

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT & WATER CONSERVATION

OUR SEWER SYSTEMS FOR STORMWATER

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

These publicly owned systems of drains, pipes, ditches, and streets are designed to collect and transport stormwater to streams and rivers.

We are required to use best practices for our municipal operations in MS4 areas to reduce stormwater pollution, which includes:

- Oil and grease
- Soil and fertilizer
- Pesticides and toxic chemicals
- Road salt
- Plastics and trash

Combined Sewer System

This type of sewer system is designed to collect stormwater runoff, sewage, and industrial wastewater in the same pipe.

During dry weather, the sewer and industrial wastewater is carried to the wastewater treatment plant.

However, during wet weather, stormwater can overwhelm the system's capacity, causing:

- Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to streams and rivers
- Basement sewage backups
- Manhole sewer surcharges

OUR APPROACH

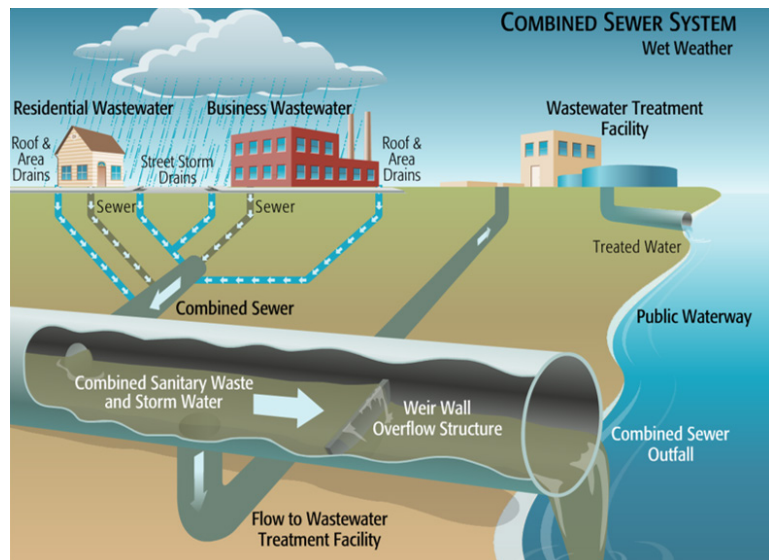
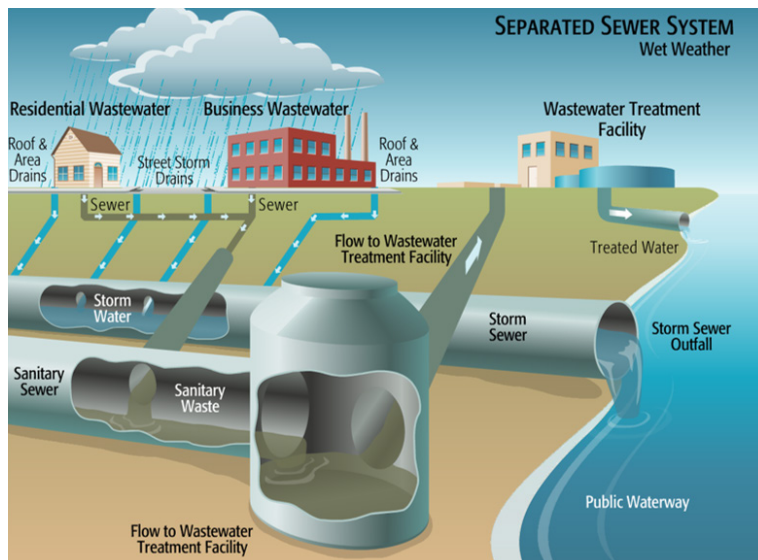
We are building stormwater improvement projects throughout the City of Pittsburgh.

We are using green stormwater infrastructure to capture rain where it falls, filter it, and slow the flow of stormwater into the sewer system.

Green stormwater infrastructure includes rain gardens, underground storage tanks, permeable pavement, and streambank restoration.

We are also planning to “daylight” some historic streams that had been buried in underground sewers by restoring them as surface streams.

Our approach is cost-effective, sustainable, and a resilient strategy for managing stormwater.



HELP REDUCE STORMWATER POLLUTION

- Pick up litter and pet waste
- Clean debris off the top of storm drains (the public should never reach inside a storm drain or lift the grate)
- Minimize application of pesticides and fertilizers
- Do not over-apply road salt

WATER CONSERVATION

Raw water from the Allegheny River is pumped and treated at the Aspinwall Water Treatment Plant and distributed to homes as drinking water. Our treatment plant produces approximately 70 million gallons of drinking water per day.

Leaks

An average household's leaks can waste 10,000 gallons of water each year. Repairing easily corrected leaks can save 10% on water bills. Detect leaks by:

- Checking water usage on our online portal or your meter
- Examining plumbing fittings
- Doing a dye test on your toilet tank water

More Tips

- Turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth saves 8 gallons of water a day
- Taking a shorter shower saves between 2 and 5 gallons of water each minute



The Hillcrest Stormwater Parklet Project in September 2019, 1.5 years after planting.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Stormwater

pgh2o.com/stormwater

Find Your Sewershed

pgh2o.com/find-your-sewershed

Help Manage Stormwater

pgh2o.com/help-manage-stormwater

Managing Separate Storm Sewers (MS4)

pgh2o.com/ms4

Tips for Residents

pgh2o.com/tips-maintenance-prevention

Common Issues & Questions

pgh2o.com/common-issues-questions

Water Conservation

pgh2o.com/water-conservation

Educational Resources

pgh2o.com/educational-resources

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Pittsburgh
Water & Sewer
Authority