

# Utility Advisory Group A Record of Achievement



A historical look on citizen involvement  
with Fort Wayne City Utilities

David Kohli - UAG Member

# **Sewer Task Force History & Background**

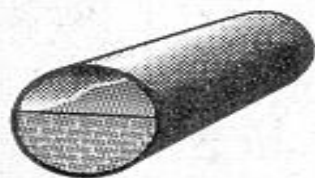


NEXT WEEK'S BROCHURE: "POTHOLE ARE YOUR FRIENDS!"



"....WE ARE ENDEAVORING TO CORRECT THIS SEWER BACK-UP PROBLEM... AND TO SHOW YOU HOW SERIOUS THE CITY OF FORT WAYNE IS ABOUT THIS SITUATION, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS COMPLIMENTARY PLUNGER TO HELP YOU..."

**Sewer  
Security**



The News-Sentinel presents two days of special coverage to help Fort Wayne's citizens decide whether following the sewer task force's recommendations is important enough to justify a major sewage treatment rate increase.

# *From* **Confrontation** *to* **collaboration**

► Citizens and City Utilities now see eye to eye.

**By ASHRAF KHALIL**  
*of The News-Sentinel*

They've come so far since that first night of accusations and mistrust. The first time Fort Wayne residents

met with City Utilities staff to discuss Fort Wayne's aging and deteriorating combined sewer system, things didn't go well.

"I felt like they should have given me a blindfold and a cigarette along with my invitation," said City Utilities Director Terry Atherton of the July 12, 1995, clear-the-air session at Queen of Angels Catholic Church. "We pretty

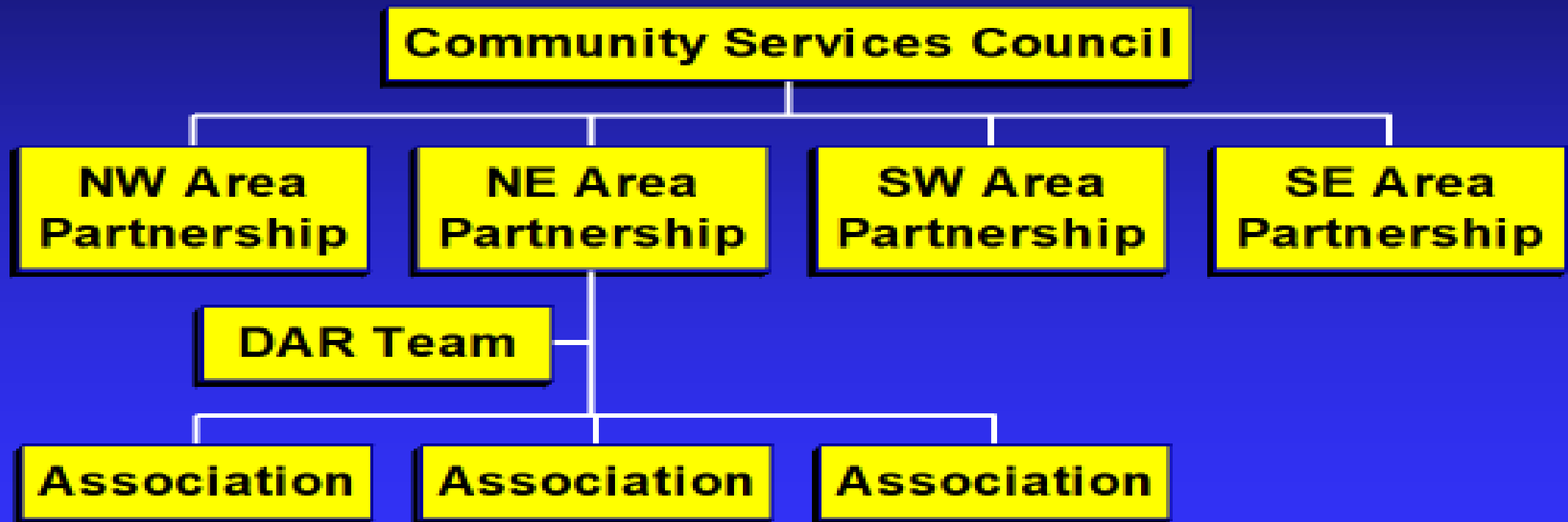
**See SEWERS, Page 7A ►**

# Program Beginnings: It Took a Crisis!

- ❑ 1995 Heavy Rains and Basement Flooding
- ❑ Customer Dissatisfaction (Outrage)
- ❑ Media Attention



# Community Governance & Sewer Task Force





*The City of Fort Wayne is surveying customers in the Combined Sewer Service Area to determine the extent and frequency of basement flooding and street/yard backups from the combined sewers. This information will be used to help prioritize the Combined Sewer Relief Projects. If you have experienced basement or street/yard backups, please answer the questions below and either return this card by mail or give it to your Neighborhood Association Representative within the next two weeks. (Your Neighborhood Association will receive \$.15 for each response they receive). If you have not experienced backups, do not return the card. All responses are confidential.*

*Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_*

*(Please print)*

*Have you had basement flooding due to sewer backups Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_*

*How many times in 1996 \_\_\_\_\_ How many times in the past 5 years \_\_\_\_\_*

*Has your street or yard flooded due to sewer backups Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_*

*How many times 1996 \_\_\_\_\_ How many times in the past 5 years \_\_\_\_\_*

*After the rain stopped, how long does it normally take for your street/yard to drain:*

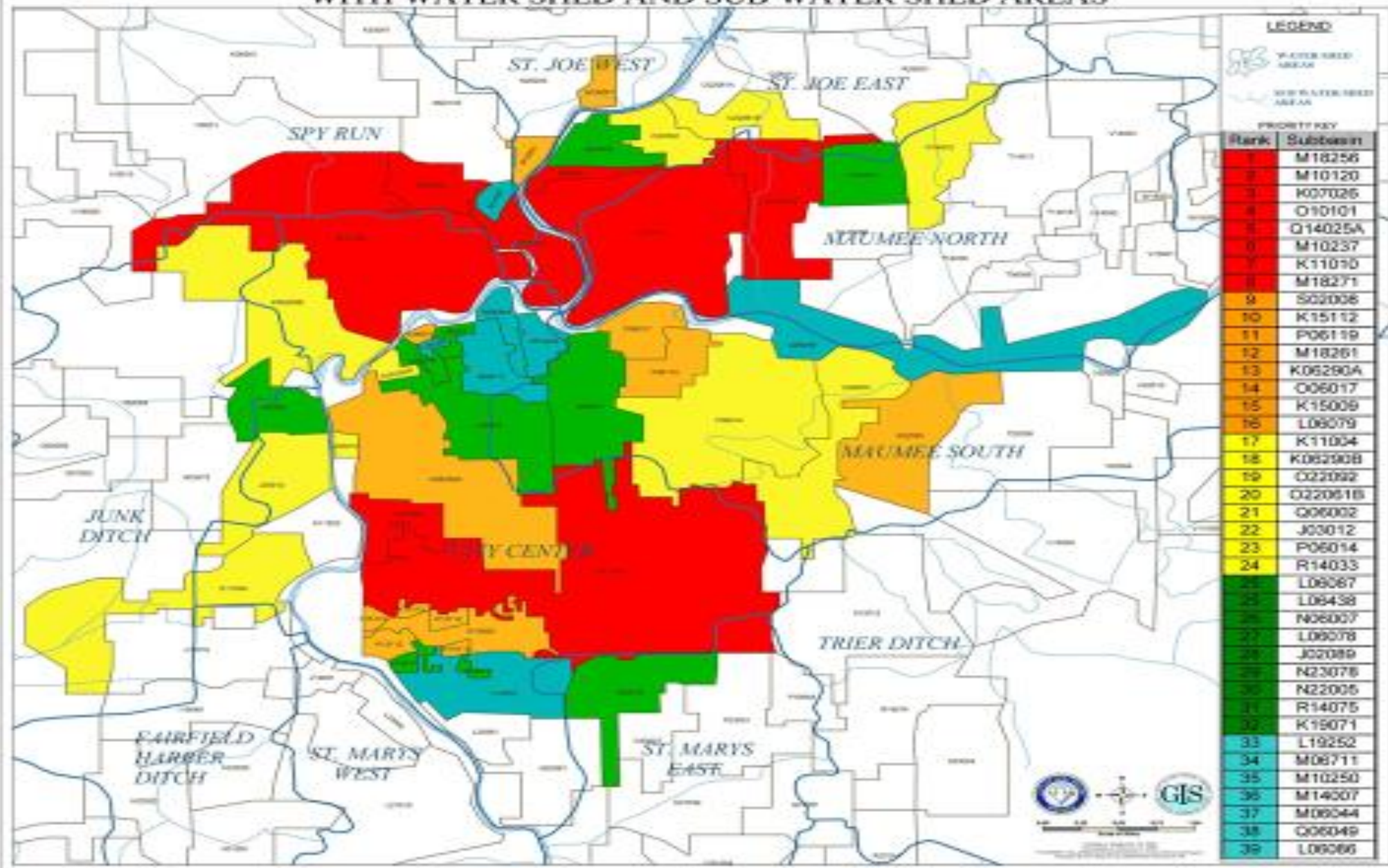
*0-30 min.\_\_\_\_, 30-60 min.\_\_\_\_, 1-2 hrs.\_\_\_\_, more than 2 hrs.\_\_\_\_*

