



New Northwest Interceptor to Oakwood CSO Sewer (NOCOSOS) Tunnel

Frequently Asked Questions

BACKGROUND

Why is GLWA building this new NOCSOS Tunnel?

GLWA is committed to improving the overall resiliency of the regional system. This project is focused on reducing upstream flooding, as well as decreasing the release of combined sewage (CSO) from the regional system's Northwest Interceptor Sewer (NWI). The NWI Sewer capacity downstream of Warren Ave. is often exceeded during wet weather events resulting in flooding and discharges to the Rouge River.

By building the new NOCSOS Tunnel, GLWA will be able to provide relief to the NWI service area, including Allen Park, Dearborn, Western Detroit, Melvindale, and the Rouge Valley Sewage Disposal System, by diverting wet-weather flow to the under-utilized Oakwood CSO Control Facility Retention Treatment Basin (Oakwood Facility). This new relief sewer will help reduce the frequency and the volume of untreated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) and Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) discharges into the Rouge River, and provide additional wet weather sewage flow capacity for upstream GLWA member communities (see service area above).

What are the benefits of the new NOCSOS Tunnel?

The purpose of this tunnel is to handle wet weather flows so that the existing NWI sewer can be better operated and maintained. By diverting wet-weather flows to the under-utilized Oakwood CSO Control Facility, GLWA is better able to reduce untreated CSO and SSO discharges into the Rouge River and increase the NWI's available capacity during wet weather for surrounding service areas.

How large will the new tunnel be?

The tunnel will be approximately, which is 14.5-foot diameter, will be 3,200 feet in length and will be buried 35-40 feet underground.

Why did GLWA select this site?

This site was selected due to the existing locations of the NWI and the Oakwood Facility and because it offers the shortest un-obstructed distance between them.

Were any other sites/locations considered for this facility?

Multiple sites/locations and alternatives were considered. However, the selected sites and tunnel alignment were the most viable locations with the fewest barriers to construction, including impact to the community, cost, risk, and underground conflicts.

How many properties did GLWA acquire to complete construction of the new NOCSOS Tunnel?

GLWA purchased a total of nine parcels for this project. These parcels allow for construction of the new diversion chamber (yellow area in the diagram below). Additionally, the revised road right of way for Bayside (blue and green areas in the diagram) will be adjusted as shown below. GLWA also purchased (or is in the process of purchasing) temporary and permanent easements along the tunnel alignment.



Will any additional properties or easements be acquired for this project?

We do not currently anticipate the need to acquire any additional properties or easements.

How is this project being funded?

The project is being funded through a low-interest loan from the Michigan Clean Water State Revolving Fund ([CWSRF](#)), contributions from GLWA member communities, and federal grants.

How much will this project cost?

The estimated cost for construction of the new NOCSOS Tunnel is \$75 million.

CONSTRUCTION

How long will it take to build the new NOCSOS Tunnel?

This project will take approximately four years to construct.

How loud will the construction be?

We will take every step to minimize noise during the excavation and construction phases. There will be some audible noise from heavy equipment and construction of structures. At a minimum, the contractor will comply with the city of Detroit noise ordinance.

Will the tunnel construction cause any ground vibrations?

No, the tunnel construction via tunnel boring machine (TBM) is not expected to cause any vibrations at ground level.

Will the construction site have security?

Yes, the construction site will have 24/7 security. It will be secured with locked gates and only credentialed workers will be allowed to access the site.

What hours/days will the construction site be active?

GLWA and its contractors will maximize time each day to accomplish the work as efficiently and safely as possible. Crews are expected to be working from 7:00 AM until 5:00 PM, Monday-Friday.

How will you handle dust and other contaminants at the site during construction?

GLWA's construction and engineering team will use abatement and dust control techniques, such as misting, during excavation activities. While we are excavating the site for construction, there will be routine dust control measures, such as water trucks and road sweepers, used to control dust on-site and the access roads to and from the site. The contractor will keep the roads clean during all phases of the work.

What will GLWA do with all the trees they are taking out?

For every mature tree removed GLWA will be planting two new trees within the overall project footprint. However, very few trees are expected to be removed.

How will GLWA make the facility fit in within the neighborhood?

GLWA is working with the Detroit City Council, the City's Planning & Development Department, City Planning Commission, and Department of Public Works to minimize the impacts from the facility. The facility itself will be almost entirely below the ground surface and thus the majority of the project will not be visible.

Will local residents be offered the opportunity to apply for jobs at the site?

GLWA has multiple opportunities for employment available. More information on these opportunities is available at www.glwater.org/careers.

ROAD CLOSURES

When will roads be closed and for how long?

GLWA plans on the permanent closing of Bayside Avenue from Ormond Avenue to Gale Street and is currently working to re-design Bayside Avenue to be a two-lane street with two-way traffic.

Residents and emergency services will be able to access all residential properties throughout the entire project.

GLWA will alert residents at least one month in advance of road closures.

NOCOS TUNNEL OPERATIONS (ONCE BUILT)

Will the facility be automated or staffed with personnel?

As with most modern facilities, the NOCSOS Tunnel will be automated. The facility will also have technicians and security personnel that make rounds to this and other facilities in the area regularly to maintain the grounds, building, equipment, and ensure no disruption to service occurs.

Once operational, will the facility have security?

Yes, the facility will be secured and remotely monitored by GLWA's Security & Integrity Group on a 24/7 basis.

What are the operating hours of the facility?

This facility will operate year-round on a 24/7 basis.

Will there be odors emanating from the facility?

No. The tunnel is designed to contain any odors associated with daily and maintenance operations. Note that there are no odor complaints associated with the existing NWI Sewer (which is 25 feet below ground) and the Oakwood Facility.

Will the facility be loud?

No. As the facility is primarily below ground, no noise is expected during its operations.

What is the contingency plan in the event of a major storm event?

The purpose of this tunnel is to handle wet weather flows so that the existing NWI sewer can be better operated and maintained. GLWA will continue to operate the system in accordance with their standard operating procedures in the event of a major storm event.

SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

Will my water or other utility service be disrupted by the construction?

Residential water and other utility services should not be disrupted by the construction.

COMMUNICATIONS

Who do I contact if I have a complaint about noise or personnel at the construction site?

GLWA has created a project specific email address and phone number for inquiries about the project (Oakwood.Tunnel@glwater.org) (313-297-6400). Additionally, notices will be mailed with additional information to residents and businesses within close proximity to the construction site.

Where do I go if I have additional questions?

You can visit www.glwater.org to see updates and www.glwater.org/contact/ in the event of you need to contact someone at GLWA.