

WESTERN TOWNSHIPS UTILITIES AUTHORITY

THE SYSTEM

The Western Townships Utilities Authority (WTUA) service area includes the Charter Townships of Canton, Northville and Plymouth. The service area is approximately seventy (70) square miles in size with an estimated population of 157,809 per the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) data as of July 2021.

The three communities are in the northwest corner of Wayne County, Michigan. The rectangular shaped service area is roughly bounded by I-275 on the east, Eight Mile Road to the north, The Wayne County/Washtenaw County border on the west and US-12 on the south. The WTUA service area does not include the City of Plymouth or the City of Northville.

The WTUA system is comprised of a number of gravity interceptors, lift stations, pump stations, force mains and equalization basins. The equalization basins are used for shaving peak flows, especially during wet weather events. General flows are intercepted from the local township sanitary sewer systems using a combination of newly constructed (i.e. 1990's) and older (i.e. 1930's and 1960's) sanitary sewer interceptors. The entire local service area has separated sanitary sewers. About 12,500 homes have footing drains connected to the local sanitary sewers. The flows travel in a southerly direction to the Middle Rouge lift station where pumps lift the wastewater about 55 feet so it may continue to flow by gravity to the Lower Rouge pump station. At the Lower Rouge pump station, flows are pumped using large centrifugal pumps, westerly along US-12 to the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) wastewater treatment plant via twin force main pipes.

WTUA also owns the final treated effluent pump station at the YCUA wastewater treatment plant, which transports the tertiary level treated flows via large force main pipe back to the Lower Rouge River in Canton Township at a point north of US-12.

WTUA contracts, either on behalf of or through its member townships, for wastewater treatment services at the YCUA wastewater treatment plant.

TOTAL CONSUMPTION

Calendar Year Ended December 31	Total Wastewater Volume (thousand gallons)
2021	5,249,352
2020	5,104,068
2019	5,253,449
2018	5,179,868
2017	5,325,623
2016	5,748,684
2015	5,546,613
2014	5,580,509
2013	5,391,372
2012	5,037,299

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SEWAGE FLOWS

WTUA maintains a network of flow meters around its service area to monitor wastewater flows. The table below provides the average daily flow and maximum daily flow for the last ten years.

Calendar Year	Daily Flow (MGD)	
	Average	Maximum
2021	15.35	32.44
2020	14.46	33.62
2019	15.68	34.36
2018	16.51	34.97
2017	16.54	37.27
2016	15.70	37.33
2015	15.19	35.71
2014	15.29	31.57
2013	14.76	36.74
2012	13.76	28.51

TOP TWENTY MAJOR USERS OF THE WTUA SYSTEM

While the majority of the flow generated within the WTUA service area is residential wastewater, the following business and institutions comprise our top twenty users, based on volume of water used.

No.	Township	Business/Institution Name	Annual Usage*
1	Plymouth	Absopure Water Company	114,770
2	Northville	Highland Lakes	36,705
3	Northville	Advanced Disposal (actual wastewater discharged)	36,200
4	Northville	Park Place Apartments	26,184
5	Plymouth	Tower Automotive	17,506
6	Northville	Kings Mill	14,910
7	Northville	Country Club	12,828
8	Plymouth	Aunt Millie's Bakeries	10,248
9	Northville	Terrace at Northville Ridge	9,907
10	Northville	Northville Forest	9,751
11	Canton	Metallic Steel	9,085
12	Northville	Springwater Park	8,756
13	Canton	Yazaki North America	8,630
14	Canton	Lifetime Fitness	8,600
15	Northville	Northville Village Center	7,844
16	Northville	Northville Woods Apartments	7,810
17	Northville	Cedar Lake Apartments	7,752
18	Canton	Canton Renewables	7,704
19	Northville	Villas of Northville Hills	7,647
20	Canton	Republic Waste	7,585

*All usage units are expressed in thousands of gallons.

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HISTORICAL REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

Below is a table that depicts the operating revenues and expenditures for WTUA since 2013. Due to GASB 68, WTUA recorded a liability for YCUA's UAAL for Pension at our fiscal year-end in 2015. WTUA negotiated a fixed amount of YCUA's pension UAAL that WTUA is responsible for; an amount that is being paid in 180 monthly payments, according to the 4th amendment to the WTUA-YCUA contract. The excess revenues are/were used to pay down this liability, hence, why there is a surplus shown of revenues less expenditures.

Fiscal Year September 30	Operating Revenues	Operating Expenses	Surplus
2022*	\$ 9,490,253	\$ 9,258,137	\$ 232,116
2021	8,434,716	8,202,599	232,117
2020	8,286,921	8,054,805	232,116
2019	8,729,603	8,497,485	232,118
2018	8,938,688	8,706,880	231,808
2017	15,368,278	15,116,821	251,457
2016	14,901,203	14,436,970	464,233
2015	14,379,036	14,379,036	-
2014	12,824,009	12,824,009	-
2013	12,121,008	12,121,008	-

*Current year budget.

WTUA NET ASSETS

The table below shows the net assets over the past ten years.

Fiscal Year Ended September 30	Net Assets
2021	\$ 125,931,502
2020	122,843,954
2019	121,845,650
2018	112,936,078
2017	106,521,178
2016	100,908,445
2015	95,910,446
2014	89,719,125
2013	83,889,705
2012	79,677,402

CURRENT RATE

WTUA is reimbursed for its costs incurred by the member Townships. Costs are billed to the Townships on a monthly basis. The imputed rate of operations for the last two fiscal years was \$1.73 and \$1.55 per thousand gallons of wastewater processed, respectively. The imputed rate of all billings to the Townships for operations, current capital contributions and debt payments for the last two fiscal years was \$3.28 and \$2.60 per thousand gallons of wastewater processed, respectively.