



SEWAGE FREE STREETS AND RIVERS

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Kearny's Sewer System: What's at Stake

What's Happening:

Kearny is considering different options for improving its outdated sewer system. Decisions that can affect your neighborhood will be made between now and June 1, 2020. Get the facts by attending local meetings on solutions to reduce stormwater runoff and sewer overflows. Then contact your elected officials with your preferences. Sign up for the Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers campaign for updates on local meetings and other ways to get involved.

Cities like Kearny were required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate options for reducing CSOs by July 2019. Kearny's evaluation of potential strategies has been published online as a draft "Development and Evaluation of Alternatives Report." After further review, Kearny will select and commit to a combination of some of the proposed strategies by June 1, 2020, the deadline for the city's official CSO Long Term Control Plan.

Each option will cost millions of dollars and will impact neighborhoods for decades.

CSO permittees are required to review all of these options to reduce CSOs:

- **Green infrastructure** - Nature-based solutions that capture rain where it falls, before it enters and overwhelms the combined sewer system. Examples include street trees, rain gardens, and bioswales.
- **Storage capacity within the existing system** - Using existing pipes to store stormwater.
- **Additional storage capacity in the city and/or at the treatment plant** - New storage tanks within the city or at the wastewater treatment plant.
- **Reduction of inflow and infiltration** - Fixing pipes so water does not come in or seep out through cracks.
- **Sewer separation** - Adding a pipe for stormwater to divert rain from the combined sewer system, reducing how often it overflows.
- **Treatment of CSO discharge** - Constructing a mini wastewater treatment plant at the end of the pipe.
- **CSO-related bypass of the secondary treatment portion of the sewage treatment plant** - Creating more capacity at the sewage treatment plant by bypassing the secondary treatment process of cleaning the mixture of sewage and stormwater.

Summary of Kearny's "Development and Evaluation of Alternatives Report"

Ownership and Management of CSO System Serving Kearny

- The City of Kearny owns the sewage collection system.
- The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission treats the sewage. Kearny's report is nested within a larger document that contains PVSC's regional evaluation of alternatives report, which also has implications for the city.
- Number of combined sewer overflow pipes that discharge into the Passaic River & Frank's Creek: **5**
- Average annual number of systemwide combined sewer overflow events: **61**





Kearny selected these priority alternatives for reducing combined sewer overflows based on projected cost and the estimated reduction of overflows by volume or the number of overflows per year:

Options Considered Projected Costs and CSO Reductions

- | | |
|---|---|
| Green infrastructure (right-of-way bioswale) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spending \$22 million would manage 5% of impervious surface with green infrastructure.• Spending \$44 million would manage 10% of impervious surface with green infrastructure. |
| Sewer separation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spending \$621 million dollars would eliminate combined sewer overflows. |
| A combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partial sewer separation• Additional storage capacity (tunnel) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spending \$147 million would reduce the number of annual overflows from 61 to 20 CSO events per year.• Spending \$206 million would reduce the number of overflows from 61 to 4 CSO events per year. |
| A combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partial sewer separation• Additional storage capacity (tank) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spending \$217 million would reduce the number of annual overflows from 61 to 20 CSO events per year.• Spending \$268 million would reduce the number of overflows to 4 CSO events per year. |
| A combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partial sewer separation• Treatment of CSO discharge | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spending \$141 million would reduce the number of annual overflows from 61 to 20 CSO events per year.• Spending \$227 million would reduce the number of overflows to 4 CSO events per year. |

Community benefits Kearny identified for green infrastructure:

Reduced surface flooding, reduced basement sewage flooding, improved air quality, reduced carbon emissions, reduced heat island effect, property value uplift, local jobs, passive and active recreational improvements, community aesthetic improvements, reduced crime, alignment with goals for a sustainable community, increased pedestrian safety through curb retrofits.

Community input gathered:

The report noted that the Kearny AWAKE (Agriculture, Water And Kearny's Environment) group has provided Neglia Environmental Associates with valuable input regarding green infrastructure implementation and specific areas in town that are of concern.

For more information:

- Download the full report at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwg/cso.htm>
- To see a map of Kearny's outfalls go to: bit.ly/2kpvpAg
- Kearny CSO contact: Robert Smith, Town Administrator, rsmith@kearnynj.org
- PVSC website on CSO Plan: <https://www.njcleanwaterways.com>
- Visit SewageFreeNJ.org to sign up for our newsletter.

