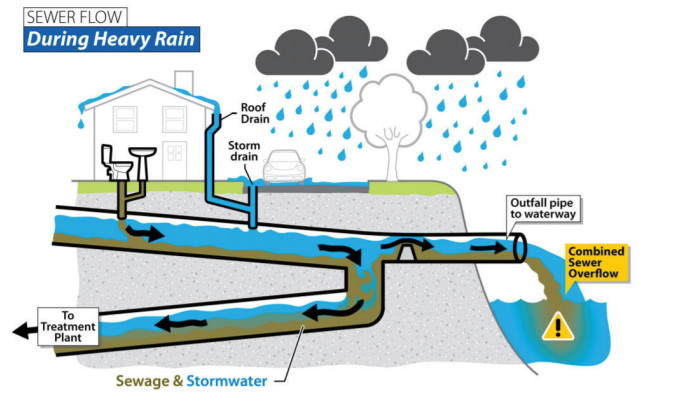


Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) happen when wastewater from homes and businesses mix in the same sewer pipe with rainwater then send untreated sewage into the street, basements or local rivers.



## FAQ

### Can we just leave it the way it is?

No. Besides the reality of untreated sewage in streets and rivers, the Clean Water Act, EPA and NJDEP demand a solution to the problem.

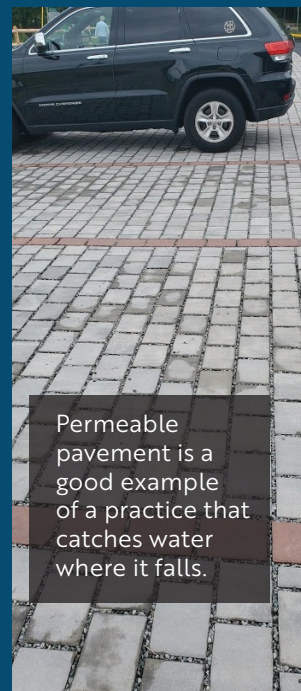


### What if I rent my business property?

While some lessees can expect increases in sewer fees to be passed on to them, it is less common for reductions in water rates to be shared with tenants. Right now, there is no legislation dealing with landlord-tenant shared costs.

### What can I do to reduce my fee if my town chooses a stormwater utility?

Actually, there's a lot that property owners can do. Slowing rainwater down or sending it into the ground, instead of the sewer system, can be achieved using green infrastructure.



Permeable pavement is a good example of a practice that catches water where it falls.

### How can I find out what my town is planning?

Head to [SewageFreeNJ.org/NoStatusQuo](http://SewageFreeNJ.org/NoStatusQuo) to take our survey and connect with water advocates in your town. We are working to make sure all residents and business owners are kept informed as decisions are made.

Find out how to contact decision-makers where you live to let them know how their choices will affect you.

Visit [SewageFreeNJ.org/NoStatusQuo](http://SewageFreeNJ.org/NoStatusQuo)

### Towns with Combined Sewer Overflows

Camden	Guttenberg	Hackensack
Trenton	North Hudson	Ridgefield Park
Newark	Paterson	Fort Lee
Kearny	Perth Amboy	West New York
North Bergen	Bayonne	Weehawken
Hoboken	Harrison	Gloucester City
Jersey City	East Newark	
	Elizabeth	



**SEWAGE FREE STREETS AND RIVERS**  
Your Waterways, Your Neighborhood, Your Money, Your Voice

**Sewage Free Streets and Rivers** is a New Jersey coalition focused on helping local community advocates connect with, inform and get feedback from residents and small business owners in order to reduce localized flooding and the raw sewage dumped into rivers and streams due to combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

Compiled and designed by:



Sewage doesn't belong in our

**STREETS**  
**RIVERS** or  
**BASEMENTS**

- What's the sewage issue?
- How does it affect your business?
- What is being done to solve the problem?
- How much will sewer upgrades cost?



# THE PROBLEM

New Jersey sewer systems are a mix of combined and separated systems and both need to be kept free of litter, upgraded and maintained. Currently, in both kinds of systems, only those homes and businesses that have sinks and toilets are paying to maintain the sewer system.

This method ignores the effect of the stormwater that falls onto roofs, into gutters, or onto paved parking lots. Without that paved surface, this water would naturally soak into the ground. Though we all benefit from the sewer system, we haven't all been paying our fair share for sewer upgrades and maintenance.

# SOLUTIONS

In communities across New Jersey, towns have developed plans to fix the outdated sewer technology that results in the toxic CSO mess, including:

- Digging out secondary sewer lines
  - Installing giant tanks
  - Capturing stormwater using nature-based solutions
  - Disinfecting the sewage at the end of the pipe
  - Patching or replacing broken sewer pipes
- and more...



Most plans will ultimately include a combination of these solutions. Fixing this problem will likely require a multi-BILLION dollar infrastructure upgrade.

**While affected towns are happy to have solutions identified, many are struggling to come up with a way to pay for the upgrades.**

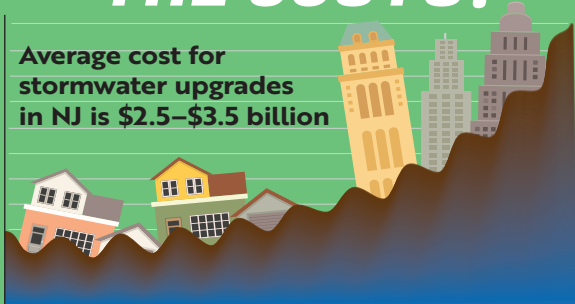
## FLOODING IS BAD FOR BUSINESS!

- Infrastructure failure
- Decreased water quality
- Property damage,
- Increased traffic
- Business interruption.



## WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

Average cost for stormwater upgrades in NJ is \$2.5-\$3.5 billion



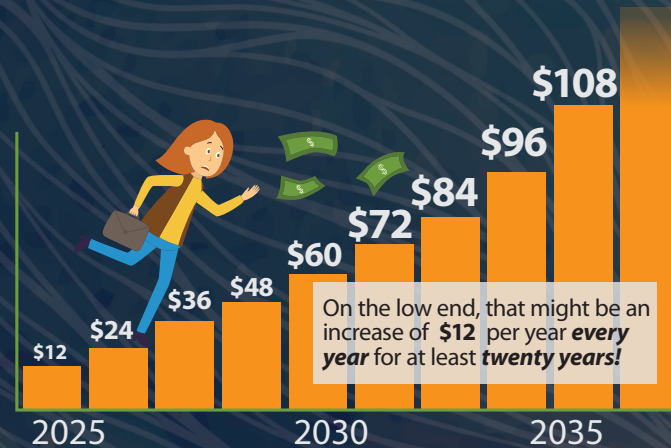
\$2 million → \$300 million

\*Costs vary by town

## OPTION 1

Some towns will raise sewer rates for existing customers between **2.5%** and **3.5%** every year for the next 20-40 years.

This means residents and small business owners will pay more every year for stormwater improvements and maintenance.



## OPTION 2



Some towns are considering a stormwater fee for large paved surfaces to compensate for the burden of that water on the sewer system, reducing sewer costs for existing ratepayers, and finally requiring those with large warehouse roofs and massive parking lots to help maintain the sewer after neglecting to contribute to sewer maintenance in the past.

## OPTION 3

Some towns are thinking about blanket increases to property taxes. This makes everyone pay the same rate, regardless of whether or not their property contributes more or less water to the system.

