



Cincinnati's Capital Improvement Program for 2026-2031 for Sewers in Four Eastside Neighborhoods - Analysis by ChatGPT

What is Cincinnati's six-year sewer plan doing about flooding in Mt. Lookout, Hyde Park, Oakley and Madisonville?

After reviewing the City's FY 2026–2031 Capital Improvement Program, I found about **\$14.6 million in neighborhood-specific sewer projects** affecting these east-side communities.

But that does **not** mean the City is spending \$14.6 million on flood prevention.

Most of the projects are intended to repair deteriorated combined sewers, prevent structural failures, or address sewer-backup and capacity problems. Only a few are clearly designed to reduce wet-weather surcharging or separate stormwater from the sewer system.

Mt. Lookout

The CIP includes:

- **Linwood Avenue Sewer Replacement — \$733,500**
- **Delta Avenue at Linwood Avenue Sewer Replacement — \$4.589 million**

The Delta-Linwood project is particularly important because the City says the sewers can become full and pressurized during a storm that statistically occurs about twice a year and that prior analysis identified additional downstream capacity problems.

However, most of the construction funding is not scheduled until **FY 2029**.

Oakley

- **Wasson Ravine Sewer Replacement — \$2.038 million**

This project will abandon a damaged combined sewer and replace nearby sewers with larger pipes. It may improve capacity, but the City describes it primarily as a structural replacement project rather than a comprehensive flood-control project.

Hyde Park

- **Madison Road and Edwards Road Sewer Improvements — \$2.794 million**

The City reports deteriorated sewer segments, capacity concerns, cave-ins, basement-water complaints, manhole problems and sewage odors.

But the planned remedy appears to focus mainly on lining or replacing damaged sewer segments. The City says more monitoring and hydraulic modeling are still needed to determine the condition of the system.

Construction is scheduled for **FY 2029**.

Madisonville

- **Chandler Street Sewer Improvements — \$1.539 million**

This is the clearest flood- and sewer-backup-relief project in the group.

The City says the system surcharges during wet weather, approximately 30 sewer backups have been documented, and sewer separation was selected to remove stormwater from the combined sewer system.

What does this show?

The CIP demonstrates that the City and MSD are aware of serious sewer deterioration, capacity problems, wet-weather surcharging and sewer backups in these neighborhoods.

What it does **not** show is a clearly identified and coordinated east-side flood-mitigation program.

Instead, it shows a collection of individual projects. Some are directly related to wet-weather flooding and sewer backups. Others are primarily intended to keep deteriorated sewers from collapsing.

The timing is also important. Much of the major construction is not scheduled until **2028 or 2029**.

So, when City officials say they are spending heavily on sewer infrastructure, the public should ask:

How much is actually intended to reduce neighborhood flooding, and when will those projects be completed?
