



# SEWAGE FREE STREETS AND RIVERS

Your Waterways, Your Neighborhood, Your Money, Your Voice

The purpose of the Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers campaign is to empower community organizations to engage residents and small business owners in shaping the solutions that will be adopted in 2020 to reduce combined sewer overflows.

We all want sewage-free streets and rivers, so residents can stay healthy and small businesses can flourish. However, when it rains in 21 New Jersey cities and towns, raw sewage pours into rivers and backs up into basements and onto streets. This is known as a combined sewer overflow (CSO).

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection issued a permit in 2015 that requires these communities to develop plans by 2020 to reduce sewage in our waterways, and to submit a report by July 2019 that selects the various alternatives they will evaluate for achieving this goal. Implementing these plans will cost billions of dollars over the next 30 years and will have significant effects on residents and business owners for generations to come.

The people who live, work and run businesses in these cities will pay for these upgrades and should have a strong role in shaping the plans. That's you! Your voice is needed to ensure that the solutions are affordable, keep residents healthy, invest in local jobs, businesses and neighborhoods, and create more green spaces that promote climate resiliency.

**WE BELIEVE**  
these plans should:



**FUND  
PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION**



**INCLUDE  
A PUBLIC  
CONVERSATION**




**REFLECT  
COMMUNITY  
VALUES**





**DELIVER  
LOCAL  
BENEFITS**




## Join the Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers campaign and help ensure that plans:

 **FUND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Each CSO municipality or sewer utility should allocate the resources needed to engage residents and small businesses in developing and implementing the CSO Long Term Control Plans.

 **INCLUDE A PUBLIC CONVERSATION:** Each CSO municipality or sewer utility should collaborate with the relevant local group(s), known as Supplemental CSO Teams or Municipal Action Teams, that are working to address combined sewer issues, to organize at least three well-attended and accessible public meetings on the proposed sewer infrastructure upgrades, so that all voices are heard before the July 2019 evaluation of alternatives report and July 2020 Long Term Control Plans are submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

 **REFLECT COMMUNITY VALUES:** Each CSO municipality or sewer utility should work with local community groups, residents and small business owners to identify community priorities, and use these priorities to evaluate the solutions being selected in the 2019 evaluation of alternatives report. Before the final plans, known as Long Term Control Plans, are submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for approval, each municipality or sewer utility should provide ample time for residents to review and comment on draft reports, should share with the community how its input was incorporated, and should include this explanation in its final report.

 **DELIVER LOCAL BENEFITS:** Each CSO municipality or sewer utility should describe how its plans will include green infrastructure and deliver specific community benefits -- for example, effective flood management, cost savings for residents, local jobs and job training, public green spaces, and economic opportunities for local businesses.

### IMPORTANT TERMS

**CSO - COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW:** A combination of stormwater and sewage that overflows from one pipe into local rivers and streams.

**CSS - COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM:** Sewage from households and businesses and stormwater flow from streets is combined into one pipe.

**GI - GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE:** Constructed green spaces designed to capture and release stormwater before it goes into sewers, such as rain gardens, green roofs and enhanced tree pits or swales.

**LONG TERM CONTROL PLANS:** Plans that will be submitted by municipalities or sewer utilities to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in July 2020 to reduce localized flooding and the amount of sewage dumped into our rivers.

For more information  
about endorsing go to

[SEWAGEFREENJ.ORG/JOIN](http://SEWAGEFREENJ.ORG/JOIN)