*Thank You for your assistance. Please complete only one survey per household.*

**Basement Backup Survey Card**



# CITY OF FORT WAYNE COMBINATION SEWER SUBBASINS - IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY WITH WATER SHED AND SUB WATER SHED AREAS





# Major Recommendations

- ❑ Add Capacity: \$90M Investment over 10 Years to Increase Capacity to 25 Year Storm Level
  - ❑ Recommendation emphasis on keeping combined sewage out of homes.
  - ❑ Prioritization of investments by need
- ❑ Enhance Proactive Maintenance Activities
- ❑ Continue Public Education & Involvement
  - ❑ Sewer Advisory Group (SAG) successor to Sewer Task Force

# Council supports sewer task force suggestions

► Regular inspections and upgrades are urged.

By **ANDREW JAROSH**

*of The News-Sentinel*

Two key recommendations by a citizens task force to upgrade Fort Wayne's aging sewer system have been upheld by the City Council.

On Tuesday, the council said it supports:

◆ Inspecting, and replacing if necessary, every sewer pipe in Fort Wayne every 12 years.

The intent is to clean and clear sewer lines before structural dam-

age or blockages reduce their capacity or cause a major collapse.

◆ Upgrading combined sewers that carry both rainwater and sanitary sewage, wherever possible, so they can handle the heaviest rainfall likely to fall in any 25 years.

Called a "25-year design storm" by engineers, it is a downpour that produces 3.75 inches of rain in a 9.5-hour period and has a maximum intensity of 1.1 inches per hour.

Greg Meszaros, associate director of utilities, said a 25-year design would have kept sewage out of basements along Lillian Avenue in 1995 when several torrential rains inundated the area.

However, a less-costly 10-year design standard would not have, he said.

The council looked at several of the task force's recommendations to determine if some costs could be saved by paring down the scope of projects.

On these two key areas, however, the council sided with the task force.

A 10-year design standard would have cost \$60 million over 10 years worth of improvements. A 25-year design standard will cost about \$90 million over the same period of time.

The task force chose the 25-year design as providing what it consid-

ers an acceptable comfort level and quality of life for homeowners in areas with combined sewers.

To pay for these and other improvements, Fort Wayne customers face a 43.6 percent sewer rate increase. For an average customer who uses about eight units of water per month, the bill would go up monthly by about \$5.50.

One unit of water equals 100 cubic feet, or about 750 gallons.

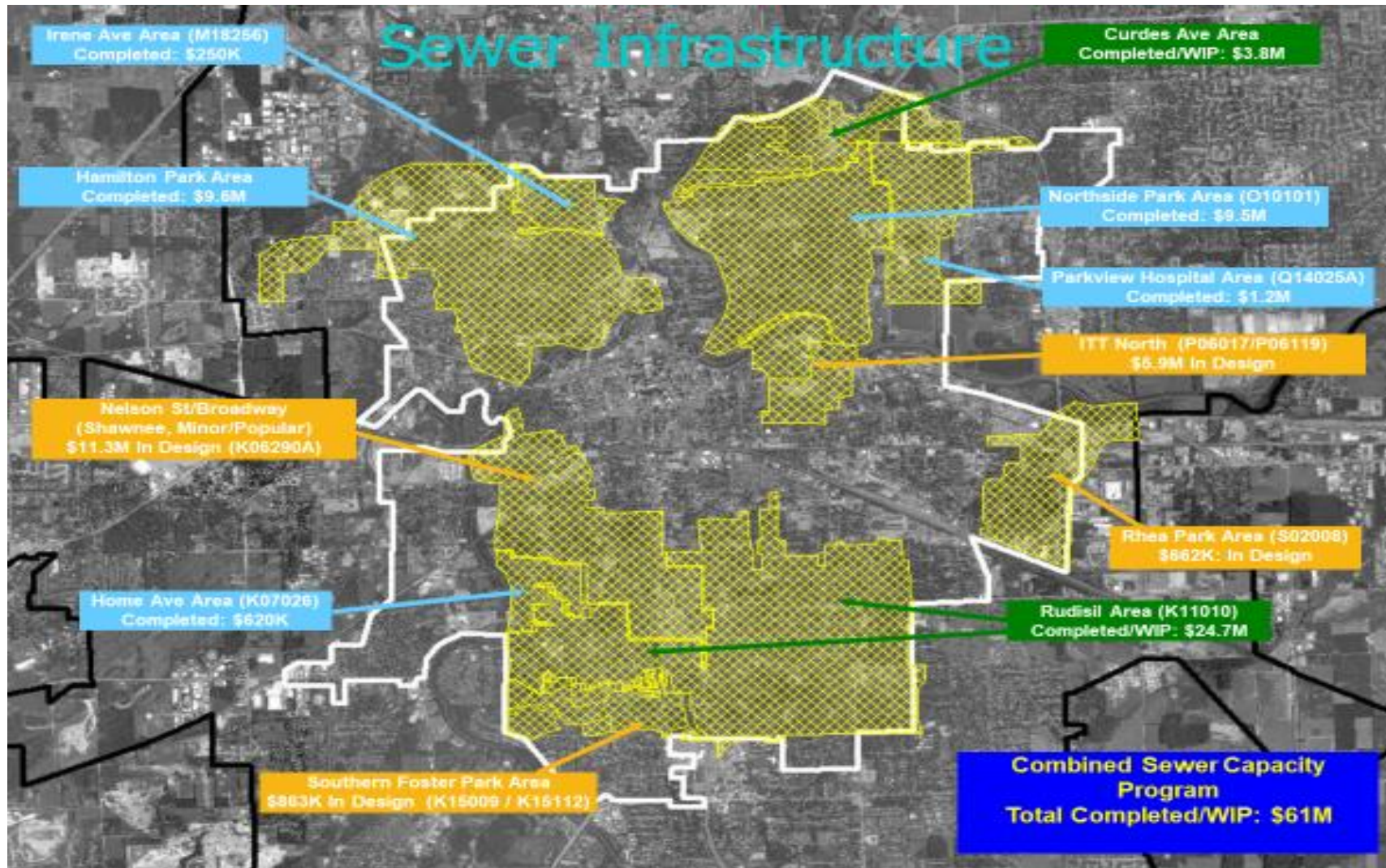
The first two years of construction would be financed by a \$27.4 million bond issue.

The council will continue discussing the sewer rate hike proposal at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

6/2/99



# Combined Sewer Capacity Improvement Program





# Milestones – Flow Removal Results

- ❑ 69 million gallons per year of stormwater flow removed from the combined sewer system.
- ❑ During a 1” rain, the volume of stormwater removed from the combined sewer system by CSCI projects equals the wastewater flow from 18,000 residential homes.
- ❑ 10 miles of new storm sewer pipe installed and 1,000 acres of land now has separated sanitary and stormwater service
- ❑ Wow!





