



# GET THE FACTS

**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 a heavy rain event. This may cause storm and wastewater to overflow into yards, streets and streams. The equalization stations *temporarily* store diluted storm and wastewater until the system has the capacity to handle it. The stations create capacity, prevent overflows and help equalize the wastewater throughout the City's wastewater system.

**Q: What else is the City doing to solve this 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: What will be added at the Hixson area?**

A: Up to two equalization stations may be built there. Each station will *temporarily* hold up to 5 million gallons of wastewater and stormwater after heavy rain events until the system has the capacity to handle it. The diameter of each station will be approximately 160 feet. The height will be approximately 40 ft.

**Q: Is this a wastewater treatment plant?**

A: No. This facility *temporarily* holds the excess storm and wastewater, usually fewer than 10 times a year. It is generally emptied within 48 hours. No wastewater treatment will take place at this site, and no chlorine will be used here. The storm and wastewater will be released into the system once there is capacity in the system to handle it.

**Q: What factors are used to determine the site?**

A: There are many factors to consider when selecting a site for a station, including:

- Connection access to the large sewer pipes underground
- Close proximity to the overflow locations to help prevent Sanitary Sewer Overflows
- The site cannot be in a flood zone
- Terrain suitable for construction

**Q: Why was this site selected?**

A: A set of criteria was used to evaluate potential locations. Constructing the station at this location will allow Clear Chattanooga to address Sanitary Sewer Overflows near and around the Adams Rd. area.

**Q: When will construction start?**

A: Construction at this location is scheduled to begin in 2021 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

**Q: What should I expect during construction?**

A: Property owners in the area may notice additional vehicles, heavy equipment, and noise in the area. Your sewer service will not be disrupted during the work.

**Q: Will it smell?**

A: Each equalization station is enclosed, and air will be captured and sent through a carbon filtration system. There are no open holding ponds at this facility. We reached out to other Tennessee cities using similar technology and found that odor has not been an issue.

**Q: Will roads be closed during construction?**

A: If lane closures are necessary, traffic control measures will be put in place.

**Q: How will you camouflage the equalization station?**

A: On the residential side, it will be below the tree line, in an area of dense foliage. It will also be painted to blend with its surroundings. It may be visible from the business side.

**Q: Will this impact my home's value?**

A: We commissioned an in-depth study of the areas around equalization stations in several Tennessee cities. The study found that the stations did not have any long-term, negative impact on property values. In areas where there was a brief negative impact, it was during the construction phase. Those property values rebounded within a maximum of two years.

**Q: Who can I contact if I have questions?**

A: Call the City's 311 service, email Public Works at [publicworks@chattanooga.gov](mailto:publicworks@chattanooga.gov), or visit [www.clearchattanooga.com](http://www.clearchattanooga.com).