



October 1, 2026

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Wellston – Jackson County
Sanitary Sewer Separation
Loan number: CS390969-0026**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a sanitary sewer separation project in Wellston which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills the Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-05, this project meets the criteria for an LER rather than the more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Final Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Sanitary Sewer Separation

Applicant: City of Wellston
203 East Broadway Street
Wellston, Ohio 45692

Loan Number: CS390969-0026



Figure 1. Jackson County

Project Summary

The City of Wellston requested approximately \$2.6 million from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the Sanitary Sewer Separation project. This project is the second phase of a multi-phased project which includes a sanitary and storm sewer separation with the intent to remedy extensive infiltration and inflow (I&I) issues within the system.

The project is eligible for full principal forgiveness, which will not need to be repaid. Due to the nature and location of construction, as well as proposed protection measures to be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, as discussed in the conclusion.

History & Existing Conditions

The City of Wellston in Jackson County (see Figure 1) owns and operates a collection system and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that serves approximately 5,500 people. The WWTP is off South New Hampshire Avenue and discharges treated water to Raccoon Creek.

Pipes in the current collection system have become cracked and separated, contributing to large amounts of infiltration (excess water from leaking pipes and connections) and inflow (excess water from improper connections to the sewer system), which is creating overflow events and larger flows to the WWTP for treatment. A study of the entire Wellston collection system was conducted in 2020. The project area contained approximately 221,948 linear feet (LF) of gravity sewer ranging from 6 inches to 24 inches in pipe diameter. The overall results from the study confirmed that a significant amount of the system monitored generated large contributions of I&I. Therefore, significant overflows are likely to discharge into the main trunkline of the system along Raccoon Creek.

Portions of Wellston's sewer collection system are combined sewers that are over 80 years old. These pipes collect stormwater and wastewater for transport to the WWTP. Observations revealed that much of the system is aged vitrified clay pipe, which is prone to joint offsets, cracking, and root intrusion. Additionally, brick manholes in the project area are in very poor condition. The system has

received maintenance and repairs throughout the years as individual lines have collapsed and been replaced.

Wellston does not anticipate future sewer expansion throughout the city. Wellston primarily plans to focus on repair and replacement of existing sewer structures to reduce I&I as identified by severity in the 2020 study. Wellston's options for removing I&I from the system include removing and replacing existing sewer pipe and structures in areas with significant I&I or where pipes are degraded, lining existing sewer pipes to extend the life of the existing system, replacing the failing storm system that is releasing the I&I directly at the point of the sanitary sewer infrastructure location, or upsizing the existing storm system. Wellston decided that sanitary and storm sewer replacement will be used to maintain separation of the flows and eliminate overflows in rain events. Phase I of this project has been completed along New York and Broadway streets and has already demonstrated success in reducing I&I, which has alleviated stress on the WWTP.

Project Description

The proposed sanitary and storm sewer separation project includes installing 2,820 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch diameter PVC gravity sewer pipe, 1,167 LF of 12-inch diameter PVC gravity sewer pipe, 84 LF of 15-inch diameter PVC gravity sewer pipe, 144 LF of 18-inch diameter PVC gravity sewer pipe, and associated manholes. Additionally, the project will include lining 918 LF of 8-inch sewer, 350 LF of 12-inch sewer, 596 LF of 15-inch sewer, and 207 LF of 18-inch sewer with cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) lining. The project will also include the installation of 150 LF of 12-inch storm sewer, 100 LF of 15-inch storm sewer, and 50 LF of 24-inch storm sewer.

See Figure 2 below for the proposed project area.