**Camp Scott Tank Construction**

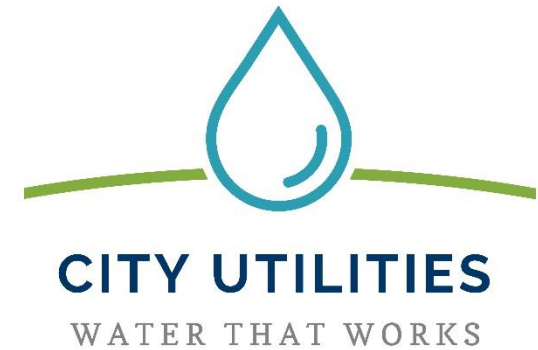


**Camp Scott Wetlands "Headwaters"**



**Hamilton Park Project Construction  
(Little League Ball Park Area)**

# Utility Overview



Justin Brugger  
CFO

*March 3, 2021*





# Regional Focus



Allen County Regional Water & Sewer District

Established 1979  
200 East Berry Street, Suite B-015 Fort Wayne, IN  
T: (260) 427-2696 E: [info@acrwsd.com](mailto:info@acrwsd.com)

**PAY  
MY  
BILL**



# Strategic Plan



## VALUES

Customer Focus  
Integrity  
Leadership  
Stewardship  
Employee Growth & Development  
Shared Organizational Culture  
Effectiveness

## MISSION

We support public safety, public health, and enhance regional economic development by delivering high quality, affordable water, wastewater and stormwater services, in ways that protect the environment.

## VISION

Nationally recognized as a regional utility of excellence.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Human Capital Development  
Community & Employee Engagement  
Customer Service  
Technology  
Affordability & Cost Management  
Environmental Stewardship & Conservation





# Business Units



## Business Services

- Business Services
- Development Services
- Financial Services

## Capital Asset Management

- Three Rivers Filtration Plant
- Water Pollution Control Plant
- Water Maintenance
- Sewer Maintenance

## Engineering

- Water Engineering
- Sewer Engineering
- Storm Engineering
- Facilities Engineering
- Engineering Services
- Construction
- GIS

