

Closure of Bearbrook Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)

In 1995, the City of Saco entered into a CSO master plan agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) that developed a road map to abate and eventually eliminate the discharge of combined storm water and municipal sewerage to the Saco River and the surrounding brooks. Initially there were nine CSOs throughout the City however, with improvements related to Inflow/Infiltration reduction of the piping system and separation of the sewer and storm drain lines, the city has reduced the number of CSO's to four.

The Bearbrook facility is the largest Pumping Station in the city, contributing approximately 30-40% of the total flow received at the treatment facility on a daily basis. Initially, the site was a package treatment plant that was built in 1957 and later converted to a pump station. During high flows, the CSO at Bearbrook would discharge combined sewer (storm water and municipal sewerage) into Bear Brook.



Figure 1: Bearbrook CSO before removal.

Originally scheduled for closure in 2021, the city began demolition to close the CSO in the summer of 2017. This included the demolition of two small buildings, the plugging of lines and

the filling of the existing structure. Not only did this eliminate a CSO and improve the water quality of the Goosefare Brook watershed, it also eliminated a safety concern with the structure and aesthetically improved the site.



Figure 2: Finished project!

This could not have been down without the help and assistance of the City of Saco Department of Public Works. Thank you to all who helped move this project along!