

## Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

### **WATER MATTERS**

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## **Combined Sewer Overflow Notification**

Now you can be notified by the City of Fort Wayne when a combined sewer overflow event has occurred or is expected to occur. By adding your e-mail address to the City's list, you will be notified about when it is recommended to not come in contact with CSO affected waters.

Fort Wayne, like over 100 other communities throughout Indiana, collects both rainwater runoff and sanitary wastewater in the same set of sewer pipes. These are called "combined sewers." Sometimes when it rains, combined sewers do not have enough capacity to carry all the rainwater and wastewater or the Water Pollution Control Plant cannot accept all of the combined flow. In this situation, the combined wastewater overflows from the collection system into the nearest body of water, creating a combined sewer overflow (CSO). The main pollutants in CSOs are untreated human wastes, toxic materials like oil and pesticides, and floating debris that may wash into the sewer system. These pollutants can affect your health if you swim in CSO-polluted water or if you eat fish that have been contaminated by the CSOs.

The costs of combined sewer overflow controls may be high in some areas and low in others. The severity and frequency of the CSO occurrences and their effect on river water quality will determine the types of CSO controls and their cost. In Fort Wayne, the actual cost to control CSO is not known, but is estimated to be \$250 million over the next 25 years.

If you would like to be notified of a CSO event, visit this website:  
[http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/cso\\_list.asp](http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/cso_list.asp)

For questions about combined sewer overflow, call the Allen County Partnership for Water Quality at 484-5848 ext.111.