

Pipelines

April 2019

A Master Plan for a Better System

Greene County Sanitary Engineering Department (GCSED) has engaged a team of experts to complete the GCSED **Water System Model and Water Master Plan** to continue our daily efforts to protect your investment, ensure water quality, and plan for future growth. We are exploring potential water softening options through a detailed plant and process analysis.

We are planning to present the Water Master Plan findings and listen to your feedback at public meetings later this year. We look forward to working with you to provide a high-quality water supply and delivery today and for generations to come.

Come learn about the water treatment process at GCSED water facility located at 1122 Beaver Valley Road. Call 937-562-7100 to schedule your tour.



Did You Know GCSED...

- Provides almost 2 billion gallons of drinking water annually;
- Services nearly 18,000 water customers; and
- Maintains nearly 400 miles of water lines, 13 elevated storage tanks, and 18 water wells.

Sewer Back Ups: Causes and Next Steps

Sometimes our sewer system surcharges, causing overflows where they are not supposed to be. Pipe blockages, infrastructure failure, illegal/illicit connections, vandalism, capacity limitations, and extreme storm events can cause sewer system surcharges. These surcharges can overflow from a manhole or into a basement or otherwise onto private property. GCSED continually tracks, analyzes, and develops capital projects to strategically mitigate these throughout our system.

Below is what you should do and expect if you experience a sewer surcharge. In the meantime, please follow the flushing Dos and Don'ts on the back of this newsletter.

- Call the GCSED at **(937) 562-7450**.
- The Utility Maintenance (UM) division will respond and investigate in a timely manner.
- UM will perform an inspection and courtesy flush of the system to try to determine the root cause of the surcharge.
- Keep in mind that blockages within your sewer lateral are your responsibility.
- If the cause is determined to be that of GCSED, our Customer Service group will work with you to determine the extent of damages and an action plan to correct the situation within a timely manner.

Greene County Sanitary Engineering Department

Administration Building

Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
937-562-7450

667 Dayton-Xenia Road
Xenia, OH 45385

After-Hours Emergencies

937-562-7450

Billing/Bill Payments

937-562-7457

You can pay your bills online with a credit/debit card at:
www.co.greene.oh.us/sanitary
by phone at: 855-699-4600; or

mail to new address at:
Greene County Sanitary
Engineering Department
P.O. Box 340
Xenia, OH 45385-0340

*Remember to update your GCSED online banking vendor address. Some banks send your payment via USPS rather than ACH transaction.

www.co.greene.oh.us/sanitary



Spotlight: The Engineering Group

The Sanitary Engineer heads the engineering group, which consists of inspection staff and project coordinators. This group is responsible for the engineering functions of the department.

Engineers manage all of the water and sewer construction projects for the utility whether paid from County funds or by private developers. They review and approve all plans for expansion and issue permits for service connections once the new water and sewer mains are approved. The inspectors ensure that all work is completed to County specifications and regulations.

This group is also responsible for managing and maintaining all of the records for constructed projects allowing for the proper maintenance of all of the assets of the utility. These records are invaluable when locating our existing lines for construction by other utilities such as Vectren and fiber optic companies.

Flushing Dos and Don'ts

Flushing items you're not supposed to can lead to clogged or blocked pipes, which can cause damage and expensive repairs. Below are some dos and don'ts for what to flush:

DO

- Human waste
- Other body fluids
- Toilet paper

DON'T

- Tissues
- Paper towels
- Wet wipes, including those labeled "flushable"
- Medicines and other drugs
- All feminine sanitary products (tampons, pads, panty liners)
- Diapers
- Any animal, including goldfish



Potential Savings for Summer Irrigation, Recreation Water Usage

During summer months, customers using more water for irrigation and outdoor recreation can lead to higher sewer charges. Water used for these purposes that is **NOT measured separately by a special meter** is charged at the standard water and sewer rates (typically an added cost of \$12.09 for each additional 1,000 gallons). However, water used for outdoor purposes and measured with a special meter is charged at the irrigation service rate of \$5.62 per 1,000 gallons. This will also reduce your sewer charges because irrigation water is not discharged to the sanitary sewer system for treatment at our wastewater treatment plants.

What Meter Options are Available?

- 1) **Irrigation system meter** – Customers with these meters are charged a one-time connection fee, \$8.33 per month, and are required to obtain annual backflow certification from a qualified plumber.
- 2) **Deduct meter** – Customers with these meters are charged a one-time connection fee, \$8.33 per month, and are required to obtain annual backflow certification from a qualified plumber.
- 3) **Hose-bib meters** – Detachable hose-bib meters are also available for one-time or short-term use, such as filling a pool or watering new sod. These meters are provided by the county for a rental fee of \$20 for four business days, \$50 for half season (July 15 – Oct 15), or \$100 per season (April 15 through October 15).

Should I Have a Special Meter?

Because of the meters' monthly fees and rental charges, the answer to this question depends on how much water you use for outdoor purposes. If you don't use much water outside, the meter costs will be higher than the potential water and sewer savings.

Here are some general guidelines to consider:

- Customers using a garden hose to spot-water the grass or flowers occasionally typically don't need a special meter.
- Running a built-in lawn sprinkling system regularly (2-3 times a week) can use thousands of gallons of water a month for irrigation. **If you use more than 17,000 gallons in a season, you will pay less with a special meter than you would under the current standard combined water and sewer rate.**
- **You should use a special meter when you fill in-ground swimming pools.**

Customers with special meters are responsible for any costs associated with meter loss or damage due to neglect. Arrangements for the installation or rental of a special meter should be made through our office.