

BCDES Environmental ELEMENTS



We're More Than Water

October 2006

BCDES holds ribbon cutting ceremony for New Miami Wastewater Treatment Plant

We're officially open for business in New Miami! On September 7, BCDES held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of our New Miami Water Reclamation Facility. Representatives from local, state and federal government attended the event to show their support of the project.

The New Miami Sanitary Sewer System has brought public sewer service to about 600 homes and 38 businesses in the Village of New Miami. These homes and businesses were relying on outdated or failing septic tanks and other types of home sewage disposal systems.

With the project, Butler County is providing affordable sewer service to New Miami residents while eliminating the potential health risks from improperly treated sewage. The project includes a wastewater treatment plant with an average daily capacity of 800,000 gallons, a pump station and a sanitary sewer collection system. As of October 1, more than 200 property owners have connected to the system or applied for a connection permit.



Steve Schaeffer – BCDES Chief Operator, Bruce Butler – Acting Mayor of New Miami and BCDES employee, Sue Vance – BCDES Director, Don Fox – New Miami Citizens' Advisory Board member, Bob Leventry – BCDES Deputy Director

BCDES offers NEW recycling options

BCDES is offering new recycling options in West Chester, Liberty and Fairfield townships to encourage residential recycling and meet state mandated recycling goals.

Several drop boxes will be located in West Chester, Liberty and Fairfield townships. These locations include: parks, commercial sites, township administration buildings and fire stations.

As an incentive to recycle, townships will receive \$7 for every ton of material recycled. This amount is based on the material collected at the curb and also at the recycling drop boxes. Townships can use these funds at their discretion.

For more information about the new recycling program or a list of locations, please call the Solid Waste District at (513) 887-3653 or Rumpke Recycling at (513) 242-4600.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Plastic bottles #1 and #2, no lids
- Glass jars and bottles of any color
- Aluminum, steel and bi-metal cans
- Empty aerosol cans with lids and tips removed
- Computer paper and other mixed office paper
- Corrugated cardboard, broken down to 3'x 3'
- Junk mail, envelopes
- Magazines, newspapers with inserts
- Paperboard, such as cereal boxes
- Telephone books

A hydrant is a beautiful thing

A fire hydrant presents a landscaping dilemma, and many homeowners try to hide the hydrant in their yard with shrubs or other decorative plantings.



In an emergency, a landscaped hydrant can cost you or your neighbors. The time it takes for fire fighters to find or access a hidden hydrant can increase property damage, and may cost someone a life.

In non-emergency situations, BCDES and your local fire department need access to the hydrant for water line flushing and hydrant maintenance. Flushing helps maintain water pressure and quality, and ensures the hydrant is working properly.

Whether for maintenance or in case of emergency, BCDES also needs ready access to water or sewer manholes and valve boxes in your yard. These manholes and valve boxes allow workers to quickly find and remove sewer blockages, or turn off water mains, thereby limiting property damage.

Fire hydrants and manholes are installed in the public right-of-way or within established easements. When we find landscaping which keeps us from doing our job, we will require the homeowner to remove the obstruction.

On behalf of your neighbors and the fire departments, we urge you to keep these important utility fixtures visible and accessible. Visibility could save property, and more importantly, a life.

Think *inside* the box

Recycle



Expansion and upgrades planned for BCDES water reclamation facilities

BCDES' sanitary sewer system serves more than 100,000 customers in southeastern Butler County. The sewer system consists of more than 700 miles of sewers and 33 lift stations. The LeSourdsville Water Reclamation Facility (LES) and the Upper Mill Creek Water Reclamation Facility (UMC) are our two largest facilities.

For several years, BCDES has used a long term master plan and capital improvement program to accommodate area growth and development. As part of this program, BCDES recently completed a dynamic hydraulic model of the sewer system to plan how the system will handle additional connections and flows to LES and UMC.

The completion of the master plan will result in the upgrade and extension of the sewer system in the LES and UMC drainage basins.

The final master plan will:

- Identify capacity problems in the existing sewers (surcharging, overflows, bottlenecks, etc.).
- Identify improvements necessary to remedy problems.
- Identify areas requiring further study.
- Identify trunk sewer extensions needed to serve future customers.
- Analyze impact of current and future construction on both LES and UMC.
- Create a capital improvement schedule for the identified improvements.

Tour a wastewater treatment plant

Interested in learning more about the wastewater treatment process?

BCDES offers free tours of our LeSourdsville and Upper Mill Creek Water Reclamation Facilities. This service is offered to individual customers, scouting groups, community organizations, school groups and others who may be interested. The tour takes about 70-90 minutes.

If you would like to schedule a tour, please call (513) 887-3967.

Call in for your yearly sewer credit

Now through November 30, residential customers can call in their portable deduct meter readings to obtain a yearly sewer credit. This service is new. Until now, customers with portable deduct meters had to bring them to our office in Hamilton to get credit.

Call (513) 887-3030 with the meter reading during normal business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Customers can also bring the meters to the first floor of the Butler County Administrative Center, 130 High St., Hamilton, Ohio, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

TAME THE GREASE MONSTER



Grease from cooking — meat fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces, and dairy products — should NEVER be put down any drain.

When washed down the sink, grease sticks to the inside of the sewer pipes on your property and the pipelines in the street. Over time, it can build up, harden into a plug, and block an entire pipe, causing sewer overflows and backups.

Grease gets into sewers from household drains, as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses. Pipelines blocked by grease can cause major problems such as:

- Raw sewage backing up into your home or your neighbor's home.
- Expensive and unpleasant clean-up that you must pay for.
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, and streets.
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms from the sewage overflow.
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for BCDES, which could cause higher sewer bills for you.

What can you do?

- Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available).
- Whenever you have a greasy pan to wash, wipe it out after use (while it's still warm, not hot) with newspaper or paper towels.
- Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and then empty them in the trash.
- Teach your children to keep grease out of drains.

If you have other questions about the proper disposal of cooking grease and oils, please contact BCDES at (513) 887-3066.



HOW TO CONTACT US

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www.butlercountyohio.org/des

Blue flag identifies meter

BCDES may have placed a blue flag near your meter so it can be located in the snow. This practice will ensure that you receive an accurate bill each month.

BCDES can serve you more efficiently if the blue flag is left in place throughout the fall and winter months. Please make sure your meter or remote register is accessible. If a field representative is unable to read your meter, you will receive an estimated bill. It is our goal to avoid estimated bills.