



Equalization Station FAQ (Citywide)

Q: What are equalization stations, and what do they do?

A: There's not enough storage capacity in this area's wastewater system for the high volume during heavy rains. This is a significant environmental and public health risk.

Equalization stations create capacity, prevent overflows and help equalize the water throughout the system. The stations will temporarily store the wastewater and stormwater until the system has the capacity to handle it.

Q: What else is the city doing to fix the problem?

A: The City has a 20-year plan to make significant improvements to the City's wastewater system and dramatically increase capacity. This plan will:

- Maximize use of existing facilities
- Rehabilitate pipelines and manholes
- Increase capacity at the Moccasin Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Upgrade pump stations
- Add equalization stations in specific locations around the City

Q: I've seen "Clear Chattanooga" online, at meetings and around town. Is this work part of that project?

A: Yes. The focus of the Clear Chattanooga program is to restore the wastewater treatment infrastructure necessary to sustain regional growth demands and facilitate a healthy, thriving population free from water-related environmental threats. Adding equalization stations in select locations is one step in improving the system's capacity to handle and treat wastewater.

Q: When will construction start?

A: Construction for some locations began 2019, but the City will install equalization stations around town over the next 10 years to address these overflows.

Q: How long will the work take (at each site)?

A: Approximately 18 months.

Q: How much does the Equalization Station program cost?

A: This is part of a long-term plan that's being funded in phases. The total program is estimated to cost \$110 million and will provide 75 million gallons of equalization storage at various locations.

Q: Will wastewater service be interrupted during construction?

A: No. Your service will not be disrupted during the work.

Q: What will be stored in the equalization station?

A: The stations will temporarily hold a mixture of stormwater and wastewater until the system has the capacity to handle it.

Q: Will it smell?

A: There will be no odor. The equalization stations are enclosed and equipped with measures to ensure they do not smell.

Q: Will this solve odor issues downtown?

A: No, the stations will not directly affect the odor downtown.

Q: Why use an above ground equalization station?

A: This plan will:

- solve the problem comprehensively
- take the least amount of time
- have the least impact on the current budget and user rates
- be the least disruptive to construct and maintain,
- and have a lifespan that will improve the quality of life for all of Chattanooga for generations to come.

Q: Why not do something underground?

A: It's cost prohibitive and would have a significant impact to existing underground infrastructure.

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Q: Will the equalization stations be eyesores?

A: The stations will be made less prominent by careful placement and screening with trees and shrubs. We can also paint the storage systems with discreet colors that blend in with their surroundings.

Q: Will roads be closed during construction?

A: The impact to local roads will vary depending on the project. If lane closures are necessary, traffic control measures will be put in place.

Q: Why don't you just add capacity to the wastewater treatment plant?

A: The remaining property on the Moccasin Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant property is earmarked for future plant improvements and treatment facilities.

Q: What is the benefit to me?

A: The equalization stations will better manage wastewater and stormwater runoffs and improve public health by meeting water quality standards and reducing pollutants. Additionally, more modern infrastructure will add capacity to the wastewater system and allow the city to continue with planned economic growth while reducing odors at and near overflow sites.

Q: Will there be equalization stations in other locations?

A: Yes, the City will install equalization stations around town over the next 10 years to address these overflows.

Q: Why were these locations selected?

A:

- To maximize the use of existing facilities and land owned by the City
- To address known problem areas where wastewater system overflows regularly occur
- To responsibly use the City's financial resources and provide the greatest benefit for the ratepayers

Q: Will the tank reduce the value of my home?

A: We have no reason to believe the tank will reduce the value of anyone's home. We expect that the work that is being done will eliminate a potential issue for homeowners and business owners.

Q: How big will the equalization stations be?

A: The station sizes will vary by location, depending on specific needs and site constraints.

Q: How is stormwater entering the wastewater system?

A: It happens several different ways. In some cases, private residences have illegally connected drain spouts and sump pumps to the system. Also, the aging pipes may have loose connections or cracks from aging and tree roots, which allow stormwater to enter the pipes.

Q: How/Where can the community provide feedback?

A: The City will hold public meetings prior to the installation of each equalization station. You may attend the meeting for your neighborhood, or you can contact the City by calling 3-1-1, emailing Public Works at publicworks@chattanooga.gov, or visiting bit.ly/ClearChattanooga.