

# Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner Annual Report



2017

## About Us

The Water Resources Commissioner (WCWRC) coordinates storm water management, develops strategies for flood and erosion control, and participates in the development of storm water and land use policies, plans, and programs.



WCWRC also partners with the City of Ann Arbor on storm water improvement projects with the use of low interest State Revolving Funds (SRF). Total funds secured for these projects from 2013 through 2017 is over \$10 million.



**Evan Pratt, Washtenaw  
County Water Resources  
Commissioner**

"Our mission is to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of Washtenaw County citizens and the protection of surface water and the environment and to promote the long term environmental and economic sustainability of Washtenaw County by providing storm water management, flood control, development review and water quality programs."

Western Washtenaw Service  
Center

705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann  
Arbor, MI 48107

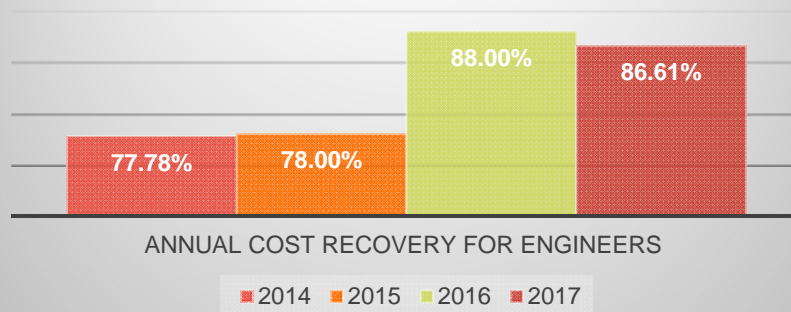
Phone: (734) 222-6860

Fax: (734) 222-6803

Website:

[www.washtenaw.org/drains](http://www.washtenaw.org/drains)

## Annual Cost Recovery for Engineers

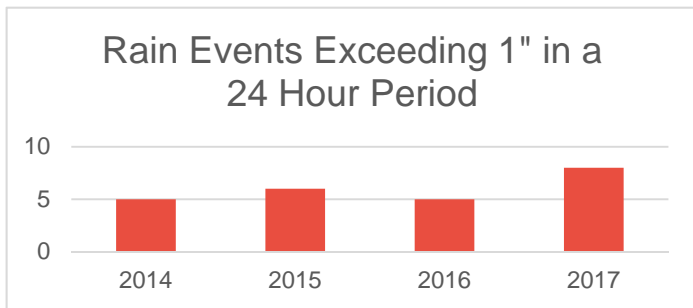


# New Drains & Drainage Districts

WCWRC maintains and operates over 500 storm water systems throughout Washtenaw County covering approximately 63% of total land in the County.

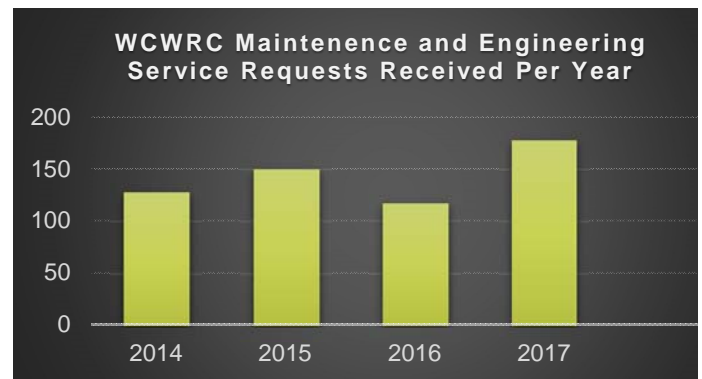
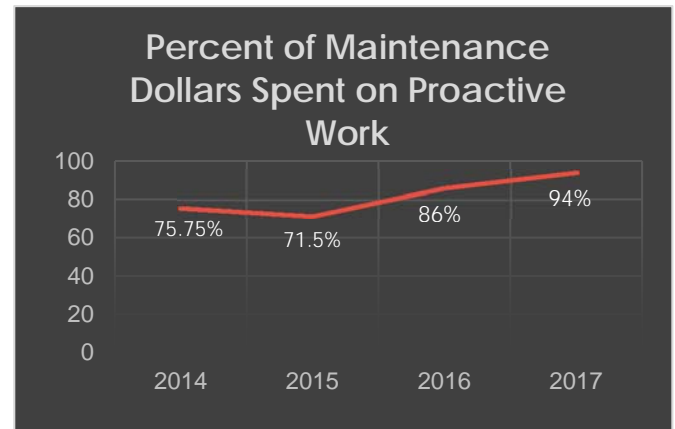
The following is a list of new districts laid out, new drains constructed, finished, or begun in 2017:

- Hickory Hollow- Pittsfield Township
- Tyler Dam Drain- City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti & Superior Townships



# Maintenance of County Storm Drains

The Water Resources Commissioner oversees an active and ongoing maintenance program. This ongoing routine maintenance is designed to reduce costs to the drainage district for major cleanout and repair projects and help safeguard against flooding.



# Customer Satisfaction

The Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner and his staff care about the quality of service residents receive. All service requests are followed up with a customer satisfaction survey. These surveys have an average response rate of nearly 50% annually.



