

Flooding in Camden: Problems and Solutions

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New Jersey League of Conservation Voters



1969











'Every time it rains': Floods from climate change plague a Camden neighborhood

"It's not fair to us," Nancy Ruiz says of constant flooding and the costs she's had to absorb. "Taxes go up. Food and everything is going up and we are not even middle class."

ADVERTISEMENT



Nancy Ruiz points out damage June 16, 2022, from near constant flooding of her home in Camden's Cramer Hill neighborhood.

What's the Fuss?

- Stormwater fouls our waters
- Stormwater floods our communities
- Stormwater hurts our economy



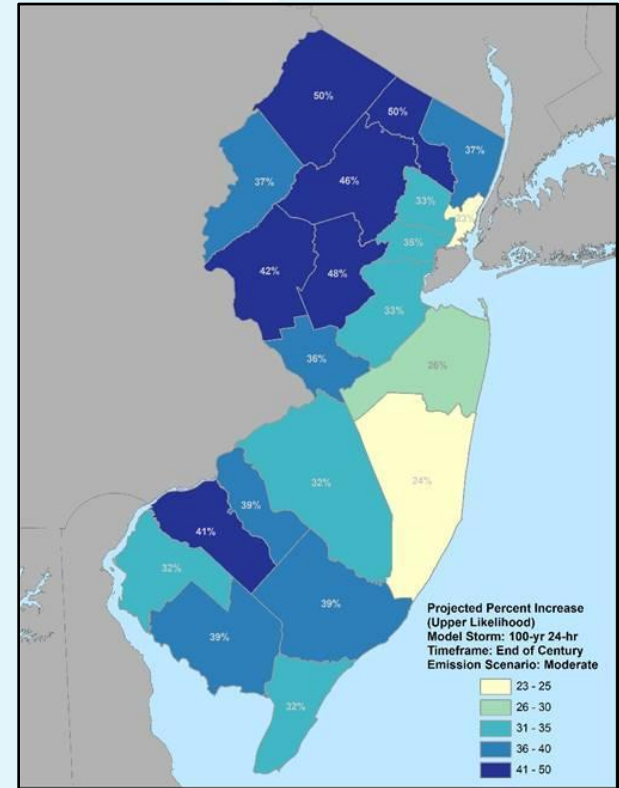
Camden,
NJ



The Stormwater Problem

Climate Change

- On average, a homeowner could expect to endure a 100-year storm during a 30-year mortgage.
- Precipitation is already 2.5% to 10% higher.
- Our flood maps are based on 1999 data.



Impervious Surface

+ Increased
impervious surface

+ Increased storm
intensity

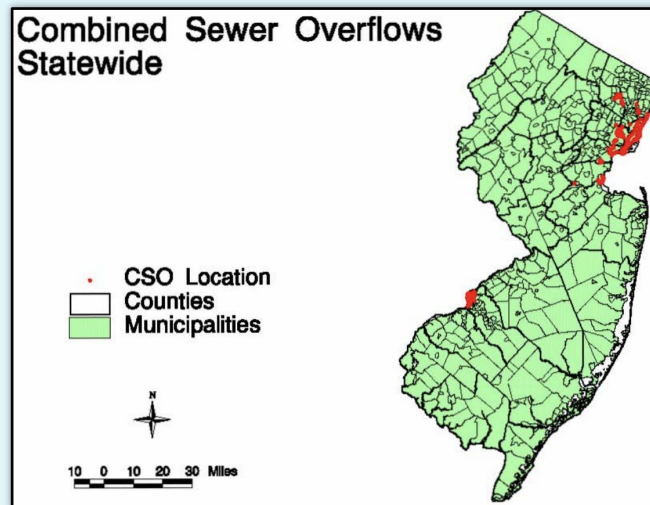
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Increased flooding



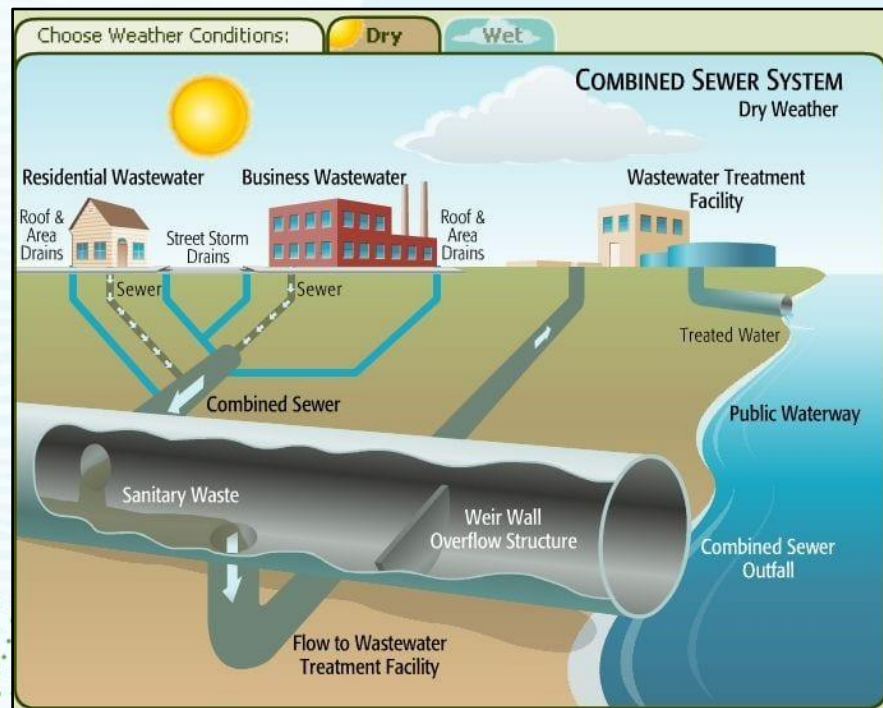
Combined Sewer Overflows

- There are **21** CSO communities with over **200** outfalls.
- They are **located exclusively in overburdened communities.**