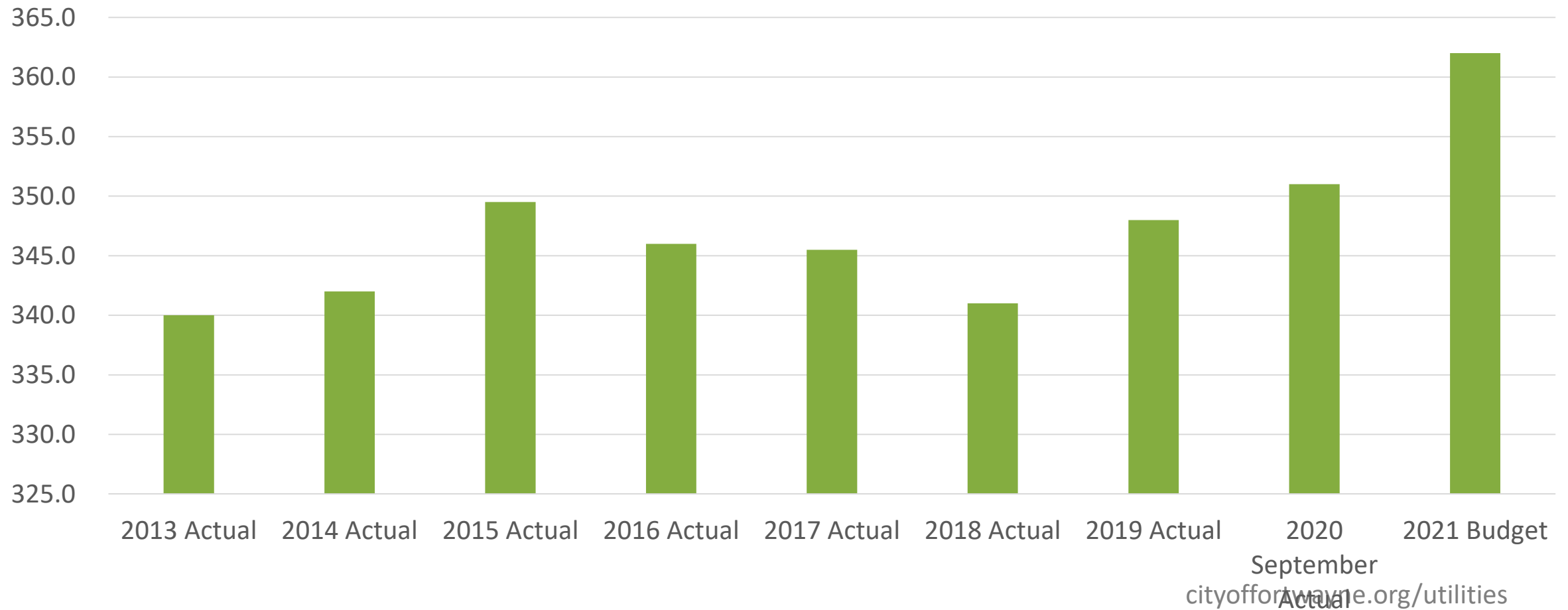
## Policy & Planning

- Policy & Planning
- Customer Support

# Staffing

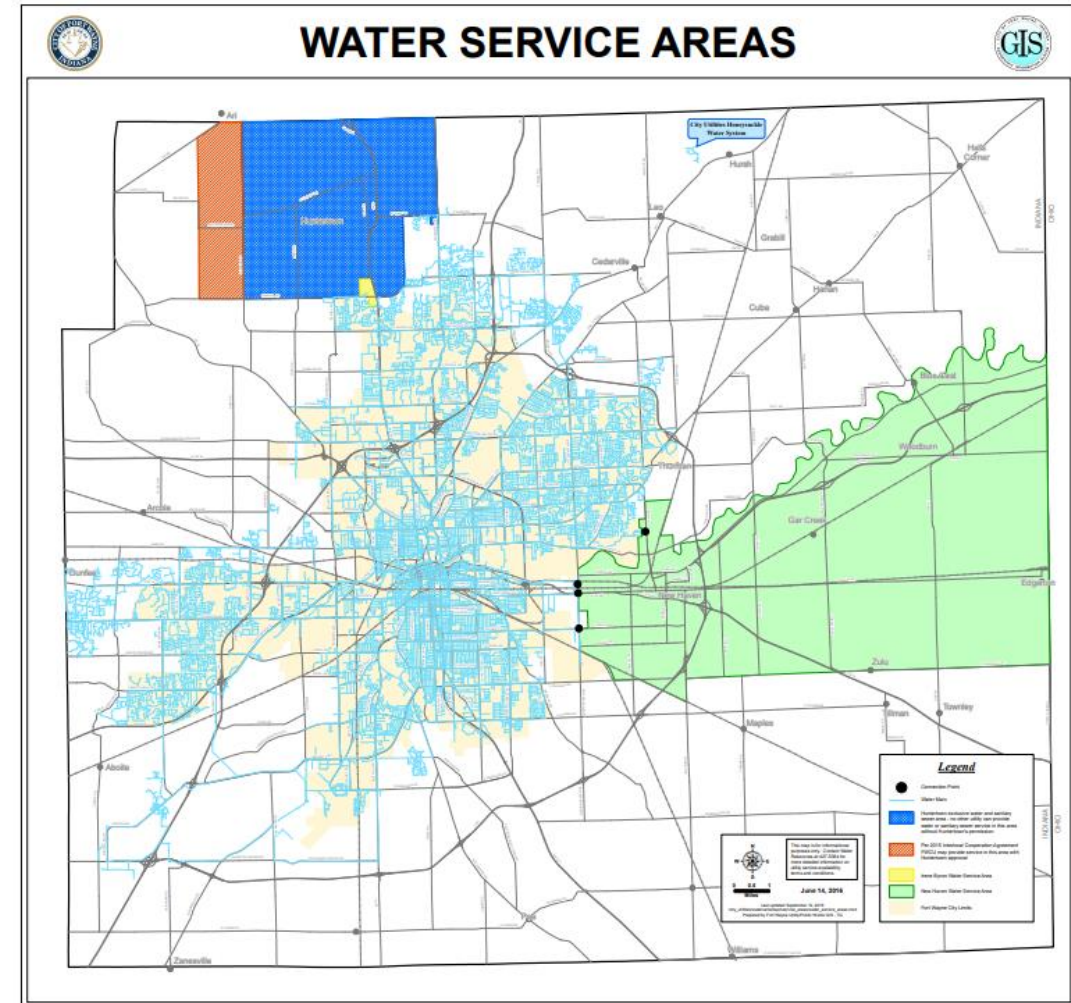


City Utilities Headcount



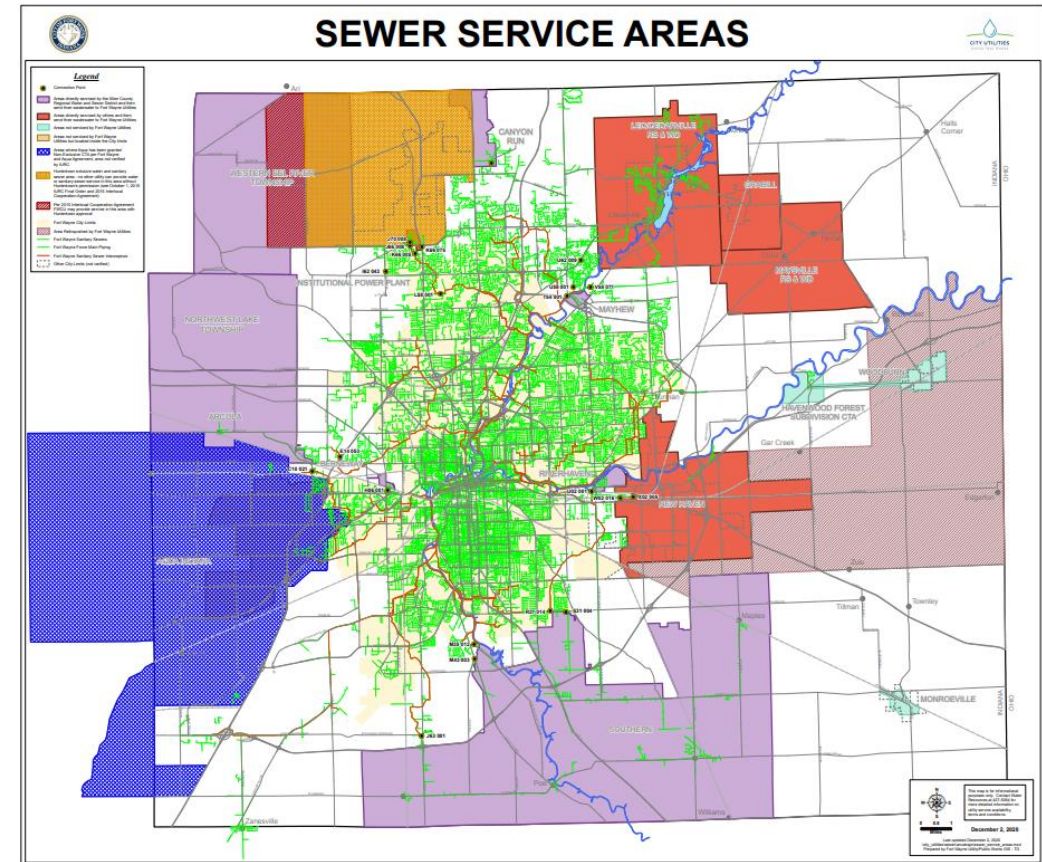
# Water

- Governance – Board of Public Works
- Regulatory Oversight – IURC
- Service Area – Retail & Wholesale
- Population Served
  - 294,453 retail
  - 19,541 wholesale
- 2021 Budget
  - Capital - \$31.4M
  - O&M - \$32.2M
- Infrastructure
  - 1,428.81 miles of pipe
  - 154.62 sq. mile service area
  - 11,682 hydrants
- Key Law
  - Safe Drinking Water Act

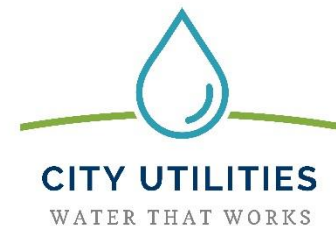


# Sewer

- Governance – Board of Public Works
- Service Area – Retail & Wholesale
- Population Served
  - 263,770 retail
  - 32,725 wholesale
- 2021 Budget
  - Capital - \$71.0M
  - O&M - \$37.4M
- Infrastructure
  - 1,450.16 miles of pipe
  - 197.48 sq. mile service area
  - 20,357 sewer manholes
- Key Laws
  - Clean Water Act

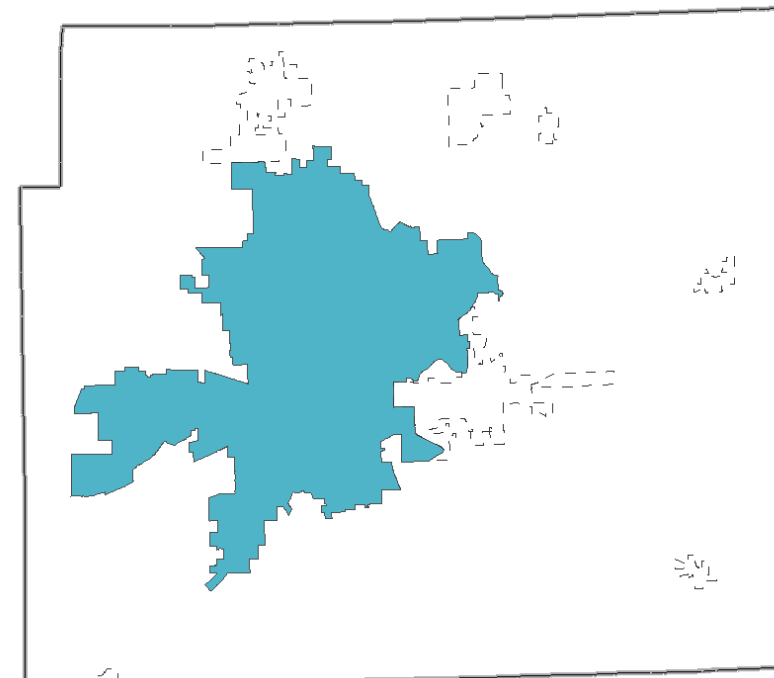


# Stormwater



- Governance – Board of Stormwater Management
- Service Area – Retail
- Population Served – 270,402
- 2021 Budget
  - Capital - \$11.7M
  - O&M - \$5.5M
- Infrastructure
  - 696.61 miles of pipe
  - 92 sq. mile service area
  - 20,937 storm inlets
- Key Laws
  - Clean Water Act (1987 amendment)

Stormwater Service Area





# Challenges and Opportunities



# Challenges and Opportunities

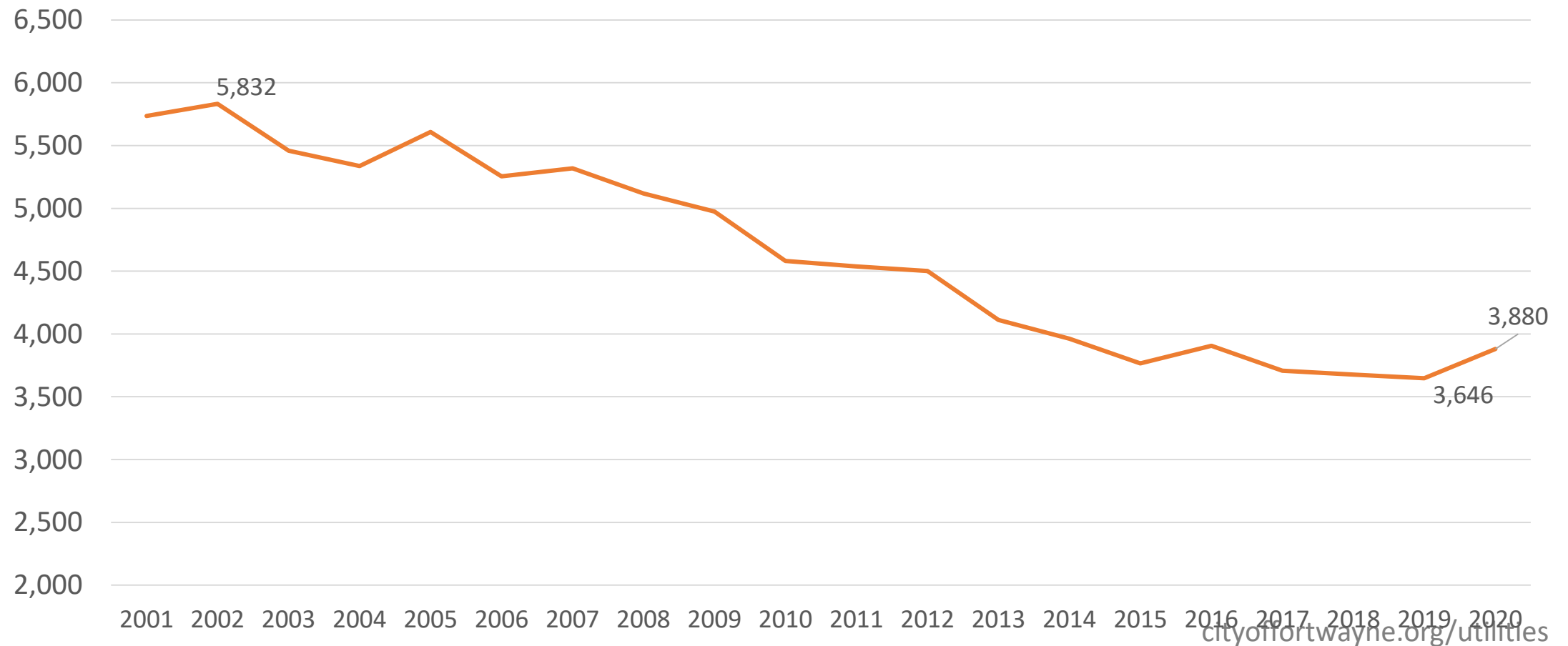
"Nothing is more expensive than mediocrity"  
*Irwin Miller, Founder of Cummins Inc.*



