

Wastewater Collection

Information

The Wastewater Collection Division maintains and repairs 230 miles of sanitary sewer lines, 3,321 manholes and 30 lift stations.

The City's collection system relies on gravity to collect wastewater from its 13,864 customers. When the system gets to an unreasonable depth, a lift station pumps the wastewater to a higher elevation so the gravity process can begin again. In many cases, the stations were converted from above ground pumps to submersible pumps. This type of pump is more reliable and the station site is more aesthetically pleasing.

The gravity collection system is routinely accessed through the 3,321 manholes for flushing and cleaning purposes with a combination JeVacuum machine. Each year we clean all 230 miles of sewer lines that is 1,214,400 feet. We generally respond to over 200 emergency calls each year.

Because of the hazardous environment that staff must encounter, protecting our workers is a major concern. Safety measures are taken in all maintenance calls. Prior to entering confined spaces such as manholes, we test for gases and then ventilate the area. Additional personnel and retrieval systems must be on site before workers will enter manholes. Another possible safety hazard is the excavation sites that are more than five feet deep. These must be shored with trench boxes to prevent cave-ins.