

BCDES constructs public sanitary sewer system to serve Village of New Miami

The Village of New Miami worked diligently for many years to construct sanitary sewer improvements for Village residents. Approximately 600 households and 13 commercial users relied on outdated septic tanks and other types of home sewage disposal systems.

About 11 years ago, the Village of New Miami secured a grant for construction of a sanitary sewer system. However, before the system could be constructed, the Village discovered that costs would exceed the amount of the grant.

To assist New Miami, BCDES offered to request and administer additional funding, as well as to construct and operate the sewer system. In 2005, BCDES began operating the Village's antiquated facility and began construction of a new wastewater collection system, lift station and wastewater reclamation facility. The new infrastructure will provide sewer service for New Miami and the surrounding area. The water reclamation facility will provide treatment of 900,000 gallons per day and will replace a plant that currently serves the Cherokee Park subdivision.



Crews work on construction of the water reclamation facility



Commissioner Gregory Jolivette welcomes New Miami residents to the open house

The treatment system, which became fully operational in April, will enable BCDES to provide not only a much-needed water quality solution for New Miami, but also to extend service outside the Village to about 900 more customers.

On January 31, more than 70 residents attended an open house at New Miami High School to learn more about the new sewer system. Butler County Commissioner Gregory Jolivette welcomed residents and expressed the Commission's support of the project. Deputy Director Bob Leventry presented information regarding the system, explained the connection process and conducted a question and answer session.

If you would like more information about this project, please call (513) 887-3066.

Landscaping to save water - Xeriscaping

According to the American Water Works Association, an average of 8 billion gallons per day of residential water is used outdoors. More than 80 percent of this is used on landscapes, such as lawns, plants and gardens. Watering inefficiency and the use of water-thirsty lawns and plants are responsible for most of the landscape water waste. In areas where efficient landscape strategies have been used, water usage has been reduced by 20 percent or more.

You can take steps to reduce your landscape water usage without spending a lot of money. Homeowners around the country are discovering that conservation landscaping, or Xeriscaping (water-wise landscaping), is not just rocks and cactus. Conservation landscaping allows the creation of any style or image desired - from formal backyard gardens replete with fountains and clipped hedges to lush, domestic wildernesses using native flowers, shrubs and grasses.

There are several types of plants available in our area that require little or no watering or additional maintenance. Some of these are:

- **Ornamental Plants/Shrubs:** Maiden grass, Dwarf Spirea, Hydrangea, Hypericum and Potentilla
- **Evergreens:** Taxus, Junipers and Blue Chip Junipers
- **Flowers:** Melenpodium, Day Lilies, Blue or Red Salvia, Nicotiana, Marigolds, Black Eyed Susan, Coreopsis, Mums and Iris
- **Trees:** Mapel, Seedless Ash, River Birch, Flowering Crab, Winter King Hawthorn, Ornamental Pear, Thornless Locust, Redbud

Promote attractive landscapes, conserve water and protect the environment. Follow the Xeriscaping principles which are: proper planning and design, soil improvement, appropriate plant selection, practical turf areas, efficient irrigation, use of mulches and appropriate maintenance.

To learn more about Xeriscaping and these seven key principles, please visit BCDES's Web site at www.butlercountyohio.org/des.



TIP: Make sure sprinklers are watering the grass and not the sidewalk

TIP: prevent costly repairs

Most sewer and water backups occur during the rainy season, usually March through May. BCDES recommends that you purchase additional coverage on your homeowner's insurance policy for sewer and water damage. This inexpensive option could be a real money saver for you if a sewer or water backup ever occurs in your home.

Please call your homeowner's insurance company today to discuss this option. Contact us at (513) 887-3066 if you have questions regarding this recommendation.

Tip: watch for water quality report in the mail

You will be receiving BCDES's 2005 water quality report in the mail. The report will be sent as a mailing separate from your BCDES bill.

The department's water quality report provides information regarding the quality of your drinking water. The report outlines the results of water quality tests and inspections required by both the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies.

To view prior BCDES water quality reports, please visit the department's Web site at www.butlercountyohio.org/des and click on "publications."

Things you can do to prevent water waste inside and outside your home

Bathroom

1. Check your toilets for leaks. Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately.
2. Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush. There is no need to keep water pouring down the drain. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.

Kitchen/Laundry

1. Use your automatic dishwasher only for full loads.
2. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water.
3. If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have only one sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a pan full of hot water.

