

City of Willard, Ohio



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SEWER SYSTEM AND AN ONSITE TREATMENT SYSTEM?

A sewer system is a series of pipes that collect wastewater and transport it to a remote location where the wastewater is processed by the City of Willard's treatment system. An onsite treatment system usually called a package plant collects, treats and disposes of wastewater from a single source in the same area that it is located. Both types of treatment systems utilize many of the same processes, but our municipal sewer system collects, pumps, and treats wastewater from many different locations.

HOW DO YOU TREAT WASTEWATER AND RETURN IT TO THE ENVIRONMENT?

After traveling through the collection pipes and reaching the treatment plant, the wastewater runs through a bar screen with a large metal rack with rods placed every one-half inch to remove large items such as trash, plastic, rags, sticks, etc. Floatables and grease are also removed. Next, the wastewater flows through grit tanks to remove heavier grit, sand, and stones. Flow travels into four aeration tanks where microorganisms consume the organic material. The water portion travels through clarifiers where a polymer is added to settle out the solids and aluminum sulfate to remove phosphorus. The water is then disinfected by ultraviolet light followed by cascade aeration steps to increase the oxygen level to support aquatic life. The water must meet stringent Ohio EPA levels before it is discharged to Jacobs Creek. The solids portion is degraded until it is stabilized and then processed into a reusable product called biosolids. The biosolids is spread onto agricultural fields because of the high nutrient value and soil conditioner.

ARE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS REALLY NECESSARY?

Prior generations of people had to worry a lot more about typhoid, cholera and other infectious diseases that were transmitted by unsanitary water. Wastewater treatment systems serve primarily to protect the health of the population by insuring that discharged wastewater is clean and safe for downstream users and aquatic life. Our wastewater treatment system has the processes that contribute to a safer, cleaner environment by reducing the organic load, controlling the presence of bacteria and waterborne diseases, and adding oxygen to support aquatic life.

Can I get more information about the Water Pollution Control Plant?

Yes. We have two pamphlets available that describe both the wastewater treatment plant and recycling. Please contact us at 419-933-7515.

Can I tour the wastewater treatment plant?

Yes. The City of Willard is happy to provide tours. To arrange a tour, just call us at 419-933-7515.