

WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM 2019 PERFORMANCE REPORT

For Distribution to NC State University Wastewater Collection System Users

Annual Performance

During the calendar year 2019, the NC State University wastewater collection system was operated and maintained in accordance with Permit No. WQCS00371 and State and Federal laws with no known violations.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

One sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) event occurred during 2019. It resulted in an estimated 1155 gallons of untreated wastewater being discharged into Rocky Creek Branch between August 26, 2019 and September 5, 2019. A large mass of roots infiltrated the wastewater collection system for Woods Residence Hall and caused a blockage that led to the SSO. Because it occurred in a seldom traveled wooded area, the SSO went unreported for more than a week. Upon discovery, actions were promptly taken to clear the blockage and restore flow through the system. A rigorous monitoring and flushing schedule was implemented to prevent another overflow until the damaged section of the wastewater collection system was replaced. The installation of the new pipe was completed on January 2, 2020. No evidence of the SSO resulting in any adverse impact to surface water was observed.

Background

Wastewater collection systems are governed by North Carolina General Statute 143-215.1C and North Carolina Administrative Code Title 15A Chapters 2 and 8. Permit No. WQCS00371, issued by the NC Division of Water Quality, allows NC State University to operate and maintain more than 20 miles of sewer lines and associated piping, valves, and appurtenances required to make a complete and operational wastewater collection system to serve the campus in an environmentally sound manner. The sewage and wastewater collected by this system are discharged into the City of Raleigh's wastewater collection system and treated at its Neuse River Facility. SSOs that release more than 1,000 gallons to the ground or any amount to surface water (including through ditches and storm drains) must be reported to the state.

A key to preventing SSOs is keeping fats, oils and grease (FOG) out of the wastewater collection system. NC State encourages allowing FOG to cool and then be placed in a suitable container for recycle or disposed in the trash to keep FOG out of drains. Waste Reduction and Recycling in partnership with University Housing provides plastic "Cease the Grease" containers for FOG collection.

NC State maintains a 24-hour Facilities Operations number [(919) 515-2991] to receive reports of sanitary sewer overflows and dispatches emergency personnel to minimize the environmental impact. It is likely that a SSO would be reported promptly as most sanitary sewer manholes on campus are clearly visible to students and staff.

Question/Comments

Please contact Jenny Kelvington at (919) 513-7176 if you have any questions or comments.