



Kenosha Water Utility announces bypass of sanitary sewer collection system due to excessive rain

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KENOSHA – On May 17, 2020 through May 18, 2020 the Kenosha Water Utility had to bypass several areas of the sanitary sewer collection system in an effort to prevent property damage to homes. The bypass event began at 10:50 a.m. on Sunday May 17 and ended at 2:10 p.m. on Monday May 18.

On May 17 the City of Kenosha received 3.34 inches of rain with already saturated ground as a result of a rain event earlier in the week. As a result, diluted wastewater was discharged into waterways including the Pike Creek, Pike River and Lake Michigan. The locations of the sewer bypasses include the intersection of 67<sup>th</sup> Street and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue, west of the Carthage College campus, the intersection of 89<sup>th</sup> Street and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the neighborhood surrounding 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and Fifth Avenue and the outfall located near 68<sup>th</sup> Street and Third Avenue.

All bypasses are reported by the Kenosha Water Utility to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The flow to the wastewater treatment plant is normally 25 million gallons per day, but during this rain event the peak flow in the system was close to 225 million gallons.

In order to prevent future bypasses, homeowners can assist in preventing rain water from entering the sanitary sewer collection system by ensuring sump pumps are discharged outside of the home and away from the foundation. It is illegal to connect a sump pump to the sanitary drain inside a home. Homes without a sump pump should ensure that downspouts are discharged away from the home foundation. Reducing water usage inside homes during and shortly after a major rain will also help prevent problems.

For questions, contact the Wastewater Treatment Plant: 262-653-4335.