

February 13, 2026

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Youngstown – Mahoning County
Mill Creek Interceptor Sewer Improvements Part 1 & 2
Loan number: CS391023-0046**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a sanitary sewer upgrade project in Youngstown 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,



Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Mill Creek Interceptor Sewer Improvements Part 1 & 2

Applicant: City of Youngstown
26 East Phelps Street
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

Loan Number: CS391023-0046



Figure 1. Mahoning County

The City of Youngstown has requested funding from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to finance their Mill Creek Interceptor Sewer Improvements Part 1 & 2 project. This project is intended to reduce combined sewer overflows to Mill Creek.

This project is eligible for \$2.5 million in principal forgiveness, which will not need to be repaid.

History & Existing Conditions

The City of Youngstown is located in Mahoning County (Figure 1). Youngstown owns and operates a combined sewer system that covers approximately 35,000 acres of drainage area. Combined sewer systems carry both sanitary sewage and stormwater in their pipes. During heavy rainfall events, this can cause the total volume of flows to exceed the capacity of the sewer lines, which will cause a combined sewer overflow (CSO). These CSOs contain untreated sanitary sewage and are designed to overflow into nearby surface water bodies, such as lakes and streams, posing a significant human health hazard.

Youngstown has a Long-Term Control Plan that is aimed at addressing CSOs in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's Combined Sewer Overflow Policy and the State of Ohio's CSO Strategy. This project will be constructed in four phases and aims to effectively eliminate discharges from 17 active CSO structures that currently discharge untreated sewage into Mill Creek during wet-weather events. This review focuses on the first two phases of the project.

Project Description

This project, parts 1 and 2 of the phased approach, includes demolition or abandonment of the existing 24-inch, 36-inch, 42-inch, and 60-inch combined sewers and replacement with a new 96-inch fiberglass sewer. The construction will eliminate two CSO discharge points along the route and be installed using open-cut techniques. See Figure 2 below for a map of the project area.



Figure 2. Map of all four phases of the project

Implementation

The City of Youngstown requested approximately \$42.7 million from the Ohio WPCLF for this project. Of that amount, \$2.5 million is eligible as principal forgiveness, which will not need to be repaid. The balance will be borrowed at the standard rate of 3.44%. WPCLF interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award. Assuming a 30-year loan, borrowing this amount could save Youngstown approximately \$11 million over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate of 4.74%.

Youngstown has a planned 5% annual sewer rate increase 2026 through 2028. The average annual sewer bill for residents served by Youngstown is \$930. This is 2.7% of the median household income (MHI: \$34,746) and is higher than the Ohio average annual sewer bill, \$528. Construction of parts 1 and 2 is scheduled to begin January 2026 and to be completed in approximately 23 months. Parts 3 and 4 are expected to follow and be under construction through September 2032.

Public Participation

This project will have impacts on Mill Creek Park, a popular public space. Youngstown has informed the public of the upcoming project using a project website, informational handouts, press releases, public meetings, and an open house. Youngstown reports that public feedback has been overwhelmingly positive to date.

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 Youngstown 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 because Youngstown has taken specific measures to obtain all necessary permits and reduce any impacts to the environmental areas within Mill Creek Park. Tree removal will occur in January 2026 to avoid impacting endangered bat species within the project area. Construction of this project will include temporary impacts to Mill Creek. This waterway does not meet water quality standards due to elevated bacteria counts, therefore any temporary impacts during construction are outweighed by the overall positive water quality benefit from the project.

Is cost effective because CSOs are human health hazards and must be eliminated.

Is not a controversial action because Ohio EPA is unaware of any opposition to or controversy about the project.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, and 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 because this project upgrades existing sewer mains and will have no effect on discharges beyond eliminating two CSOs. Service will not be extended in any way.

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. This project will result in a reduction of CSOs discharging to Mill Creek, eliminating threats to human health.

Contact Information

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