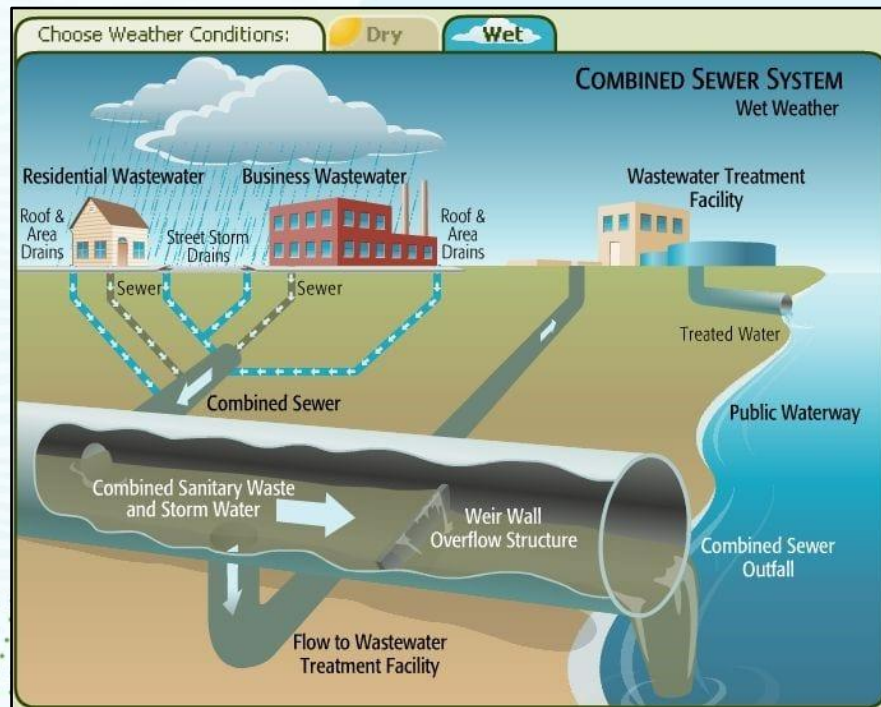
Disproportionate Impacts

Combined Sewer Overflow



Disproportionate Impacts

Combined Sewer Overflow



Disproportionate Impacts

CSO Impacts

Direct exposure can cause:

- cholera, typhoid, hepatitis, polio, cryptosporidiosis, ascariasis and schistosomiasis.

Indirect exposure can cause:

- ear and eye discharges, skin rashes, gastrointestinal problems and even miscarriages.

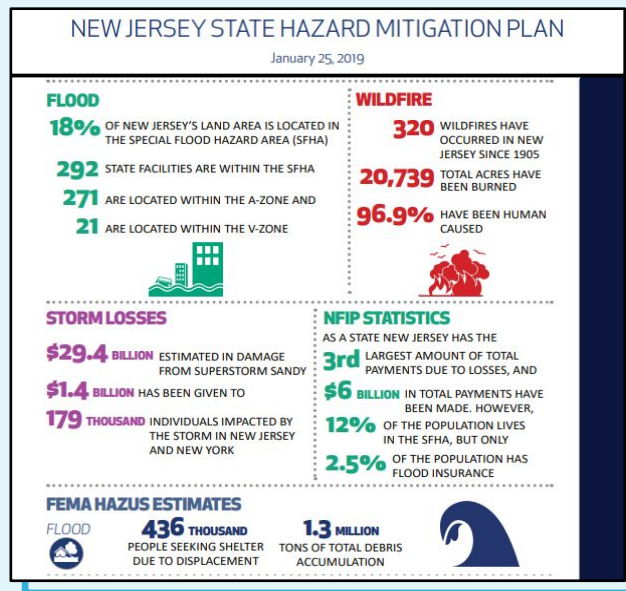
Harmful algal blooms are back in N.J.

Updated: Jun. 09, 2021, 11:42 a.m. | Published: Jun. 09, 2021, 11:42 a.m.



Stormwater Management in NJ

- New Jersey has a **\$16 billion** stormwater infrastructure problem, and right now there is **no dedicated funding source** to address this massive need.



Current Stormwater Funding Practices

- Property Taxes



- Sewer Fees



What Are My Options?



- **Do Nothing**
- **Increase Property Taxes**
- **Increase Sewer Rates**
- **Create a Stormwater Utility**

Benefits of a Stormwater Utility



Similar to a water or sewer utility, a stormwater utility is a local assessment district that dedicates funding specifically and solely to address stormwater management problems.

STATE MANDATE:

- Clean Stormwater and Flood Reduction Act, S-1073 is *Permissive*
- **Localities decide** whether to create a stormwater utility

Benefits of a Stormwater Utility

Equitable Funding

- Fee is based off of amount of impervious surface a property
- Credits can be gained for commercial and residential properties through implementing solutions like rain barrels and rain gardens
- Tailored to the town



Benefits of a Stormwater Utility

Benefits to the Community

Control Erosion

- Streambank restoration

Reduce Rate of Runoff

- Rebuild detention basins

Green Infrastructure (e.g., rain gardens)



Benefits to the Community



What Can We Do?

- Testify to city council that we need to invest in solutions against flooding
- Write an op-ed or letter to the editor
- Write to city leaders