Outside

1. Water your lawn only when it needs it. A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on the grass. If it springs back when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, fetch the sprinkler.
2. Deep soak your lawn. When you do water, do it long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots where it does the most good. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and tends to encourage shallow root systems.
3. Water during the cool parts of the day. Early morning generally is better than at dusk because it helps prevent the growth of fungus.



-American Water Works Association

NEW! COMPUTER RECYCLING PROGRAM FOR BUTLER COUNTY RESIDENTS



- When:** Every Saturday - March through October
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Where:** 123 Court Street in Hamilton (the former Butler County Jail)
located next to the U.S. Post Office & Butler County Courthouse
- What:** Computers, monitors, laptops, keyboards, mice, cables, printers, fax machines, telephones, cell phones, PDAs, software, CD-ROMs, Ink Jet Cartridges accepted for recycling. TVs will NOT be accepted.
- Cost:** **FREE**

Limit of 5 computer systems per household per month. Proof of Butler County residency is required. Please bring a driver's license or a household utility bill. Call Butler County Solid Waste District at (513) 887-3653 for more information. This program is made possible by the Butler County Board of Commissioners.

Stormwater Elimination Program

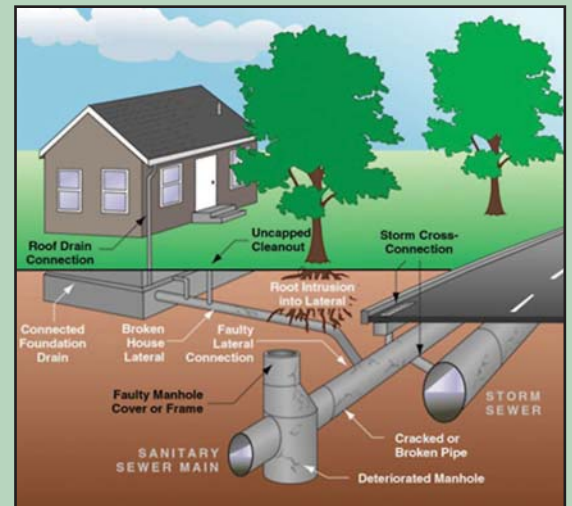
Improper connections permit water from sources other than sanitary fixtures and floor drains to enter the sanitary sewer system. As a result, during heavy periods of rain, stormwater can overload the sanitary sewer system causing backups, overflows and basement flooding.

BCDES's Stormwater Elimination Reimbursement Program (SERP) provides you with a free on-site inspection of your sanitary sewer lateral and home for evidence of improper connections. If an improper connection is identified, BCDES will reimburse eligible repair costs of up to \$3,000. The SERP covers the following repair items:

- lateral replacement
- lateral spot repair
- lateral relining
- sump or sump pump disconnection and redirection/relocation
- footer/roof drain disconnection and redirection/relocation
- swimming pool drain disconnection and redirection/relocation
- driveway/yard drain disconnection and redirection/relocation

BCDES takes pride in providing you with the highest quality of environmental service and is always looking for ways to help reduce the cost of future service. By utilizing the SERP, you not only help BCDES reduce the amount of clean water entering the sanitary sewer system, but also help to reduce the cost of future service.

If you would like more information regarding the program or would like to arrange a time for a free inspection of your property, please contact BCDES at (513) 887-3686.



Portable Deduct Meter Program

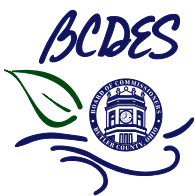
Did you know that BCDES automatically credits residential customer accounts with sewer adjustments during the months of June, July and August?

The customer's summer water use is compared to the average winter use. Summer use that exceeds the average winter use is automatically deducted from the customer's summer sewer charges.

Alternatively, BCDES offers a portable deduct meter that will help customers cut their sewer costs throughout the entire year. This voluntary program offers customers the option to purchase a separate meter for tracking outside water usage. This water does not enter the sewer system so customers will not be charged sewer fees.

With the portable meter program, usage will be deducted once per year instead of monthly. A portable meter can be purchased for \$60 at the BCDES Customer Care Center, 130 High Street, First Floor, Hamilton, Ohio. If you have questions about the automatic summer sewer credit or the deduct meter, please call (513) 887-3066 or send an email to warde@butlercountyohio.org.

HOW TO CONTACT US



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Hamilton, OH 45011
Main Number: (513) 887-3066
Fax Number: (513) 785-5799

www.butlercountyohio.org/des