



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washburn Street Community Event

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, in partnership with New North Citizens Council, is sponsoring an event for the residents of Washburn Street and the surrounding neighborhood to thank those living in the area for their patience and support during the Washburn Street CSO Control project. The event will take place on Washburn Street today from 3:30 p.m.- 6:00.p.m. Residents will enjoy food and music, and Commission staff will hand out Springfield water to guests.

Residents in the Washburn Street area have been living with heavy equipment operation and construction in their roadways for multiple years while this project and previous water and sewer projects were ongoing. The Commission recognizes that long term and complex projects such as this one can be an inconvenience to residents; this event is to express thanks to those living in the area for their cooperation.

About the Washburn Street CSO Control Project:

Like many older sewer systems, some of Springfield's sewers are combined sewers. Combined sewers collect and transport sanitary sewage and stormwater together in one pipe. During heavy rains, the combined sewers can fill up beyond capacity. Discharge points are built into the system so that excess flow empties into bodies of water rather than backing up into basements and spilling onto roadways. These discharge points are known as combined sewer overflows (CSOs). The US Environmental Protection Agency has mandated that the overflow resulting from CSOs be reduced.

The Washburn Street CSO Control project consisted of installing new sewer and drain infrastructure including pipe, manholes, and diversion chambers. The work completed will reduce overflows to the Connecticut River by reducing the amount of rainwater that enters the combined sewer system and by increasing the capacity to convey sewage to the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility at Bondi's Island. The multi-year project was substantially completed in September.

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