
From the Fact sheet for our anticipated NPDES Permit to Discharge to waters of the State of Ohio for the Lancaster WWTP

“By any measure the sweeping positive changes in the environmental conditions of the Hocking River are unparalleled in Ohio.” [Text from unpublished Hocking River TSD, 2007]

The Lancaster WPCD is currently spending \$9,000,000+ to separate sewers in the Lake/Allen/Maple Street areas. We are in the planning and design stage for the Upper Hocking WPCF treatment plant, lift station and force main.

Yet

The legacy lives on and we are being issued a Schedule of Compliance which will include \$75,000,000 of sewer separation and other projects.



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Lancaster Water Pollution Control Department



Legacy of a combined sewer community

Historical time line

1914 Complaint against city from down stream farms

1916 City ordered by Ohio State Board of Health to build a treatment plant and a sewer system

1935 “Citizens of the city failed to approve in elections in August & November a proposed bond issue...The cost was estimated @\$354,000.”

June 1938 “Revival of the sewage disposal plant issue; defeated in previous elections, follows decision in the first of 14 pollution suits filed against the city by residents...”

Sept 1938 “The total project includes \$400,000 for interceptor sewers and sewage treatment works and \$307,000 for necessary improvements within Lancaster to take care of existing storm sewers.”

9-24-38 issue passed by 81% of the vote (PWA has agreed to furnish 45% of the project cost or \$317,000)

1982 “The upper Hocking River was grossly polluted for approximately ten miles downstream from Lancaster as a result of sewer overflows and the WWTP effluent. (Comprehensive Water Quality Report, OhioEPA, 1985)



The first WWTP was dedicated June 7, 1940 and had an actual cost of \$708,273.

The treatment description in the local paper

“Raw sewage from the street first enters a screen chamber at the highest level of the plant where such large solids as sticks and other refuse are filtered out on a screen. From there the sewage flows into a tank through which it passes slowly so that much of the smaller solids settle out by gravity. On the bottom of the tank is formed a mud-like deposit known as sludge. During the six or seven months that the sludge remains in the tank it is acted upon by bacteria which removes its unpleasant and harmful properties.”



The Water Pollution Control Plant was upgraded in 1964 adding secondary treatment.

In 1989 the plant was rehabilitated to an 8.7MGD plant. The rehab costs was \$14,752,888. Of this amount the city was awarded an EPA grant for \$4,992,881. The project was financed through the Ohio Water Development Authority.

From the Biological & Water Quality Study of the Hocking River Mainstem and Selected Tributaries, Oct 1991

“Historically, the Hocking River between Lancaster and Rush Creek has been one of the most severely degraded river segments in the state (Ohio EPA 1982)...Chemical and biological data from 1990 reflect significant improvement in this segment as a result of pollution control efforts in Lancaster including plant expansion, implementation of a sewer use pretreatment ordinance and the active monitoring by the wastewater plant personnel.” p.50



The WWTP was modified and improved in a two phase project 1994-1997 for a cost of \$18,400,000.

From the Biological & Water Quality Study of the Upper Hocking River and Selected Tributaries, 1997

“The results of biological sampling conducted in the upper Hocking River 1982 and 1995 reveal some of the most significant improvements of any river in the state.” p.11

2006 statistics (annual averages)

Influent cBOD	196.25mg/l
Effluent cBOD	4.03mg/l
Influent TSS	301.00mg/l
Effluent TSS	5.83mg/l
Influent NH3	12.72mg/l
Effluent NH3	1.12mg/l
Flow	6.82MG