# Challenges and Opportunities

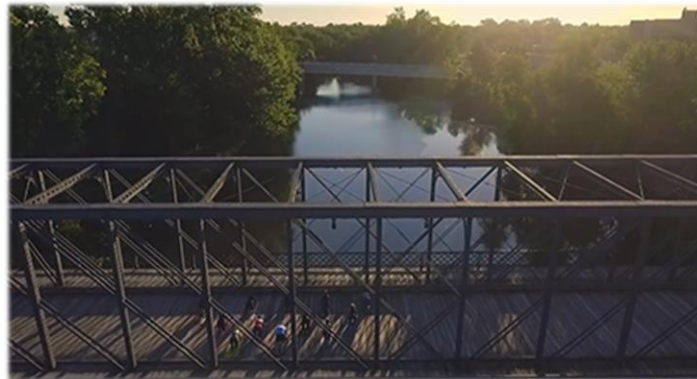


Average Monthly Residential Water Consumption

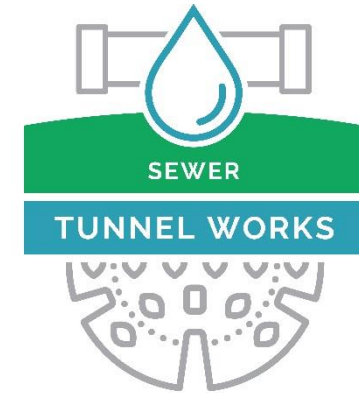




# Challenges and Opportunities



# Tunnel Works Update



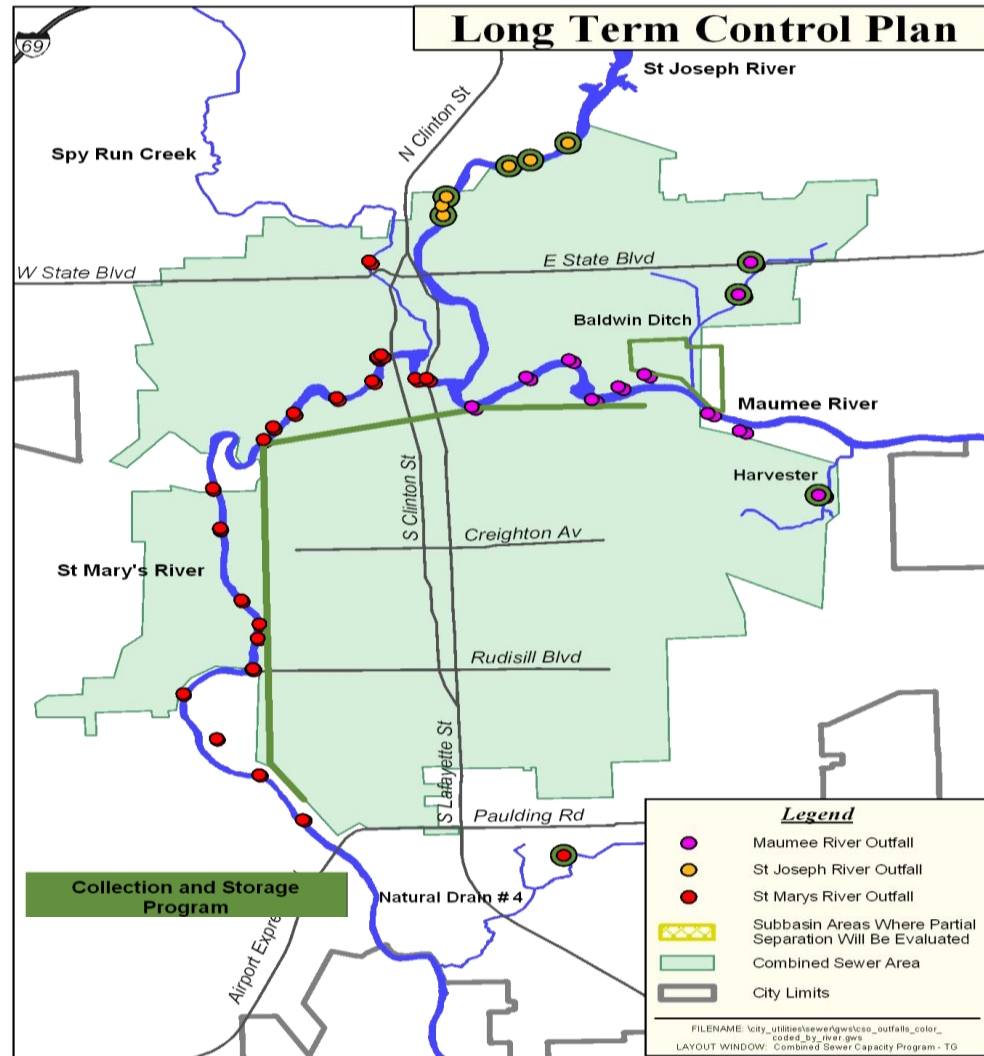
Mike Kiester & Frank Suárez

March 3, 2021





# Combined Sewer Overflow Points



# Tunnel Route



## 3RPORT

Three Rivers Protection  
and  
Overflow Reduction  
Tunnel

# Tunnel Works Terms



- **Combined Sewer** - Sewer pipes designed to collect both sanitary wastewater and rain or snowmelt runoff.
- **Combined Sewer Overflow** - The combined sewer overflows into our rivers during wet weather events, because it fills up to capacity. It works as it was designed to do and was accepted practice until the 1972 Clean Water Act was passed. This occurs an average of 72 times per year.
- **Consolidation Sewer** - A near-surface sewer that will be constructed to collect sewage from several existing sewers that will direct sewage to a drop shaft that connects to the deep rock tunnel.
- **Drop Shaft** - A four to eight feet diameter, vertical shaft that will provide the connection between near surface sewers and the tunnel, allowing wastewater to drop to the tunnel depth.



