



Clean Water Atlanta Hotline
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City of Atlanta

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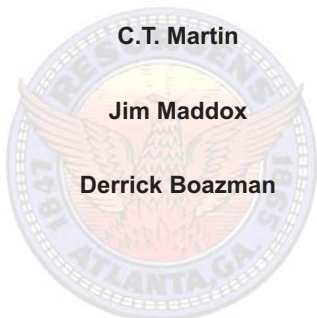
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Clean Water Atlanta is the City's comprehensive, long-term plan to ensure clean drinking water for Atlanta, and clean streams and clean wastewater flows for Atlanta and its downstream neighbors.

Objective – Create the cleanest urban streams and rivers in the country within a decade.

The specific five-point plan includes:

1. Ensure Professional Management of Consent Decree Program
 - Jack Ravan named as Commissioner of new Watershed Management Department
 - Rob Hunter to lead Clean Water Atlanta, including responsibility for Consent Decrees
 - City has full-time financial and legal staff for Clean Water Atlanta
2. Reduce Flooding and Pollution Caused by Stormwater
 - Implement a stormwater utility by the end of 2003, to provide funding for future improvements
 - Develop a long-term master plan to reduce stormwater flooding and reduce pollution
 - Maximize use of natural pollution-reduction methods such as greenspace and ponds
 - Involve the public in the implementation of the stormwater utility
3. Monitor Water Quality of Atlanta's Streams and Rivers to Ensure Programs Are Effective
 - Partner with USGS, to implement comprehensive water quality monitoring plan
 - Monitor 40 sites initially, with 20 permanent sites over the next decade
 - Track water quality improvements associated with Clean Water Atlanta initiative
 - Oversight role by Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
4. Eliminate Sanitary Sewer Spills
 - Implement "Operation Clean Sewer," an aggressive preventive maintenance program that will achieve a "Best in Class" rating through the following components:
 - ✓ Clean 25% of the sewer system per year, to achieve "best in class" category
 - ✓ Physically inspect (SSES) 15% of the sewer system per year
 - ✓ Re-line 24 miles of sewer per year
 - ✓ Fully incorporate activities of new grease management program
 - Achieve all Consent Decree obligations by 2012 – 2 years ahead of schedule!
5. Implement a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Plan to Achieve Highest Water Quality at Lowest Cost Within Shortest Time Frame
 - Separate two full basins (Greensferry and McDaniel) and one sub-basin (Stockade) and eliminate two CSO facilities
 - Achieve 90% separation of City's total sewer system
 - Construct tunnel storage and treatment system to capture and treat 99% of the sewage and 85% of stormwater from remaining combined area
 - Reduce overflows from 60+ per year at existing CSO facilities to an average of four per year at the four remaining CSO facilities (from more than 300 to an average of 16)
 - Lower cost (and higher water quality) than full separation and original authorized plan
 - Can be completed within court-ordered deadline (November 2007)
 - Renewed commitment to achieve 100% separation within 25 years

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Basin – A segment or portion of a larger watershed area, based on the natural water drainage pattern.

Combined Sewer System – A one-pipe sewer system in which a single pipe collects both sewage and stormwater. In dry weather, all flow goes to a wastewater treatment plant. During wet weather, some flow may be diverted to CSO treatment facilities for storage and/or treatment. In heaviest rainfall, combined sewage flow may be discharged directly to streams

Consent Decree – A negotiated agreement by the City to implement a court-ordered directive to evaluate and implement short and long-term plans for eliminating water quality violations. The City is currently operating under two consent decrees that resulted from lawsuits against the City, filed by the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, later joined by EPA and EPD. Two separate consent decrees address combined sewer overflows (**CSO Consent Decree**) and sanitary sewer overflows (**First Amended (SSO) Consent Decree**).

CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) – Designed discharge from a combined sewer system into a stream. Usually occurs during heavy rainfall.

EPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: the federal agency responsible for enforcing the Clean Water Act and other federal environmental regulations.

EPD - Georgia Environmental Protection Division: the Georgia agency responsible for enforcing EPA regulations as well as state environmental standards.

First Amended Consent Decree – A second Consent Decree agreement, signed in 1999, that addresses Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) and operation of the City's wastewater treatment plants.

Impervious Surface – A surface that does not allow water or other liquids to pass through it (for example, pavement).

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; pollution control permits are issued under this system.

Separated Sewer System – A two-pipe sewer system in which one pipe collects sewage and sends it to a wastewater treatment plant and the other pipe collects storm water, which is typically discharged to a stream.

SSES - Sewer System Evaluation Survey (also Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey): A process of inspecting the inside of sewer pipes, using techniques such as Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), smoke testing, dye testing, flow monitoring and inspections to detect potential problems in sewer systems. The City's SSES program, which began in June 2002, will address the entire system (2,200 miles) of pipe in the City.

SSO (Separate/Sanitary Sewer Overflow) – Sewage that flows out of a sanitary sewer pipe or overflow from a manhole onto the surface or into a stream. SSOs are a violation of the Clean Water Act.

SSO Remediation Deadline – All construction associated with meeting the terms of the First Amended Consent Decree (FACD) must be completed by July 2014. Failure to meet this deadline, and interim milestone deadlines in the FACD, will result in severe monetary penalties and a moratorium on development in the city.

Storm water – Rainfall or other forms of precipitation. **Storm water runoff** is the result of storm water washing across impervious surfaces, carrying with it the pollutants found on streets, parking lots, rooftops, etc. These pollutants end up in streams and rivers. Storm water runoff contributes from 60 to 80% of total water pollution.

Tunnelling – Use of an underground tunnel to convey wastewater, storm water or combined flows to a treatment facility. Atlanta is already served by two wastewater tunnels - Three Rivers and Intrenchment Creek. A tunnel will be constructed in the Nancy Creek sewer basin to convey sanitary sewer flows from DeKalb to the R.M. Clayton WRC, providing relief from sewage overflows for northeast Atlanta residents. To address CSOs, tunnels will be constructed on the west and east sides of Atlanta.

Wastewater – Water that has been discharged from homes and commercial and industrial establishments following use.

Watershed – The area of land that drains to a creek, stream or river.