








**Legend**

-  CSO Proposed Tunnel
-  Minne Lusa Stormwater Conveyance Sewer
-  CSO Targeted Sewer Separation
-  CSO Storage Tanks
-  Treatment Plants

**Neighborhood Opportunities**



*Tree & Sidewalk Replacement*



*Bike Lanes*

**Natural Solutions**



*Elmwood Park*



*Cole Creek*

**Funding the Program**

All residential, commercial and industrial ratepayers in the Omaha metro and suburban communities who use the regional sewer system will help pay the estimated \$2 billion (2011 dollars) for the required improvements. Residential sewer rates for an average home are expected to increase to around \$50 per month by the year 2017, which represents 60 percent of the revenue used to fund the improvements. Industrial and commercial users pay about 30 percent of the cost and regional customers who use the City's sewer services will pay about 10 percent of the cost.

**Ratepayer Assistance Program**

The CSO Program Study indicated increased rates could be a hardship for some residents. The City took a proactive role in finding a solution and created an assistance option for fixed and low income residents which was implemented in 2011. Residents will qualify for this assistance if they are receiving low income energy assistance (LIHEAP) from the State of Nebraska. If you need assistance call our Hotline at 402-341-0235.

**Job Creation  
Local Labor and Materials**

The City and the CSO Program actively encourages the use of local labor along with locally purchased or locally available materials. Through the Small and Emerging Business program of the City, businesses of many sizes have the opportunity to work on contracts or to bid on projects for their company. Over the course of the 18-year CSO Program, it is anticipated that over 2000 existing and new jobs will be part of the workforce. If you would like more information about Small and Emerging Business opportunities call: 402-444-5055.



**A Water Quality Improvement Program**



**CSO! Hotline:**

**402-341-0235**

CSO! Program Office • Central Park Plaza  
222 S 15th St., Ste. 1406  
Omaha, NE 68102-1602

# Clean Solutions For Omaha

After six years of planning, the Clean Solutions for Omaha (CSO!) Program is implementing the 18-year plan to improve water quality to the Missouri River and Papillion Creek. The effort involves a multi-solution plan to separate sewers, utilize natural solutions, build underground storage tanks and stormwater conveyance sewers, and expand wastewater treatment.

The CSO Program is an unfunded, federal mandate which requires Omaha to meet Federal Clean Water Act standards by October of 2027. The Program's challenge is to balance the need for regulatory compliance, economic affordability and community acceptance.

## Solutions that Work

The CSO Program is implementing solutions through an adaptive management process. This means the Program is continuously looking for ways to reduce the costs, evaluating alternate technologies, implementing natural solutions, and providing multiple community benefits in its project designs.

At this point, the plan includes targeted sewer separation east of 72nd street, a large stormwater conveyance tunnel, improvements and added capacity to the Missouri River Waste Water Treatment Plant, two high rate treatment plants, two underground storage tanks, lift station improvements, natural solutions and a deep conveyance tunnel connecting to the treatment plant.

## More than 100 Construction Projects are Part of the Plan

Several major projects are underway. These are excellent examples of the collaboration between the CSO Program, City, utilities, grant organizations and neighborhoods.

### Minne Lusa Basin Stormwater Conveyance Sewer Project

This project consists of approximately 6,100 feet of pipe, 14 feet in diameter. The pipe will carry stormwater gathered from John Creighton Boulevard and Paxton Boulevard to the Pershing and Storz West detention basin. It will reduce CSO overflows during wet weather and provide a natural storage solution to slow the flow of stormwater and allow pollutants to settle out before discharging to the Missouri River.

The Minne Lusa Stormwater Conveyance Project will begin tunnel construction in 2015. Construction of the two conveyance sewers feeding into this conveyance tunnel will follow. The John Creighton Boulevard project and the Paxton Boulevard project will both begin construction in 2018.



### Spring Lake Park Sewer Separation and Pond Restoration

The Spring Lake Park project is an example of the power of collaboration. The Nebraska Environmental Trust has awarded grants totaling \$1.2 million to help fund the restoration at Spring Lake Park. Other project partners include the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (P-MRNRD) and the City of Omaha Parks Department.



The CSO Program will utilize natural solutions to reduce costs by about \$7 million while restoring an amenity to the community. In the 1930's, Spring Lake Park pond was drained. The CSO Program will reintroduce a pond and

wetlands to the park and use them to collect stormwater during wet weather. This will help achieve the goals to reduce the number of overflows, improve the water quality, reduce cost and provide a long-term recreational benefit to the community.

### Aksarben and Elmwood Park

A noted park and green space, Elmwood Park quickly became an excellent place for natural solutions to complement the sewer separation needed in the Project area. A series of weir walls help slow the flow of wet weather water in the park and from the neighborhood using the land's natural slope and vegetation. In the Aksarben area, small bio-retention gardens with natural vegetation help slow the water and absorb it instead of the water running through pipes and dumping directly into the creek.

## The Community will Benefit

While the challenges are significant, there are also benefits for the community. Along with each project is an opportunity to consider neighborhood and community enhancements.

Where streets and curbs are removed for construction new streets, curbs, handicap ramps and driveway approaches will be installed to meet today's building codes. Where trees are removed, new trees or other natural solutions will replace them. Some projects, such as public art, decorative seating rain gardens and other ideas, may be appropriate for enhancements funded by neighborhoods through grants or other organizations.