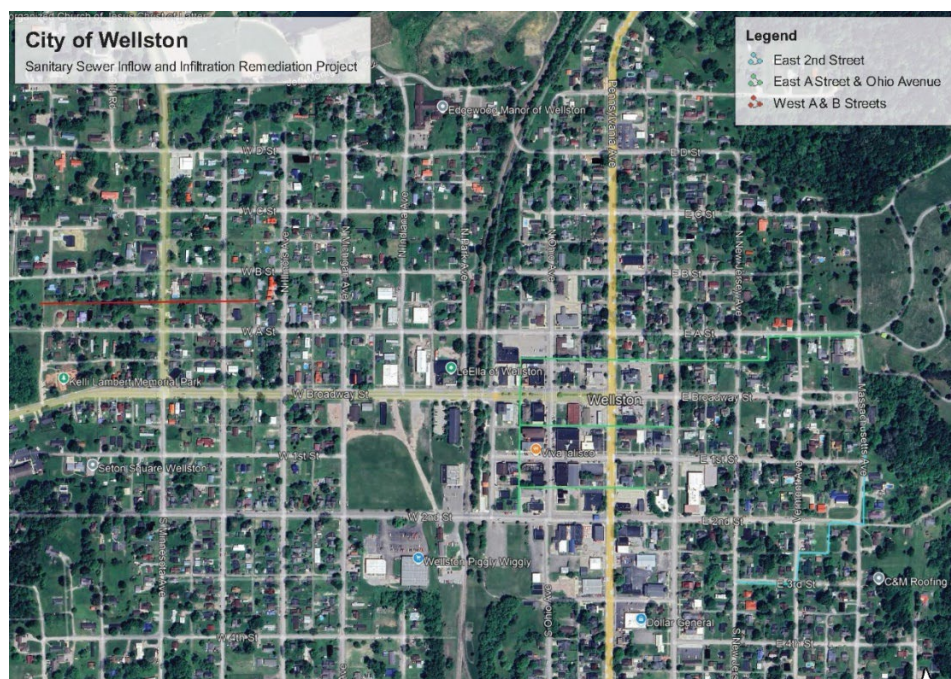


Figure 2. Proposed project area

Implementation

The City of Wellston is eligible for the full loan amount of \$2,589,359 in principal forgiveness (does not need to be repaid) from the Ohio WPCLF. With this favorable financing, Wellston will save over \$5 million compared to financing the entire loan amount at the market rate, 5.1%, for a 30-year loan period.

The debt associated with this construction project will be recovered from user charges. Under the current ordinance, the fixed monthly rate per customer increased by 2.75% in 2026 and is planned to increase annually by 2.5% until amended. The 2028 monthly residential sewer bill in Wellston will be \$86.12 (\$1,033 annually). This is 1.8% of the median household income for Wellston (MHI; \$56,193) and is greater than the Ohio average annual sewer bill of \$528.

Construction is expected to begin after loan award and will be completed within six months.

Public Participation

Public meetings were held during the planning phase of Phase 1, with general support for the project. City council meets once per month in open session where the public is welcome to attend. Wellston also posts recordings of all meetings on their YouTube channel. The city's website allows for review of city council meeting minutes, and ordinances and resolutions that have been passed to provide the public the ability to participate without attending the council meetings. Additionally, construction schedule updates will be relayed to the public via the local newspaper and the city's website and Facebook page. Wellston also utilizes Hyper-Reach notifications for public notices that sends notices directly to residents' phones if they are signed up for the free service.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. The Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the LER and FNSI have been provided to the City of Wellston to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater collection system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources. Construction will mostly take place in existing road rights-of-way that lack important environmental resources. While some construction will be in suburban residential backyards, these areas also lack high-value environmental resources.

Standard construction best management practices will minimize noise, dust, erosion, sediment, and traffic disruptions. Some tree removal may occur within the right-of-way when installing the sewer. Wellston will only remove trees during the regular clearing dates of October 1st to March 31st to protect federally listed endangered and threatened bat species.

Is cost effective and is not a controversial action. The evaluation study determined that the sanitary sewers and storm sewers were badly deteriorated and unsuitable for lining or repair. In comparison to the no-action alternative, the proposed project offers the only viable, lowest cost option, and so was selected as the more cost-effective option on the basis of both monetary and non-monetary factors. By obtaining WPCLF full principal forgiveness, Wellston has reduced sewer bill impacts. Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project.

Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters, and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population. This project will not increase or relocate discharges. The project aims to improve the existing infrastructure for the current population.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this LER, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to environmental features. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts will be temporary and mitigated.

The proposed project is a cost-effective way to address necessary improvements to existing infrastructure. Once implemented, the project will remedy extensive infiltration and inflow issues, protecting the health of residents within the area and reducing treatment costs.

Contact Information

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