



**Clean Michigan Initiative
Clean Water Fund Grant**
Tracking Code #2002-0226



**Wayne County
Department of Environment
Water Quality Division**
Telephone (734) 326-3936

ILLICIT CONNECTION ELIMINATION PROJECT FOR THE LAKE ST. CLAIR

(Alias: Illicit Connection Elimination Project for Southern Wayne County Watersheds)

September 15, 2004, through March 31, 2008 (Amended)

The major goal of this project was to find and eliminate illicit connections to Wayne County surface waters. The original project area targeted Wayne County communities discharging storm water to the Lake St. Clair watershed. Few communities in this area were interested in participating in the grant because their Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan (IDEP) activities were already underway. Wayne County shifted the grant focus to the Southern Wayne County Watersheds (SWCW), where communities just starting their IDEP activities were very interested in partnering with Wayne County. Four SWCW communities signed interagency agreements with Wayne County. The unique aspect to the project is the holistic watershed approach to IDEP the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds (ADW), a group of SWCW communities, financially supported. The monitoring program's goal was to identify areas where illicit discharges are present in the watersheds. The ADW provided input into the sampling planning and site selection. Wayne County performed five dry weather monitoring events at 33 SWCW sampling sites, collecting a total of 165 sample sets. This intensive sampling effort identified eight SWCW IDEP "hot spots" (not including Ecorse Creek) for further investigation. Wayne County investigated most of the "hot spots," by performing outfall surveys, facility dye tests, and water quality sampling. Wayne County identified a total of 198 illicit connections at commercial facilities, and a significant illicit discharge from a mobile home park. Eliminating these sources prevents over 3.2 million gallons of polluted water from entering the SWCW. This grant effort also forged interagency relationships key to future pollution prevention partnering efforts.



Grant Amount: \$134,000

Match Funds: \$ 44,650

Total Amount: \$178,650



Project Accomplishments:



- Surveyed and investigated 25 outfalls
- Investigated 240 facilities
- Found a total of 196 illicit connections and 99.5% are corrected to date.

Annual Pollutant Load Reductions:

- Prevents 3.2 million gallons of polluted water and 34,666 pounds of polluting materials from entering Southern Wayne County Watershed surface waters per year.

Project Partners

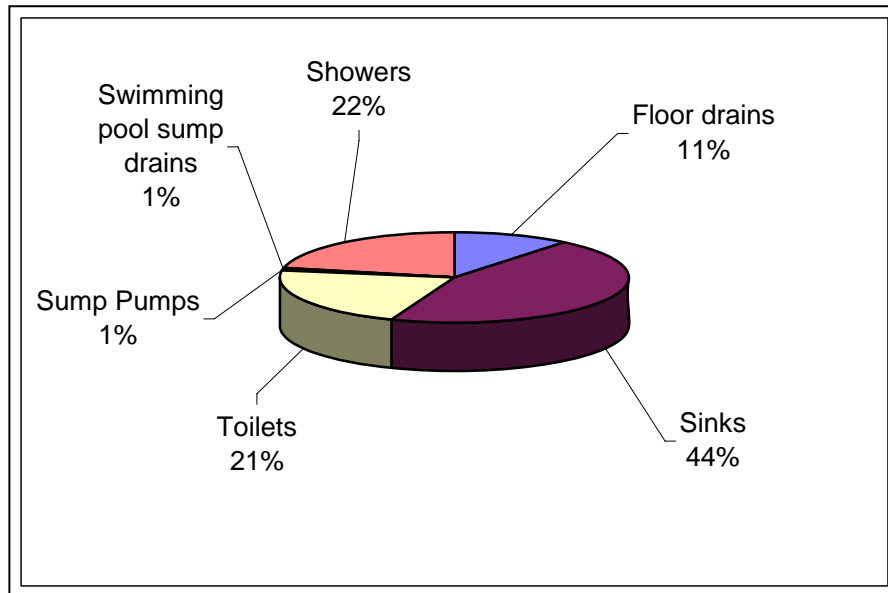
- City of Southgate
- City of Romulus
- City of Wyandotte
- Township of Van Buren
- Alliance of Downriver Watersheds
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality



Sampling Brownstown Creek

Information and Education Activities:

- Partnering with the communities resulted in city staff being educated about illicit connections, their impact on water quality, and how important it is to find and eliminate them.
- Facility inspections allowed staff to interact with the business community on a personal level and educate them on their role in preventing pollution to Michigan's water resources



Description: Types of Illicit Connections Found in the Southern Wayne County Watersheds September 2004 through March 2008

Pollutant	Estimated amount of polluting material prevented from entering Lower Rouge annually (Lbs/year)*
Total Suspended Solids	5,611
Surfactants	129
Total Organic Carbon	1,072
Potassium	145
Ammonia	229
Biological Oxygen Demand (5 Day)	7,711
Total Solids	19,238
Phosphorus	527
Total Pounds	34,666
Flow (gallons/year)	3,150,015

*Assumes the removal of all illicit connections identified under this project

Description: Summary of Estimated Pollutant Load Reductions to Southern Wayne County Watershed Resulting from Correction of the Illicit Connections Discharges during the period September 2004 through March 2008.