

ABOUT

3 Rivers Wet Weather



Improving our region's water quality

3 Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW) was created in 1998 to support 83 municipalities in Allegheny County in addressing the region's wet weather overflow problem. Founded jointly by the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) and the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCO-SAN), 3 Rivers Wet Weather is funded by federal, state and local resources.

The nonprofit organization is committed to improving the quality of Allegheny County's water resources by helping communities address untreated sewage and stormwater overflowing into the region's waterways. To promote the most cost-effective, long-term, sustainable solutions, 3RWW benchmarks sewer technology, provides financial grants, educates the public and advocates inter-municipal partnerships.

During nearly every rainfall or snow melt, excess water gets into municipal sewer systems, which results in untreated sewage and stormwater overflowing into our streams and rivers. These overflows not only violate the Environmental Protection Agency's federal Clean Water Act, but they cause a multitude of health and environmental concerns, including basement backups and contamination of our primary source of drinking water. In addition,



these overflows can result in limits on new sewer tap-ins, which inhibit our region's economic development.

Our region's challenge

In early 2004, communities signed an Administrative Consent Order from the EPA identifying assessment and repair activities for correcting the sewage overflow problem. 3 Rivers Wet Weather helped facilitate the communication and consensus process between these municipalities and the regulatory agencies, and has continued to help communities complete their consent order compliance requirements.

3RWW coordinated the system-wide mapping of 4,000 miles of municipal collection system sewers, facilitated a regional flow monitoring plan that included a rigorous quality assurance component and assisted municipalities in identifying alternatives for reducing, storing, conveying or treating sewage flow in their collection systems. 3 Rivers also created a comprehensive online tool that allows municipalities to access regional data in one centralized location.

Together with ALCOSAN, the communities are developing a long-term wet weather control plan that will sustain the region's infrastructure for generations. 3 Rivers Wet Weather is committed to supporting the municipalities, and will continue its goal of finding the most effective regional solution to the wet weather overflow problem.

*For more information, contact:
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