

Saddle Creek Area

55th Street to 64th Avenue Sewer Separation Project



COMPLETED:

August 2014



COST AT COMPLETION:

\$12,041,520



PROJECT LOCATION:

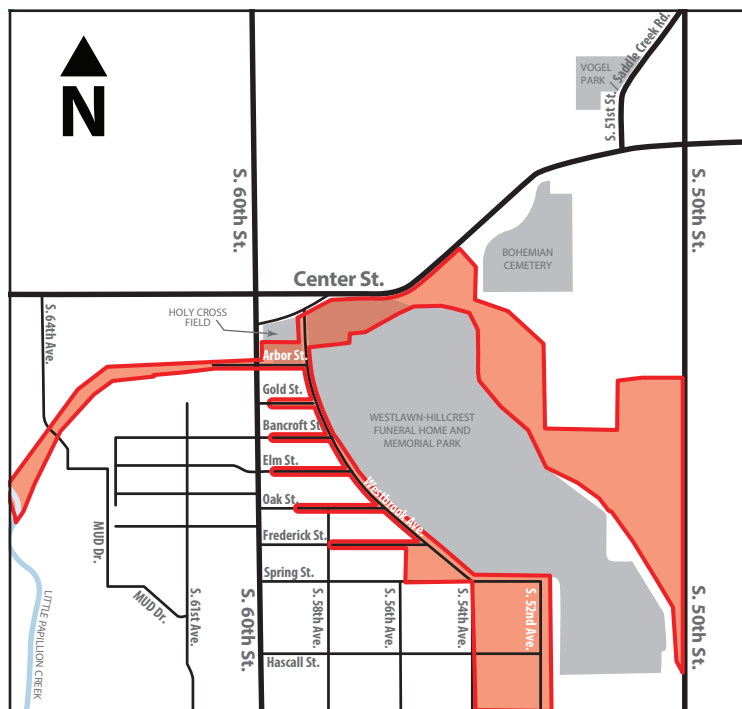
55th Street to 64th Avenue, south of Center Street

The intent of the Saddle Creek Area–55th Street to 64th Avenue Sewer Separation Project was to provide sewer separation to the area east of 60th Street and south of Center Street in the area of Saddle Creek Basin.

As a result of this project, flow from an un-named creek that flows through the Bohemian/Westlawn Cemetery area is now being conveyed directly to the Little Papillion Creek through a new storm sewer/open channel system instead of being collected in the Saddle Creek trunk sewer at approximately 55th and Center Streets. This project has reduced combined sewer flow in the Papillion Creek system, reduced treatment of stormwater flow at the Papillion Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility, and reduced the volume of combined sewer flows to the proposed Saddle Creek Retention Treatment Basin and downstream facilities. This project included green infrastructure designed to reduce peak flow runoff and provide wetland areas to create a natural stream channel. These green infrastructure features were jointly funded with the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Nebraska Environmental Trust

The Nebraska Environmental Trust was established in 1992 to conserve, enhance and restore the natural environments of Nebraska. It was created on the conviction that a prosperous future is dependent upon a sound natural environment and that Nebraskans could collectively achieve real progress on real environmental issues if seed money were provided.



A Water Quality Improvement Program



Omaha's wastewater infrastructure includes a combined sewer system. This system collects rainwater runoff, domestic sewage and industrial wastewater into a pipe conveyance system. In times of wet weather, the system has the potential to reach or exceed capacity causing backups or overflow to nearby streams, creeks and the Missouri River without treatment, causing potential risk to human health, wildlife and the environment. In 2006, in an effort to comply with Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) water quality requirements, the City of Omaha initiated the Clean Solutions for Omaha (CSO) Program to study, plan and update infrastructure to improve and ensure water quality in the community. **As a result, Omaha and its CSO Program are among more than 772 U.S. cities required by federal mandate to improve water quality in local rivers and streams.**

IMPROVED WATER QUALITY HAS BENEFITS

Updating infrastructure dating back to the 1860s certainly creates significant challenges, but not without benefit. Aside from improving water quality for the community, projects offer opportunities for additional neighborhood enhancements including new streets, curbs, pedestrian ramps compliant with the American Disabilities Act and driveway approaches. New trees, plants and other green infrastructure features, such as bioswales, rain gardens or ponds, for water retention add beauty and recreational features to some projects.

FUNDING THE PROGRAM

The CSO Program is primarily financed by 30-year revenue bonds issued in increments periodically, as approved by the Mayor and City Council. Sewer fees will be used to pay off the bonds—60% from residential customers, 30% from industrial and commercial users, and 10% from regional customers who use the City's sewer services.

RATEPAYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Recognizing that increased sewer use fees may become a hardship for some residents, in 2011 the City took a proactive role to identify and implement a Ratepayer Assistance Plan to help low and fixed income households. Ratepayers are eligible if they qualify and receive Lower Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) benefits from other local utilities. The Ratepayer Assistance Program helps keep administrative costs to a minimum while providing the maximum benefit to those who need it. **For assistance or to apply for Nebraska LIHEAP, call 800-383-4278.**

JOB CREATION: LOCAL LABOR AND MATERIALS

The City and the CSO Program actively encourage local labor and the use of locally purchased or locally available materials. Through the City's Small and Emerging Small Business (SEB) Program, businesses of all sizes have the opportunity to bid or work on CSO Program contracts and projects.

For more information about Small and Emerging Small Business opportunities, call 402-444-5055.



A City of Omaha Public Works Initiative

Report Street Flooding and Sewer Backups: **402-444-5332**

Contact the CSO Program Hotline: **402-341-0235**

Email: **Info@OmahaCSO.com**