

Overflow Action Days:



A notification system and guide to saving water, enhancing green infrastructure, and expanding the “Fourth Reservoir” in order to mitigate sewer overflows into the Chicago River system.



Overflow Action Days

How does it work?

- Friends will declare an *Overflow Action Day* on any day leading up to, during, or after a major rain event that has the potential to overwhelm our sewers and flush harmful waste into the Chicago River system.
- This call to action asks citizens to make changes in the way they use and treat water in and around their homes.



Understanding the Problem

Overflow pollution comes from three critical sources:

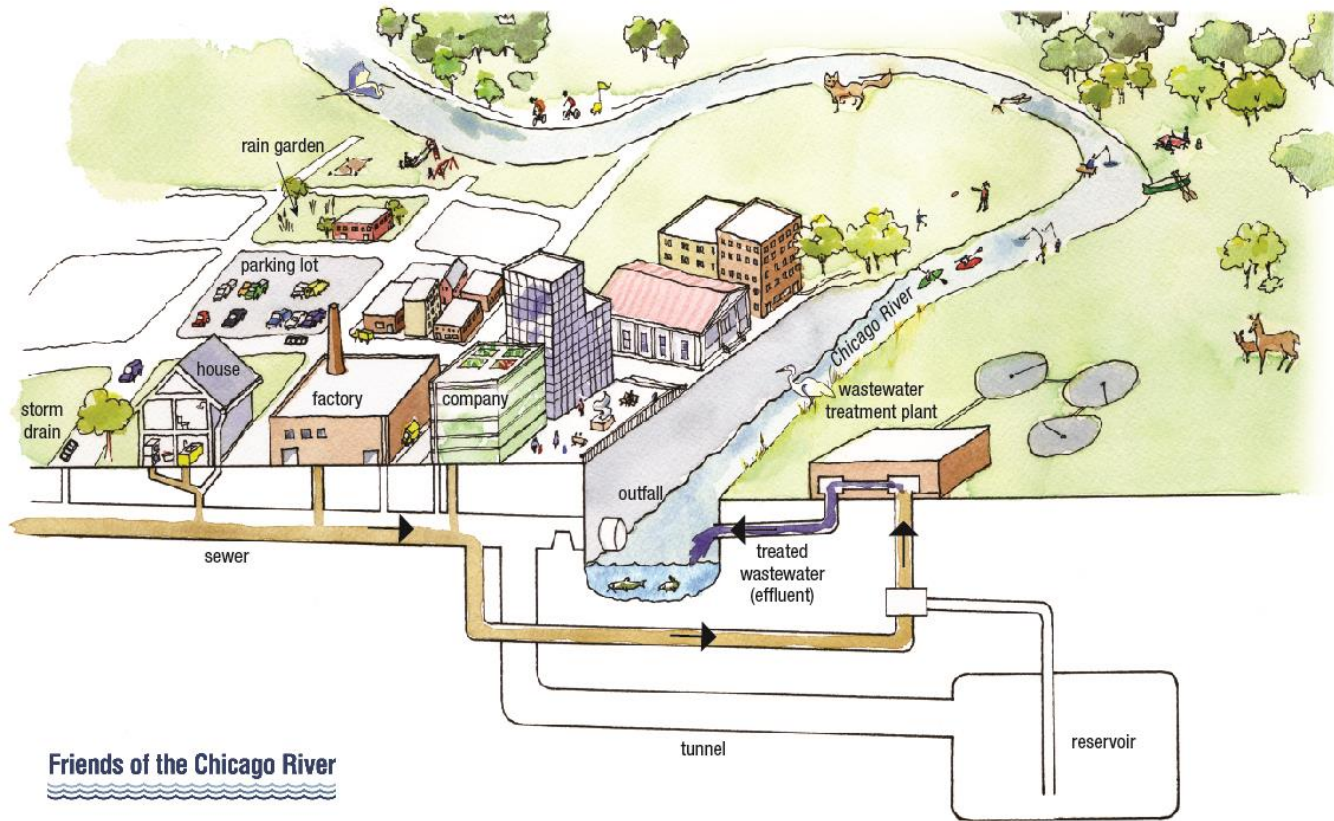
- Combined sewer systems make “clean” water polluted, treating rainwater like garbage to be thrown away.
- Heavy rainfall easily overwhelms the combined sewer system.
- Separated systems still move toxic stormwater directly into our waterways.



Photo courtesy CNT/RainReady.

