



# SewerWorks

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## KEEP OUT!

### GREASE IS BAD FOR THE SEWERS

When “Fats, Oils and Grease” (FOG) are poured or washed down the sink, they travel down the drain and stick to the wall of the sewer pipe. Over time, the grease accumulates and can cause a blockage that impedes the flow of sewage down the pipe. Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment.

#### You can help prevent sewer overflows

By following these easy steps, sewers can be kept clean and blockages can be avoided.

##### Step 1 – Cooking Oil Disposal

When finished cooking, let the oil cool and pour it into a container, such as a coffee can. Then simply throw the container in the garbage can for disposal.

##### Step 2 – Greasy Pans

Prior to washing greasy pots and dishes, wipe clean with a disposable towel.

##### Step 3 – Food Scraps

Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and any other solids, and empty into the trash.

## EMERGENCY PLANNING

### Preparing for the New Norm

With the increased frequency of intense weather, GNHWPCA has taken steps to improve emergency preparations, response, and recovery. As part of the Authority's Emergency Response Plan, GNHWPCA is a member of CTWARN, a Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN). CTWARN is comprised of utilities who provide assistance to each other in the form of personnel and resources during emergencies. The GNHWPCA has been a member since 2008. Membership improves our ability to recover and restore facilities more quickly in the event of an emergency. Both water and wastewater utilities in Connecticut are members and, through this network, work together to restore facilities and repair damages done in communities served. For more information on CTWARN visit [www.ctwarn.org](http://www.ctwarn.org)



### Meet One of Our Board Members

It has always been important to me to be protective of the environment and open spaces. Nature preserves, trails, stream and wetlands have been a love of mine in the small Town of Woodbridge where I reside. Before Woodbridge became part of the GNHWPCA, I served as a member of the Woodbridge Sewer Commission and on other Commissions. My interests and environmental concerns have always prompted me to advocate for clean water, effective sewage and waste treatment mechanisms with environmentally sound infrastructure. It's always a challenge to promote these goals and at the same time maintain affordable rates. The GNHWPCA is a very environmentally conscious organization with a highly committed Board of Directors and a competent and dedicated staff. The GNHWPCA as with all the other WPCA's is heavily regulated by State and Federal laws and regulations. I have always been sensitive to our rate payer's ability to afford the operation and maintenance of our system. At the same time I am enthusiastic about our efforts to lessen the pollution of our greatest natural resource—Long Island Sound. All of the work that the GNHWPCA performs has a positive impact on the environment. Another aspect of the work being done by the GNHWPCA is the creation of jobs for people who live in our community. It is my hope that when the day comes when I leave the Board of Directors, I will be remembered as one that worked hard to protect and improve our environment while keeping rates affordable. I want to recognize and thank our Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer for the work they do to achieve the goals that I and the other members of the Board have laid out for them.

—Jeffrey D. Ginzberg

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## What the Connecticut Clean Water Fund Means to the GNHWPCA Rate Payers

Maintaining sewage treatment plants, pumping stations and facilities operating on a 24/7 basis is a costly endeavor. The Authority continually invests in new technologies to ensure that sewage is treated and then returned to the New Haven Harbor within strict permitted standards.

Fortunately, the Connecticut Clean Water Fund (CWF) established in 1986 provides significant financial assistance to Municipalities for planning, design and construction of wastewater collection and treatment projects. This program was designed to provide a combination of grants and loans to Municipalities which undertake water pollution control projects in accordance with guidelines developed by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Depending on the type of project, Municipalities can receive between a 20 percent and 50 percent grant of the total project costs and a low interest (2 percent) loan for the balance of the project costs. Projects qualify for the grants through a priority points system that gives the most points to projects that have the most

significant benefit to the environment. New Haven's proximity to the Long Island Sound and the fact that we operate Combined Sewerage Systems are factors that place us at the top of the priority list for these funds.

Since the Authority's regionalization in 2005, we have secured over \$26M in CWF Grant money going toward over \$105M of treatment plant upgrade projects. Combined Sewerage Systems are factors that place us at the top of the priority list for these funds. This program is extremely valuable as it not only renews infrastructure but also protects the environment while creating jobs for the Greater New Haven Area.



Contractor installs 72" reinforced concrete storm sewer on Trumbull Street. This work is part of a \$16.8M project funded with a 50 percent DEEP Clean Water Fund Grant and 50 percent low interest loan. Forty percent of the loan portion is paid by the City of New Haven and 60 percent by the GNHWPCA.

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority recently began enhancing our Business Continuity Plan (BCP). Business continuity planning is the practice of putting advanced preparations into place in order to minimize impact that can result from major storms or similar disruptive incidents. The greatest threats to providing the critical service of treating wastewater are severe storms such as hurricanes and Nor'easters that can result in flooding and create extreme demands on the sanitary and storm sewer infrastructure that properly treat wastewater. Leading toward a goal of business resiliency for anticipated and unanticipated incidents of great magnitude, the Authority has contracted with Gradient Planning, a consulting firm that specializes in facilitating such business continuity planning processes for the water/wastewater industry. Gradient Planning will aid in the creation of a formalized plan that will integrate all existing recovery plans.

The Authority is committed to having the plan completed by the Fall of this year. Developing the plan at the senior management level demonstrates the commitment that the GNHWPCA Board of Directors and Officers have to the community and regulatory agencies that it serves.

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