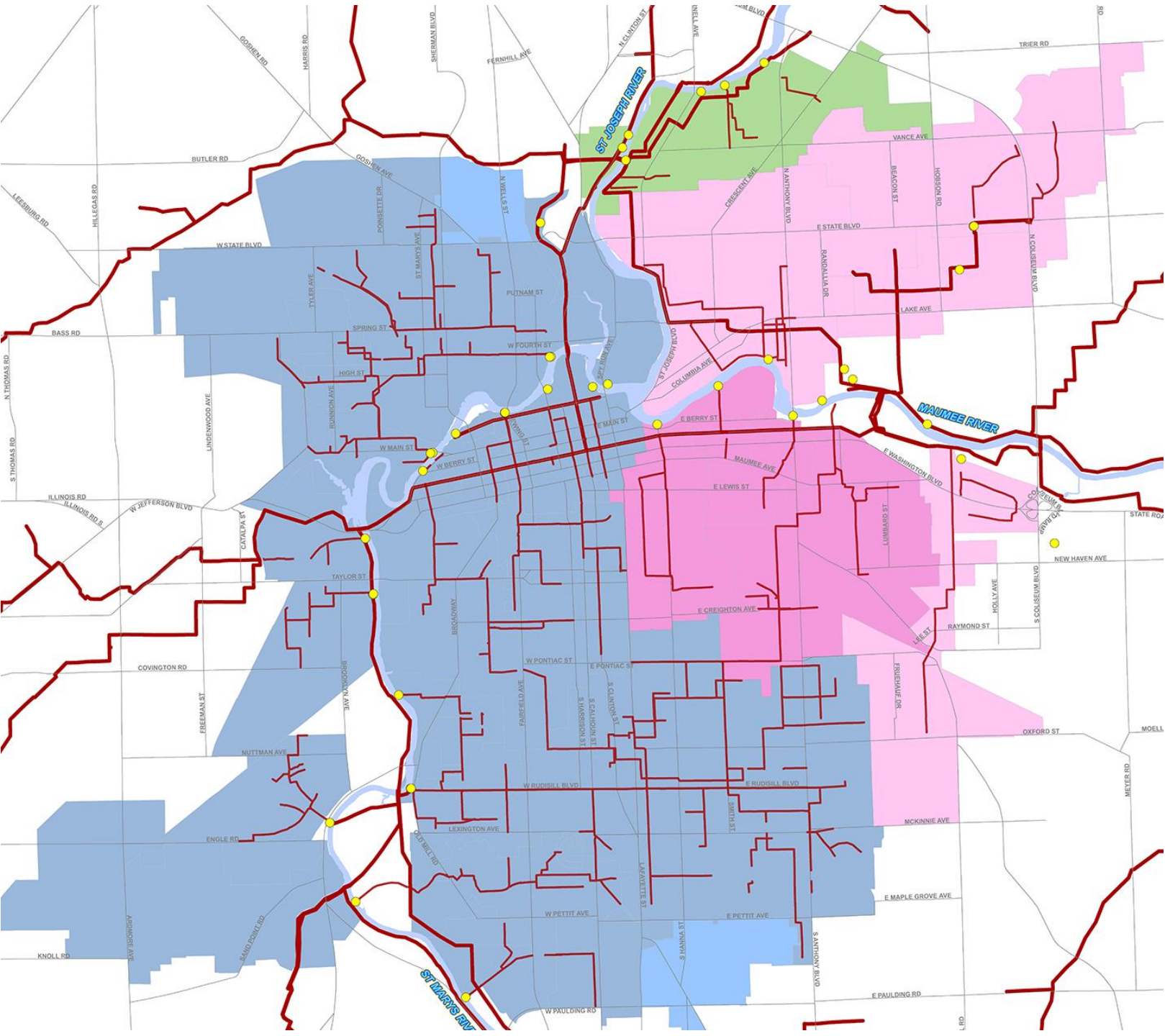


# MamaJo



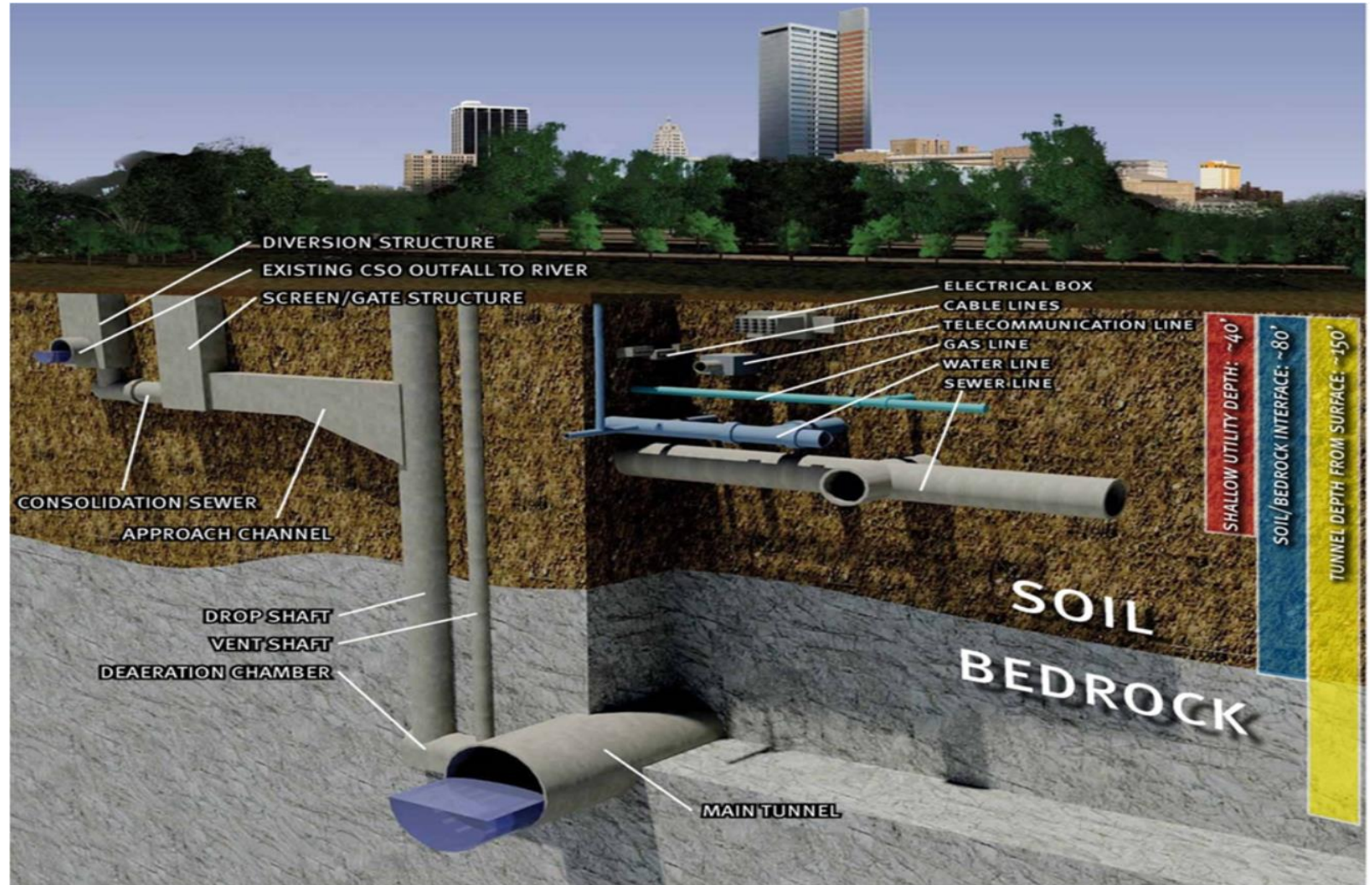


# Subbasins

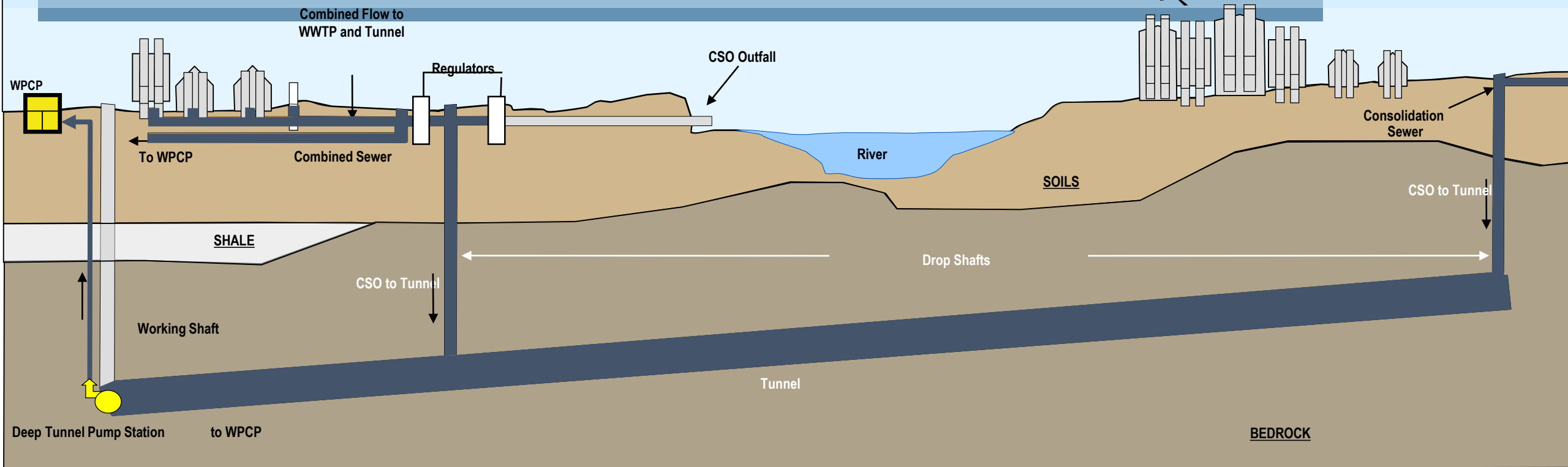
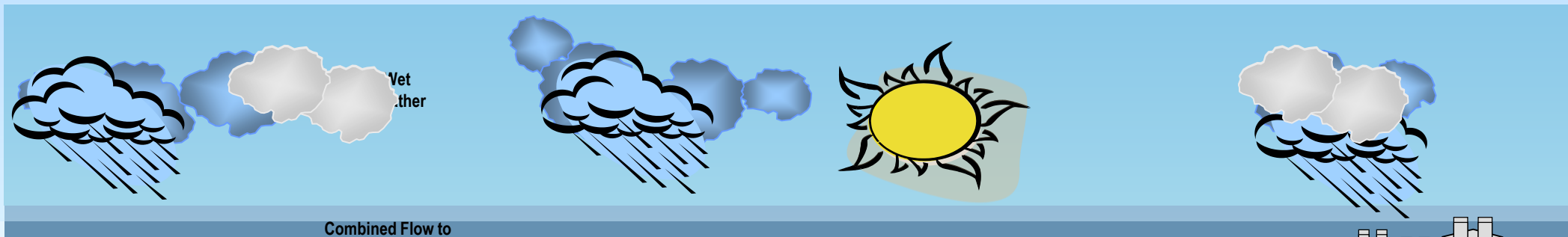


