

WPCLF Program Success Story

The Village of New Boston

The Village of New Boston is a small community in Scioto County, located along the Ohio River. Surrounded by the City of Portsmouth, the village has a population of approximately 2,255 and a median household income (MHI) of \$16,691.

In November 2016, Ohio EPA offered New Boston funding for Phase 4 of the village's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) improvement project, including a \$338,000 zero percent interest loan and \$719,000 in principal forgiveness funding.

Since 2013, the village has funded four CSO improvement projects; receiving \$2,022,418 in zero percent interest WPCLF loan funds and \$3,600,409 in principal forgiveness. The village has also received funding assistance from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (Section 594 program) and the Ohio Development Services Agency's Local Government Innovation Program. The Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) works closely with New Boston on the project.

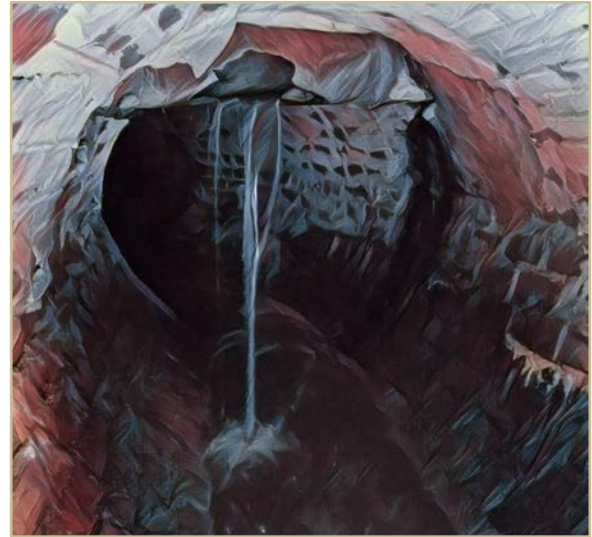
Challenge

The village owns and maintains a combined sewer collection system that flows to the City of Portsmouth's wastewater treatment plant. Under normal conditions, collected wastewater is treated and discharges to the Ohio River. During periods of wet weather, such as rain events or snow melt, the flow exceeds sewer capacity. Due to the system's condition and age, frequent CSOs were occurring, with untreated sewage overflowing into streets, rivers and streams, causing environmental damage as well as posing a risk to public health.

Under a U.S. EPA consent order, the village is required to upgrade the system on a compliance schedule. Severely fiscally constrained, residents were paying approximately 1.75 percent of their MHI for their annual sewer bill (a higher rate than the statewide average of 1.3 percent). The village itself was left with very little revenue for needed operation, maintenance and replacement (OM&R) costs.

Community and Environmental Benefits

In early field investigations, the village found that separating the combined sewers would be the most technically feasible and cost-effective solution. Determined to meet these challenges head-on, the village submitted a sewer separation plan to Ohio EPA to create a dedicated storm system, greatly reducing wet-weather intrusion into the sanitary sewers and forming the basis of planning for future CSO control projects. Downstream from the village, Ohio River water quality will continue to improve as they proceed with the next improvement phases.



Sewage pours from a broken sewer into a large pipe leading to the Ohio River.

Project Specifics

Location

The Village of New Boston, Scioto County, Ohio

Details

Received technical and financial assistance through the WPCLF, including zero percent interest rate loans and principal forgiveness funding for sewer separation and other wastewater collection system improvements.

WPCLF Funding

\$338,000 zero percent interest loan and \$719,000 in principal forgiveness funding for phase four of the CSO improvement project.

Environmental Impacts

Reduction in CSO discharges, water quality improvements and reduced pollution to the Ohio River.

Economic Impacts

Project affordability and savings to the community through reduced interest rate loan funding.

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To date, roughly 50 percent of the village’s combined sewers have been separated. Completed projects include CSO Improvements Phases 1-4, a Facilities Plan and Addendum, a CSO Abatement Facilities Plan, and a Wastewater Treatment Plant Feasibility Study. In collaboration with RCAP, the village has also invested in GIS systems mapping. Future projects include the replacement of the West Avenue Pump Station and CSO Improvements Phases 5-8.

Village administrators indicate that the success of these projects is due, in part, to the partnership with DEFA.

Resources

The WPCLF program provides below-market interest rate loans and technical assistance to help communities address their wastewater infrastructure needs. Specialized services can also be provided for small and hardship communities. For more information, please contact our office at (614) 644-2798 or visit epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx.