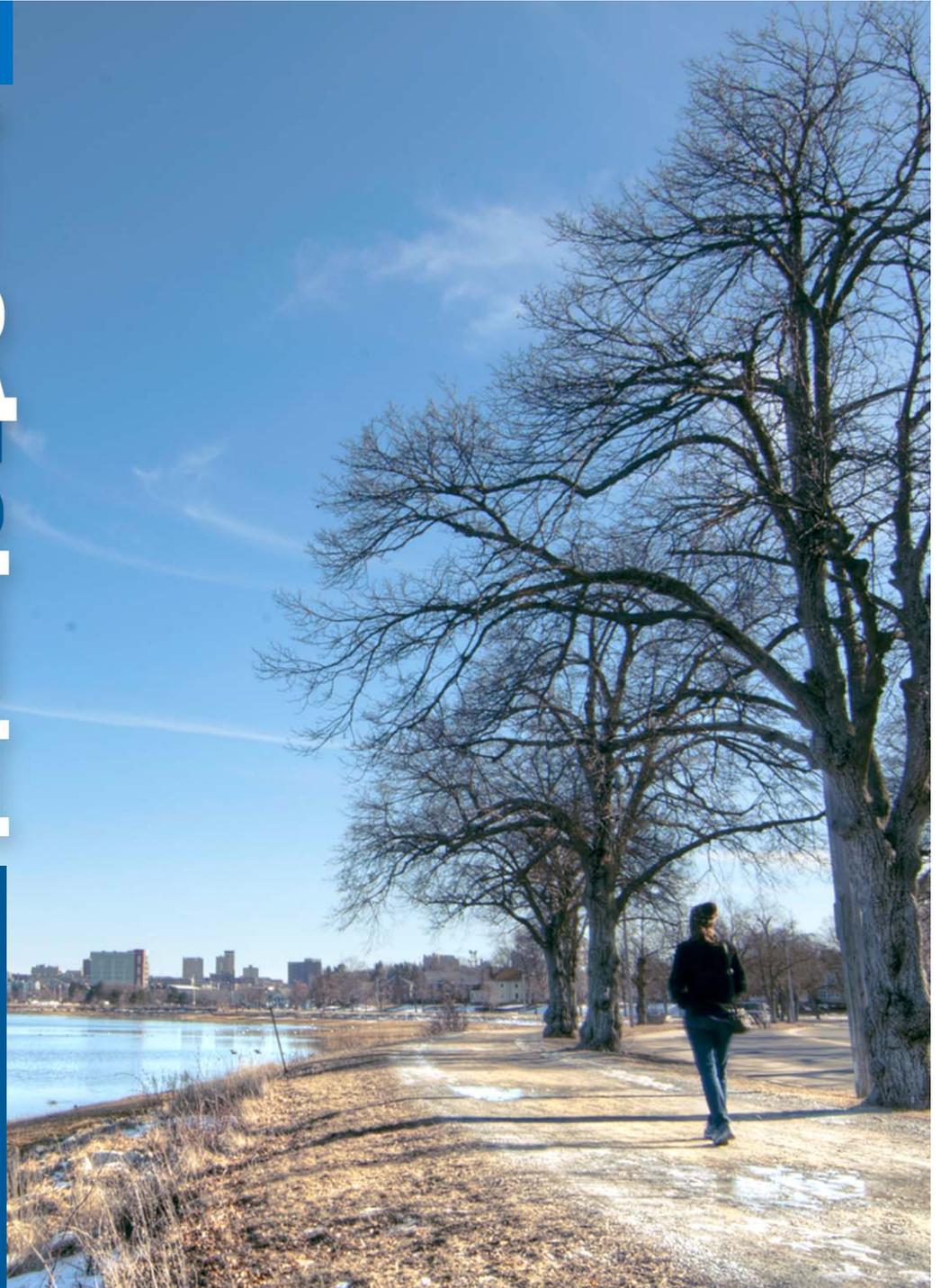


# CLEAN WATER equals CLEAN GROWTH



# Clean Water – Clean Growth

*“You can’t build a vibrant economy on crumbling infrastructure”*

**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
VISION + PLAN  
PORTLAND MAINE**  
August, 2011

DRAFT  
REPORT

Combined Sewer Overflow  
Long Term Control Plan  
Tier III Update



City of Portland, Maine  
and Portland Water District  
July 2011

**CDM**  
WEIGHT-PERCE

Marginal Way  
October 2011

Munjoy Street Sewer  
Collapse February 2012

# Portland's Wastewater System



# Wastewater Facts

68 miles of stormwater pipe



120 miles of combined pipe

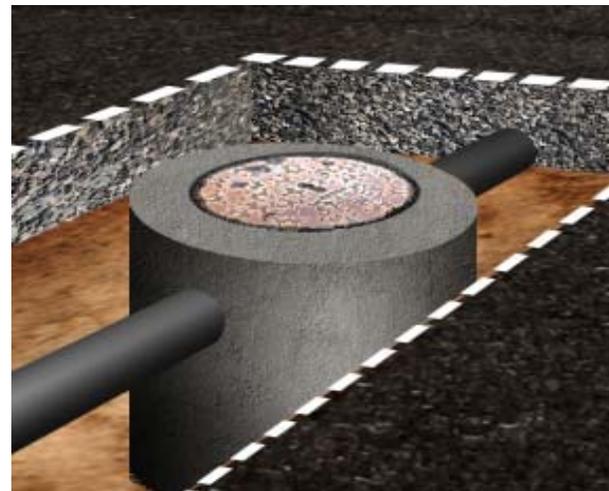


107 miles of sewage pipe



Nearly 15,000 additional structures move sewage and stormwater through the system.

- Portland's wastewater system dates back to 1870
- East End Treatment Plant online in 1979
- In 1983 City establishes dedicated Sewer Fee
- During wet weather, raw sewage can overflow into Casco Bay making swimmers sick and contaminate seafood.
- Stormwater runoff is polluted, but there is no major active treatment system for stormwater.



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WATER  
equals  
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GROWTH

# Our Obligations

## Clean Water Act

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).
  - Requires a discharge permit for all discharges to navigable water bodies.
  - Prohibits Sanitary Sewer Overflows or Dry Weather Overflows.
- Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES)
  - Maine is a delegated state and issues permits
  - Establishes required discharge limits and testing requirements.
- EPA Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy

## Maine Law

- Maine DEP, Chapter 570, Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement rules
- Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan
  - Required and updated every five years or at the end of a phase.

# Our Obligations

## Clean Water Act

- Municipal Separated Storm Sewer Systems
  - Five year general permit – 6 management measures
  - Progress required cleaning up urban impaired streams
- Residual Designation Authority (Long Creek)

## Maine Law

- Urban Impaired Streams (4 in Portland)
- Provision for waiver where local program addresses stormwater

# Challenges Overcome



Capisic Pond CSO Project

- 1991 – City of Portland and Portland Water District enter into Consent agreement with Maine DEP to address overflows
- Since then over 100 projects completed
- 11 of 43 overflows completely eliminated
- Since 1993, reduced overflow volumes by 42%
- Separated over 20 miles of pipe.
- Cost \$70 Million

# The Next Challenge

## The City Council formed a Task Force to figure out:

- How to PAY FOR \$170,000,000 CSO investments over next fifteen years and an expected tripling of the sewer rate during that time.
- How to PAY FOR maintaining the stormwater and combined systems
- Possible funding sources included
  - Sewer fees
  - Property taxes; or a
  - Modified sewer rate structure
- The Task Force considered

***Fairness and Equity.***

### **Portland City Council Business Representative/Property Manager**

- East Brown Cow Property Management
- JB Brown and Sons
- Lathrop Property Management

### **Neighborhood Association**

- West End Association

### **Tax-exempt Property Owner**

- Mercy Hospital
- University of Southern Maine

### **Advocacy Representative**

- Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
- Casco Baykeeper

### **Portland Water District**

- General Manager or designee

### **Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit Holder**

- Oakhurst Dairy

# How Do We Pay Now?

**Currently, the sewer fee is the ONLY way to pay for wastewater system improvements.**

**The sewer fee is set based on sewer discharged into the system.**

**Only properties who pay for water pay a sewer bill.**

Current Sewer  
Fee Pays For:  
**Sewage  
Stormwater  
Combined**

# CURRENT SYSTEM

## Apartment

Sewer Fee = \$10,000

Sewage = 6MGY

~~Runoff = 3MGY~~

## Industry

Sewer Fee = \$215,000

Sewage = 20MGY

~~Runoff = 10MGY~~

## House

Sewer Fee = \$450

Sewage = 0.07 MGY

~~Runoff = 0.04 MGY~~

## Government

Sewer Fee = \$800

Sewage = 0.1 MGY

~~Runoff = 1 MGY~~

## Parking Lot

Sewer Fee = \$0

Sewage = 0.0 MGY

~~Runoff = 3 MGY~~

Combined  
(Stormwater  
& Sewage)

Stormwater

Stormwater  
Outfall

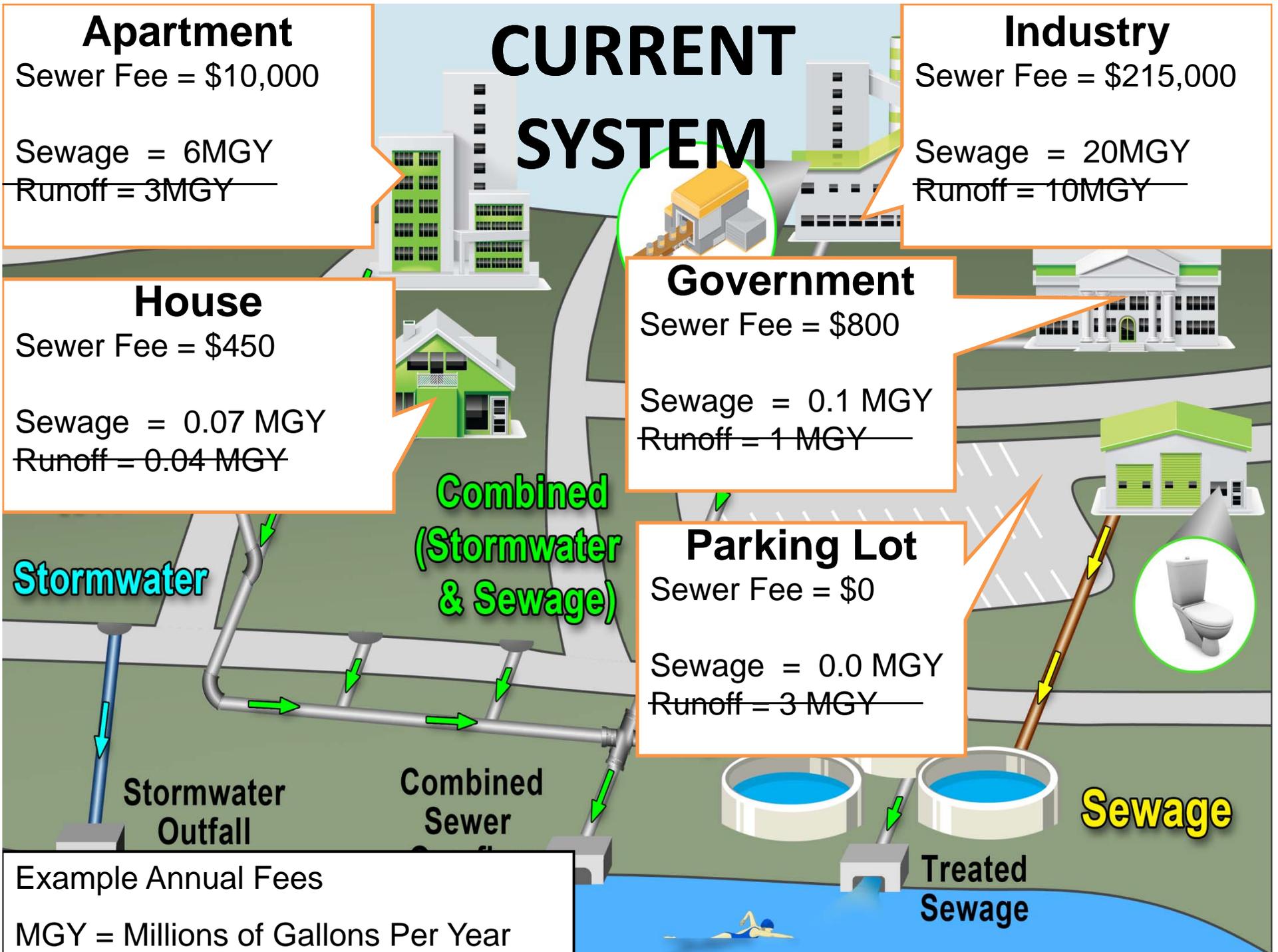
Combined  
Sewer

Sewage

Treated  
Sewage

Example Annual Fees

MGY = Millions of Gallons Per Year

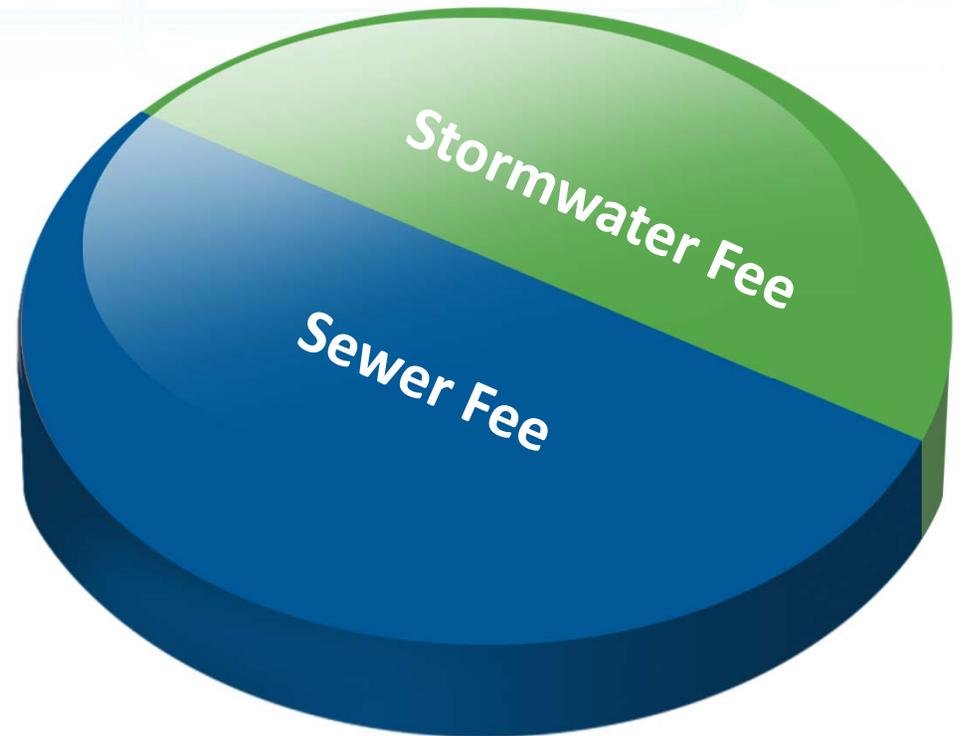


# Task Force Recommendation

**Split the current fee into two parts.**

**Sewer fee pays for sewage system and half of combined system costs.**

**Stormwater fee pays for storm sewer and half of combined system costs.**



# RECOMMENDATION

## Apartment

Sewer Fee = \$11,900  
Stormwater Fee = \$4,500

versus

Sewer Fee Only = \$20,500

## Industry

Sewer Fee = \$250,000  
Stormwater Fee = \$9,500

versus

Sewer Fee Only = \$435,000

## Government

Sewer Fee = \$900  
Stormwater Fee = \$1,300

versus

Sewer Fee Only = \$1,500

## House

Sewer Fee = \$490  
Stormwater Fee = \$360

versus

Sewer Fee Only = \$850

## Parking Lot

Sewer Fee = \$0  
Stormwater Fee = \$2,000

versus

Sewer Fee Only = \$0

Com  
(Storr  
& Sewage)

Stormwater  
Outfall

Combined  
Sewer

Sewage

Treated  
Sewage

Example Annual Fees

MGY = Millions of Gallons Per Year



# Credits



Businesses can lower their stormwater fee if they make site improvements that **reduce stormwater impacts** from their property.

