ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Since 1987, Akron has spent more than $390 million to improve its sewer system, including millions of dollars on engineering studies of the sewer system and the receiving streams to meet EPA requirements, including upgrades to Akron wastewater treatment plant, the Akron Water Reclamation Facility in the Cuyahoga Valley.

In 2002, to show good faith and to end the most significant sewer overflows, Akron spent over $23 million to build a storage basin on Cuyahoga Street – which holds 9.5 million gallons of water and sewage from the combined sewers until it can be safely treated when the rain event ends. This project alone accounts for 33 percent of the volume of overflows within Akron’s system.

Akron has been working to find an acceptable and cost effective way to deal with combined sewer overflows since 1993. Akron introduced a comprehensive plan to address the issue in 2002, which was not approved. In 2008, the City, the U.S. EPA, and the Ohio EPA reached an agreement that was rejected by the federal judge in Akron, and has continued working on projects to improve CSO control throughout this period.

The City developed an Integrated Plan which was submitted to the U.S. EPA August of 2015.

OUR MISSION
To invest in Akron’s environmental future by building infrastructure for the next century that will protect public health and maintain water of the highest quality in the most cost-effective manner and provide local jobs.

OUR VISION
Akron, Ohio will be recognized as a community that has used the Integrated Planning approach in re-building its infrastructure to meet all of its needs with more affordable benefits that are achieved earlier. We can provide effective and efficient wastewater and storm water management services while protecting the environment for this and future generations.

As the Integrated Plan evolves, City officials and their consultants will re-engage with residents in all wards of the City with program updates.

In 2015, several City of Akron employees have received State and National recognition for their work in water, wastewater and engineering, including Jim Hewitt, City Engineer, Pat Gsellman, Akron Waterways Renewed! Program Manager, Thomas Smith, III, Public Utilities Commissioner, Jim Aiken, Sewer Maintenance Supervisor, and Brian Grosser, Water Reclamation Services Manager.

In 2015, Akron Waterways Renewed! was submitted to the U.S. EPA for approval.

One of Akron’s most valuable assets is its abundant supply of fresh water. It represents an important asset that has benefitted the people of Akron for over a century, and which has supported Akron’s economic growth and prosperity and provided water resources for its residents. Now, Akron is making the largest investment in its environmental future in its 189 year history.
In 2014, the City of Akron broke ground on the first in a series of projects that will begin the largest single investment in city infrastructure in Akron’s 189 year history. The Cascade Village Storage Basin is the first project in the new construction initiative that will address the City’s combined sewer overflows, with the potential to restore Akron waterways and the health of its environment and the protection of its water to a level not seen in six generations.

### THE HISTORY

**Fixing The Mistakes Of Past Generations**

Akron was founded as a “cana town” in 1825 and has been linked to the Ohio & Erie Canal and the Cuyahoga River ever since. Akron grew because of the two waterways and its factories, which used the waters of the river and the canal to create booming new industries. They also used the streams and waterways as dumping grounds for wastes as well.

Akron grew wildly between 1910 and 1920 because of boom in the rubber shops. Sewers were hastily installed and were never sufficiently sized to handle the surge of new housing. In 1922, the City started work on a new sewage treatment plant in the Cuyahoga Valley. The City started installing sewers to assist Ohio cities, but the burden falls on the ratepayers of the system: the homeowners.

During periods of heavy rains each year, Akron’s combined sewers continue to deliver sewage to our waterways. The current price tag under the Federal Consent Decree for Akron to realize a goal of eliminating combined sewer overflows in a typical year is $1.4 billion.

### THE REASON

**Why We Are Making This Investment**

For most of the 20th century, there would be times during heavy rain events that solid wastes were flushed into our waterways, including the Cuyahoga River, the Little Cuyahoga River and the Ohio & Erie Canal.

In 1972, President Nixon signed the Clean Water Act to restore the physical and biological integrity of the nation’s waters by preventing pollution from all sources. The Act’s subsequent amendments have regulated discharge of pollutants into America’s waterways.

In 2014, the City announced a program to train Akron residents to get their Commercial Driver Licenses (CDLs) and employ those Akron residents to assist in site work where needed. Training was provided at no cost, with a requirement to work for the City for at least 90 days, if needed. Workforce Development

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### THE COST

**Why Our Sewer Rates Increased**

During periods of heavy rains each year, Akron’s combined sewers continue to deliver some sewage to our waterways. The current price tag under the Federal Consent Decree for Akron to realize a goal of eliminating combined sewer overflows in a typical year is $1.4 billion.

### THE BENEFITS

**What Will We Get For Our Investment?**

Clean waterways — our rivers and canals will be restored to a level not seen in six generations. We will invest in our environment for the coming century, recognizing that the Integrated Planning approach will be able to address the most pressing public health and environmental protection issues first and meet existing regulatory standards.

The project will produce the greatest environmental benefits since the first Europeans moved to the east side of the Portage Path in 1805, and began polluting the water along the little Cuyahoga River at Case Avenue with their woolen and grist mills.

### Fixing The Mistakes Of Past Generations

Akron was founded as a “cana town” in 1825 and has been linked to the Ohio & Erie Canal and the Cuyahoga River ever since. Akron grew because of the two waterways and its factories, which used the waters of the river and the canal to create booming new industries. They also used the streams and waterways as dumping grounds for wastes as well.

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