Dry Flow Sewer System

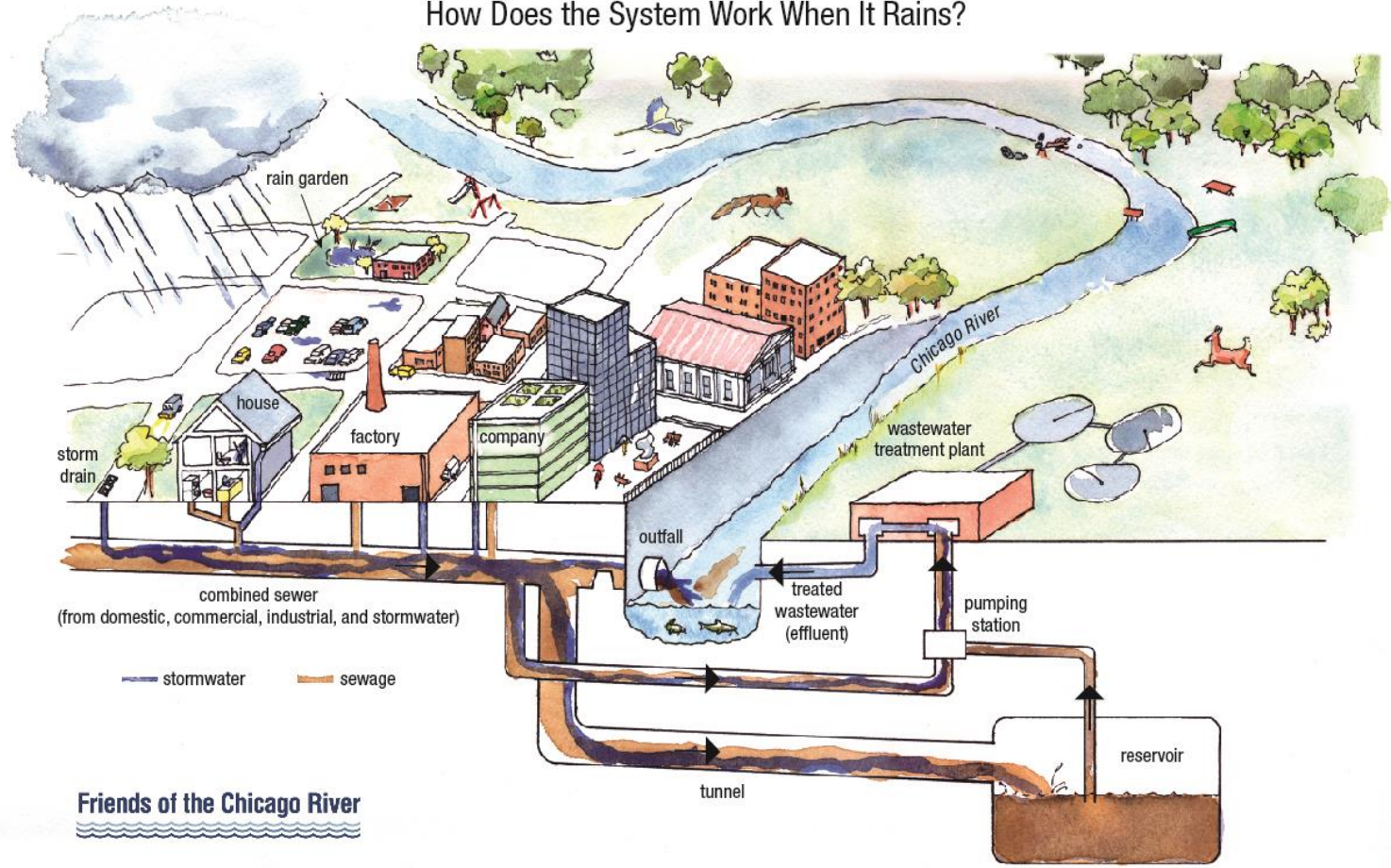
How Does the System Work When It Is Dry?



Friends of the Chicago River

Sewer Overflow

How Does the System Work When It Rains?



Overflow Action Days Alerts

- The expansion of TARP will have—and has already had—an enormous impact on sewer overflows. But a timely effort to conserve water and concentrated emphasis on green infrastructure can help fill in the gaps.
- Remember—as little as .3 inches of rainfall can trigger a localized CSO.



Overflow Action Days Alerts

What you can do:

- Share our website throughout your network: <http://www.chicagoriver.org/overflowaction>
- Follow us [@chicagoriver](https://twitter.com/chicagoriver) and tweet on extreme weather and sewer overflows using #chicagoriver.
- Reach out to me about partnerships and outreach materials: acefali@chicagoriver.org