# Tunnel Connection

- 3RPORT Tunnel
- Drop & Vent Shafts
- Screen/Gate Structures
- Consolidation Sewers
- Diversion Structures



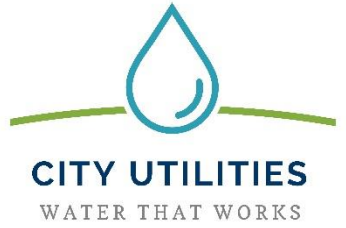
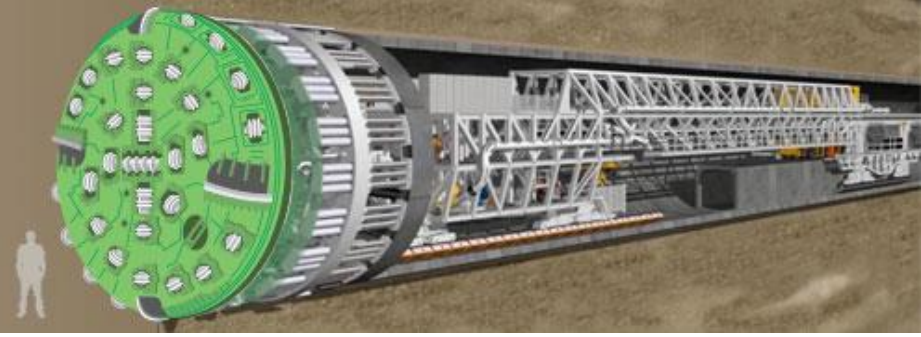




# Tunnel Operation



# MamaJo



220 Feet





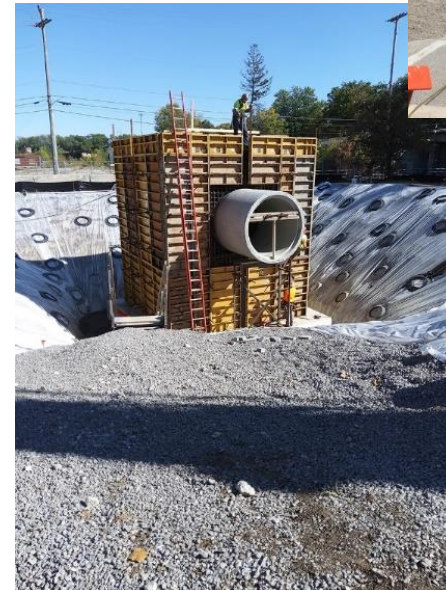
# Drop Shafts 12, 9, 7



7 – Guldlin Park  
Along the St. Marys River



9 – Headwaters Park West  
St. Marys River



12 – East Central Park  
Along the Maumee River



# Drop Shafts 6, 5



6 – Camp Allen Drive  
West Side of the St. Marys River



5 – Thieme & Berry  
East Side of the St. Marys River





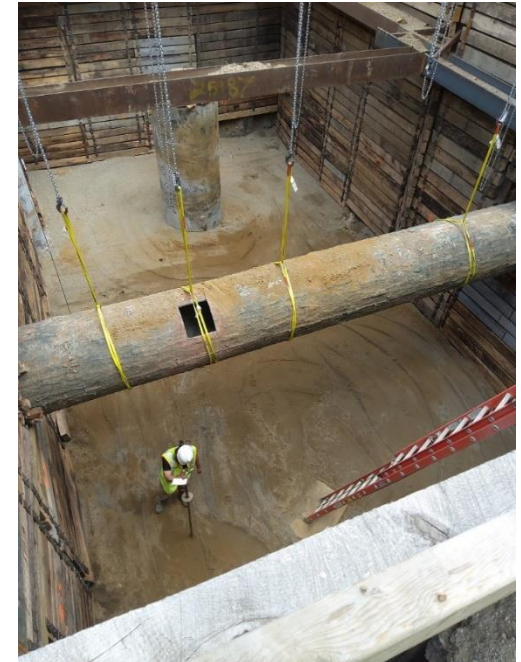
# Drop Shafts 3, 2



3 – Between Brown Street and Hale Avenue  
West Side of the St. Marys River



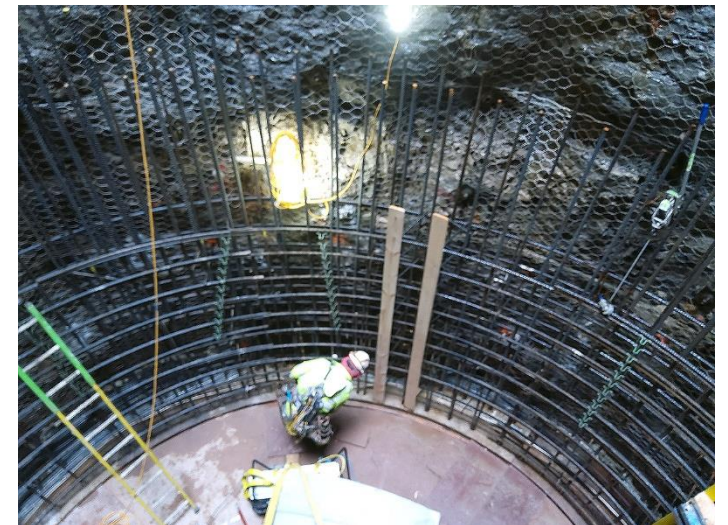
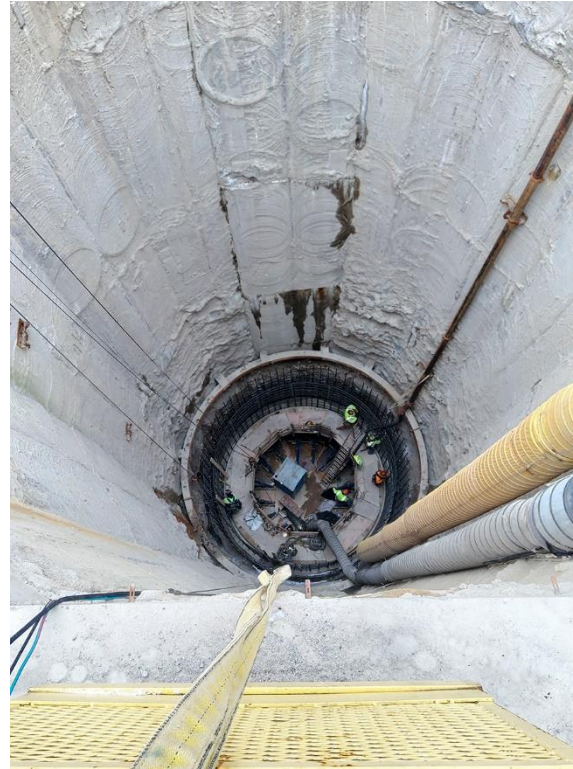
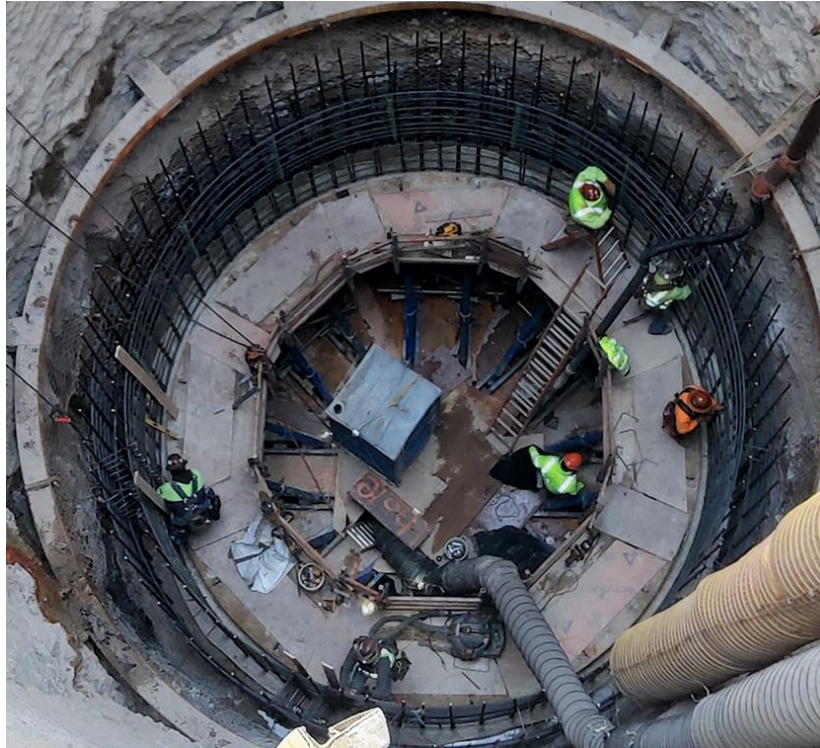
2 – Waldron Circle  
East Side of the St. Marys River





