

The existing Storm Water Fee has allowed the City of Chicopee to accomplish many improvements in 2002

- Installed new drains and sewer pipes in areas off East Main Street (35 Streets) and on Front and Grape Streets, eliminating sewer runoff into the Chicopee River and sewer backups in those areas.
- Cleaned 939 catch basins and removed 672 tons of sand, dirt, and trash.
- Camera inspected 14,712 feet of sewer main pipe and root treated 33,751 feet of pipe at 141 locations, lessening blockages.
- Cleaned 185,064 feet of sewer main pipes on 154 streets and cleaned 3,403 feet of drainage pipe at 27 locations.
- \$40,000 to repair pipe joints throughout the City.
- The Water Pollution Control Facility cleaned 3,600,000,000 gallons of wastewater and removed 14,400,000 pounds of pollutants during the past year.
- Ability to borrow \$5.3 million from the state at 0% interest.



Please feel free to contact the treatment facility with any more questions that you may have. We would like to know what you think!

**Water Pollution Control
Facility
80 Medina Street
Chicopee MA 01013**

**Thomas Hamel: Chief
Operator
(413) 594-3585**

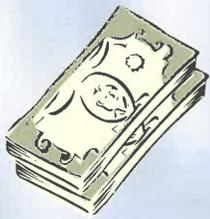


Ej

Storm & Sewer Fee



**What it does
for you**



Your Sewer Dollars Work Hard

Chicopee has been a city since 1890, so there are many underground pipe systems needing work. During rain storms untreated water enters the Chicopee and the Connecticut Rivers. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates that changes be made so that water is treated before being released to both rivers.

An aging one-pipe system which carries both rainwater and sewage cause City-wide sanitary problems including sewer backups, street flooding, and increased bacteria in the Chicopee and Connecticut Rivers.

Since very limited money comes from the federal and states government, we are required to make improvements which will be paid for by those using the system. To lessen the burden on ratepayers, EPA required projects are proposed in phases over a multi- year period. To meet this unfunded mandate the storm fee has been increased by \$5.00 for each quarter and the sewer fee will be increased by 8 cents per 100 cubic feet, effective OCTOBER 1, 2003.

Q. What will the Storm Fee \$5.00/quarter increase do?

- Made it possible to receive and pay for a 20 year state low interest loan of \$4.3 million for sewer projects.
- Funded new sewers and storm drains in the Sandy Hill area off Granby Road (11 streets) and the Whittlesey Avenue area in Fairview.
- Elimination of a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) to the fishing area on the Chicopee River.
- Reductions in CSO's at the Deady Bridge and Paderewski Street.
- Sewer repairs on Grattan Street.
- Treatments of CSO flows at the Water Pollution Control Facility.

Future Improvements

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to mandate that the City make improvements to our aging sewer system.

What needs to be done?

- Two very large projects in the Fairview Area would separate sewers from the storm drains and eliminate the health hazard of sewage backups into homes.
- Treatment of Combined Sewer Overflows at Jones Ferry Road
- Pipeline repairs on Granby Road, McKinstry Avenue, Irene Street, and East Main Street
- The cost for the above work could be \$28,000,000. These funds are not available from either the federal or state governments. The EPA expects local users of the system to pay for these projects.

To pay for this project the Sewer Commission has proposed a gradual increase in rates over a five year period, amounting to an average annual increase of \$30 a year. Without funding these projects cannot be carried out.