# Special Assessments

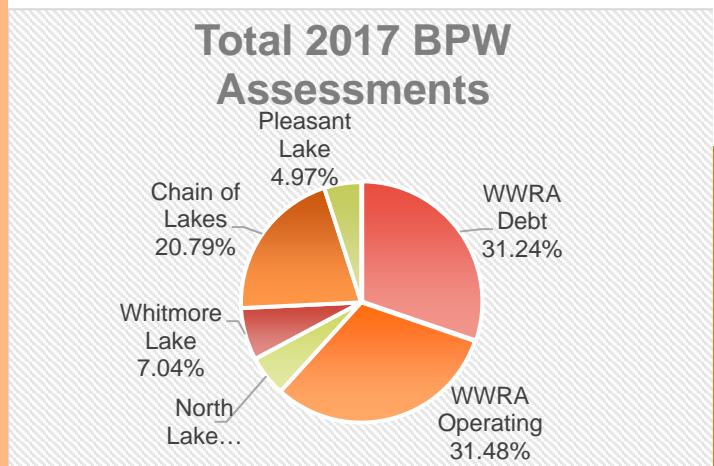
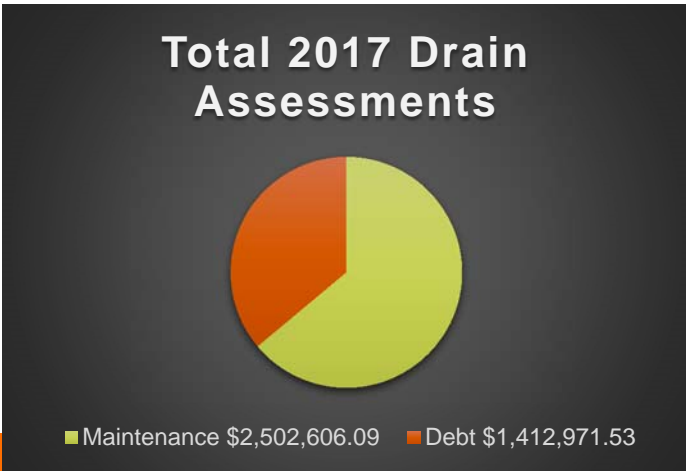
Drain construction and maintenance is financed by special assessments charged to three sources.



In levying special assessments to properties in a district, the Drain Code requires that apportionment of costs by the Water Resources Commissioner must be based on the "benefit" received.



Washtenaw County Board of Public Works projects include the Western Washtenaw Recycling Authority, as well as four lake improvement projects for the treatment of invasive aquatic plants, including Whitmore Lake, North Lake, Pleasant Lake and the Huron River Chain of Lakes. Approximately 62% of the total dollars assessed toward BPW projects was collected for WWRA debt and operations.



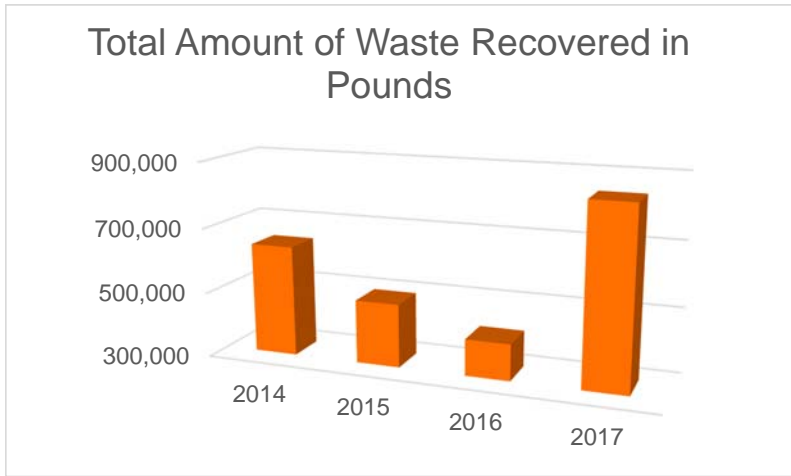
# Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC)

Washtenaw County is mandated by the State of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality to administer and enforce Part 91, Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control, P.A. 451 of 1994, as amended and the Rules of 323.1701-1714, promulgated under Part 91. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners has adopted the aforementioned Act and rules promulgated under the Act within the County's SESC Ordinance and administers it to twelve jurisdictions.



- Augusta Township
- City of Dexter
- City of Saline
- City of Ypsilanti
- Lodi Township
- Northfield Township
- Salem Township
- Saline Township
- Scio Township
- Superior Township
- Webster Township
- York Township

# Solid Waste



Commissioner Pratt also serves at the Director of Public Works and oversees the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Division. The Washtenaw County Solid Waste Division encourages residents to practice the "3R's"—Reduce, Reuse & Recycle. The division provides resources to divert material that does not belong in the landfill or curbside recycling. This includes Household Hazardous Waste such as automotive fluids, pesticides, paint and e-waste.



# Water Quality Programs and Community Outreach

## Community Partners for Clean Streams

CPCS was combined with the Waste Knot program in 2015 under the Environmental Excellent Partnership Program (E2P2). E2P2 assists businesses by providing information, technical advice and recognition to participants as they self-assess how their daily site activities affect our environment and waterways.



## RiverSafe Homes Program



The RiverSafe Homes Program enables Washtenaw County residents to identify water quality activities they already do around their homes by completing an online or hard copy survey, and to commit to other pollution prevention activities they may not have considered before. The survey includes topics such as "Home Toxic Disposal," "Yard Care and Outdoor Housekeeping," "Pet and Urban Wildlife Waste Disposal," and more! In return for completing the survey satisfactorily, respondents select a "RiverSafe Homes" marker to place at a front door or other visible location. Through a partnership with the City of Ann Arbor, city residents that are RiverSafe Homeowners are eligible to receive a stormwater credit on their quarterly stormwater bills.

Since 2005, nearly 400 rain gardens have been designed and installed at residential and institutional properties through this program. In 2017, 77 new rain gardens were constructed. The rain garden project was initiated with a state grant, but has since been funded by the County, the City of Ann Arbor, and a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