# Drop Shaft 1 - Retrieval Shaft

1 – Foster Park  
South Side of the St. Marys River





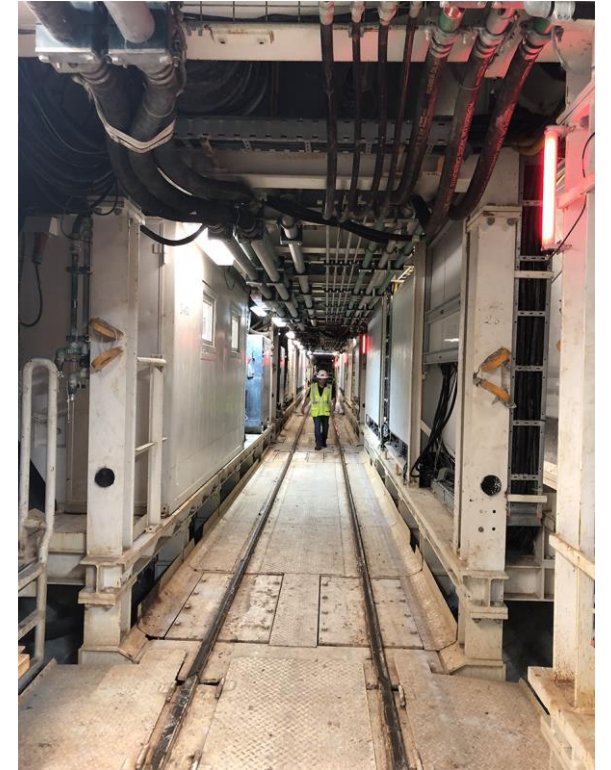
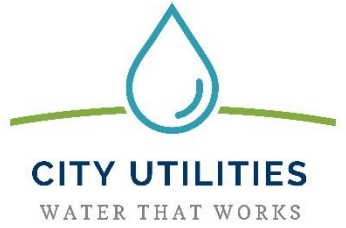
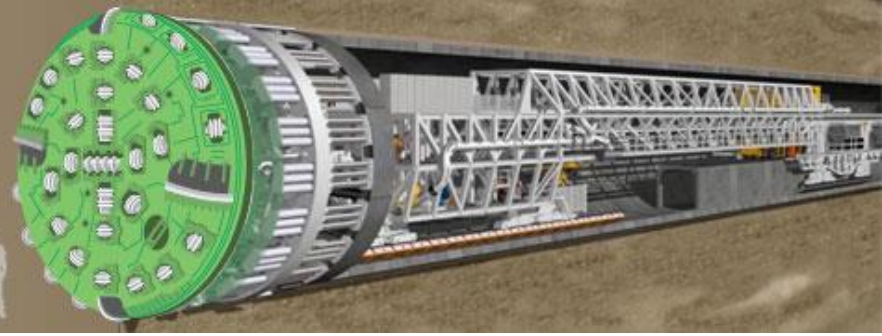
# Consolidation Sewers







# MamaJo

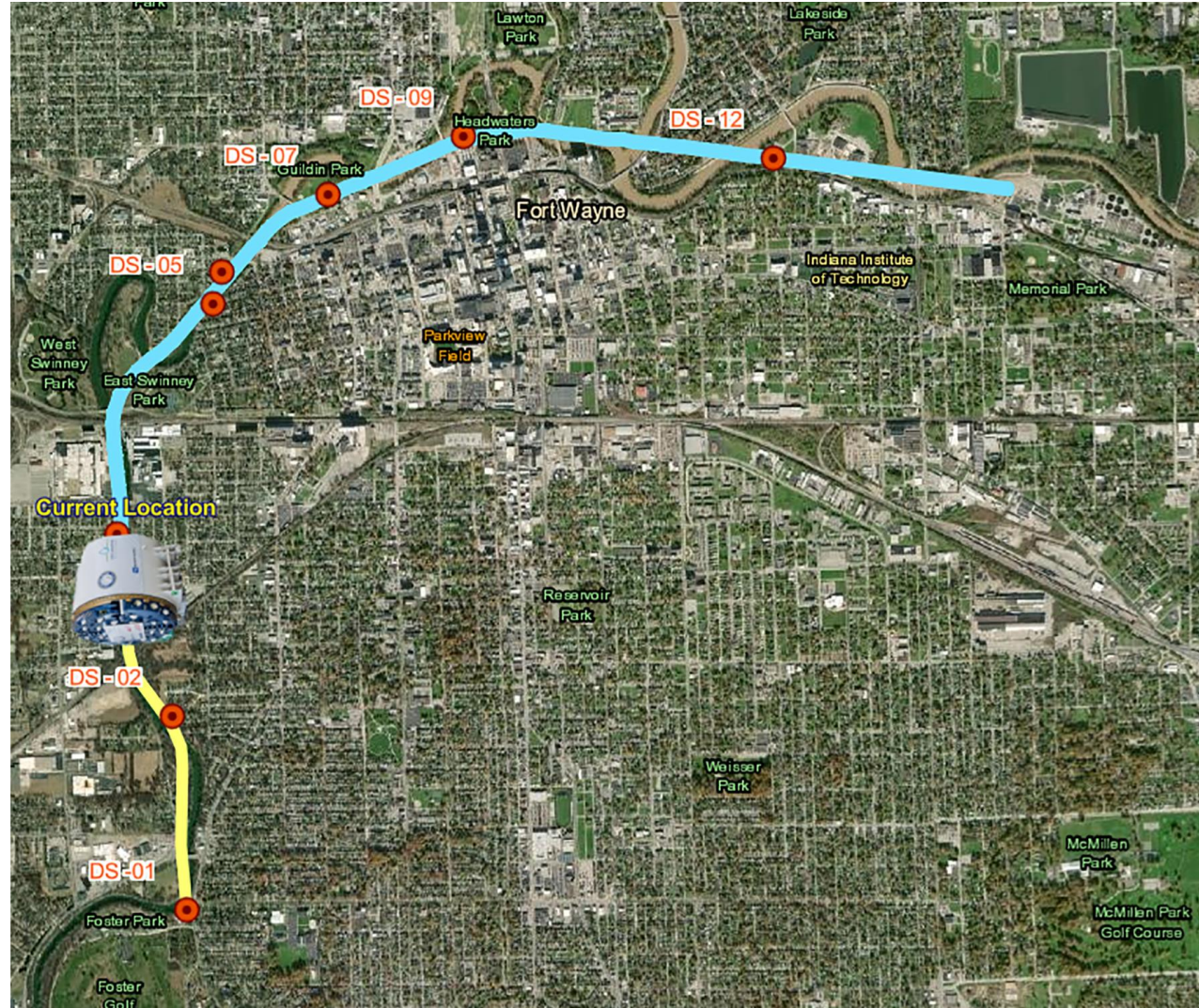


[cityoffortwayne.org/utilities](http://cityoffortwayne.org/utilities)





# MamaJo



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