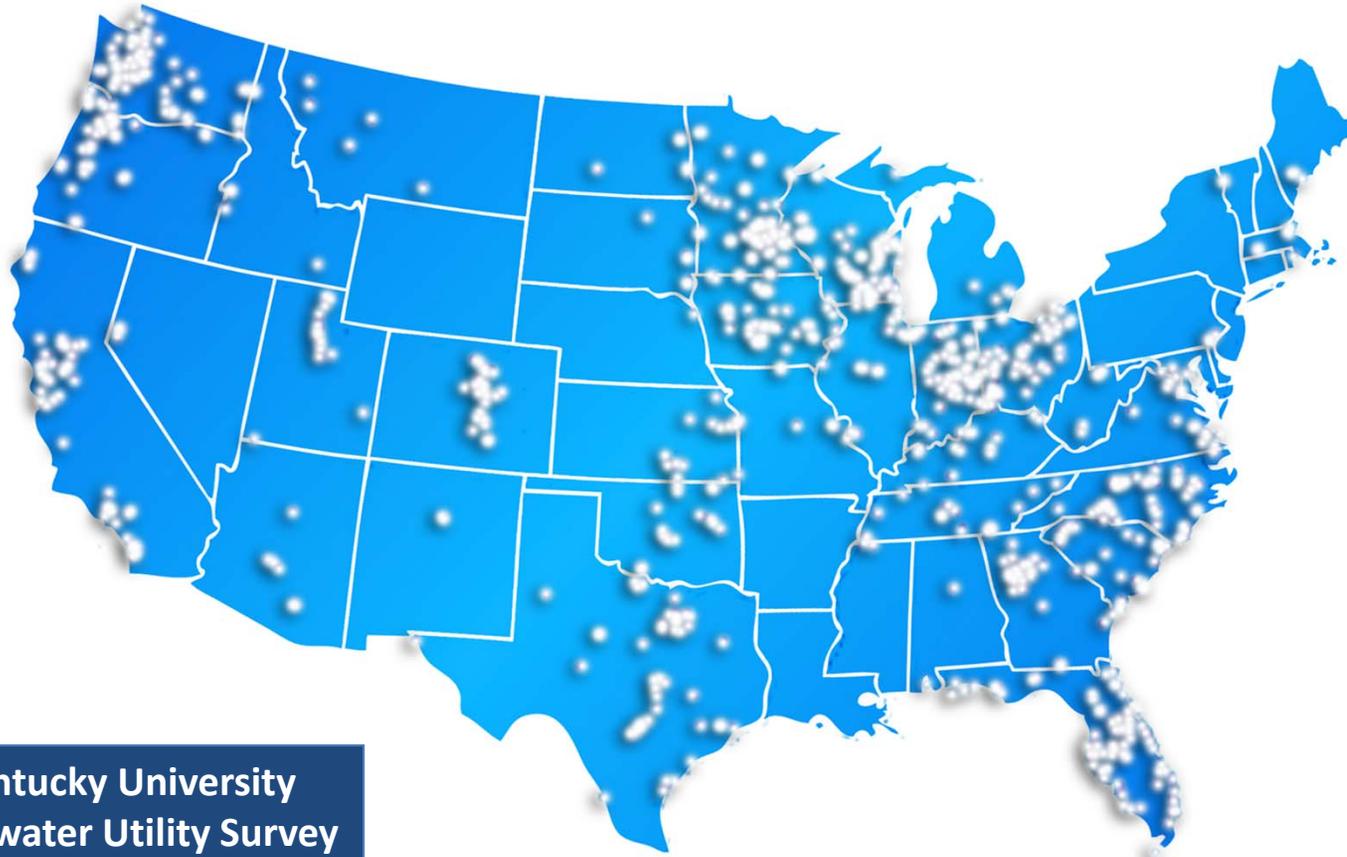


Raingarden-Dead River Properties

# Is This Uncommon?

**This is NOT a novel concept.**

Over a 1000 municipal entities are already doing this.



Western Kentucky University  
2010 Stormwater Utility Survey

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GROWTH

# How It Works?



- All revenue is dedicated; called an Enterprise Fund.
- Dedicated funds for sewer and stormwater improvements, maintenance and operations; mandated by local law.
- Doesn't compete with Police, Fire, Schools and other Public Services.

# How it Will Work?

Runoff generated =  
Stormwater fee

Sewage generated  
= Sewer fee



# Where Will New Investments be Made?

- 15 Million Gallons of storage to reduce combined sewer overflows
- Upgrades at wastewater treatment plant to improve performance
- New storm and sewage collection lines to reduce back-ups
- Stormwater system improvements



# Other Potential Benefits

## Planning for Growth

- Creates opportunity for targeted capital improvements for commercial growth districts



Courtesy Adam Kessler

# What Can We Expect?



# Next Steps

- June 4th Council Workshop on Task Force Recommendations
- If Recommendations are Accepted:
  - Ordinance Development
  - Administration Considerations
  - Further Public Notice
- **Get involved!**

**Visit [www.portlandmaine.gov/  
sustainablestormwaterfunding.htm](http://www.portlandmaine.gov/sustainablestormwaterfunding.htm)**

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