

Project: A Comparative Analysis of Indianapolis' Approach to Combined Sewer Overflows

Client: The City of Bloomington

Term: Spring 2002

Faculty Mentor: Professor Diane Henshel

Summary:

Municipal combined sewage pipes, which combine water drainage pipes and sewage pipes into one system, prevent sewage from flooding streets during periods of excessive rain. To relieve the potential for these piping systems to overflow, Combined Sewer Overflows were designed to collect overflow from the pipes. The CSO systems however, pose serious threats to water quality in areas of the United States with CSO water treatment infrastructure. The City of Indianapolis, under EPA guidelines, developed a Long Term Control Plan to address the CSO problem. The SPEA group analyzed the CSO system and Long Term Control Plan, used GIS mapping to conduct an environmental justice analysis of the Indianapolis area, and created a City Comparison Indices to help aid in future decisions regarding the CSO system and EPA guidelines.