

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES

STATE PROGRAM: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Upper Sandusky

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$27.3M



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Upper Sandusky is a small community in northwest Ohio with less than 7,000 people. Like many communities in the state, it has a combined sewer system that overflows during wet weather, which leads to water quality and potential public health problems. The city's WWTP experiences bypasses during excessive wet weather events, and during one storm in 2011, discharged 9.28 million gallons into the Sandusky River. To help address the bypasses and remaining CSOs, Upper Sandusky received a \$27 million loan from Ohio EPA's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to increase the treatment capacity and capability of the WWTP. The low loan rate of 0.1% saved the small community \$18 million. Since the WWTP discharges to the Sandusky River, which is both a State Scenic River and a major tributary to Lake Erie, Upper Sandusky has also added phosphorus removal to its treatment process. Other aspects of the project include influent sewer improvements, preliminary treatment, and UV disinfection, among other upgrades that will increase treatment capacity and energy efficiency and reduce nutrient loading in Lake Erie.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/documents/pisces_2019_compendium.pdf.