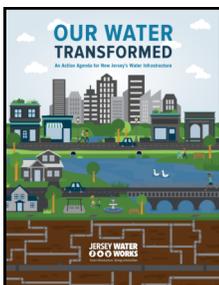
### Water Infrastructure That Works for Cities

This white paper draws upon best practices from across the country to provide New Jersey's CSO communities with smart innovative solutions that reduce costs and deliver tangible benefits that build community support.



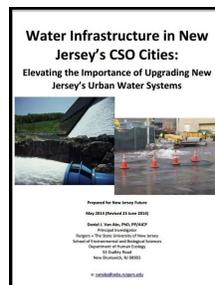
### Ripple Effects

This report explores the state of New Jersey's urban water infrastructure and highlights real-life stories and issues from the 21 CSO cities.



### Our Water Transformed

This report offers an in-depth understanding of the state's water infrastructure and the context for improvement, provides clarity on how Jersey Water Works has brought so many stakeholders together to effect change, and outlines a consensus-based "action agenda."



### Water Infrastructure in New Jersey's CSO Cities

This detailed report focuses on the New Jersey municipalities that have combined sewer systems that discharge through combine sewer overflows in part or all of their area. The report also examines issues regarding water supply capacity and wastewater capacity for these municipalities.

Sign Up

Join the **Jersey Water Works collaborative**, and receive monthly news and information about efforts to upgrade New Jersey's urban water infrastructure.



[JerseyWaterWorks.org](http://JerseyWaterWorks.org)

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