

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 158,355 per the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) data as of July 2024.

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 several 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)
2024	5,033,033
2023	4,739,859
2022	4,400,954
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

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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
2024	14.16	29.12
2023	13.36	29.01
2022	13.05	27.78
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

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.

2	Northville	Highland Lakes	30,999
3	Northville	Park Place Apartments	25,733
4	Plymouth	Tower Automotive	16,242
5	Northville	Kings Mill	14,527
6	Canton	Mister Carwash	11,920
7	Northville	Country Club	11,151
8	Northville	Terrace at Northville Ridge	10,856
9	Canton	Lifetime Fitness	10,828
10	Plymouth	Henry Ford Health	10,308
11	Northville	Northville Woods Apartments	10,225
12	Northville	Northville Forest	9,865
13	Northville	Springwater Park (I & II)	9,581
14	Canton	Metallic Steek	9,465
15	Canton	Salem High School	8,688
16	Plymouth	Saint John's Complex	8,552
17	Canton	Baymont Inn	8,505
18	Canton	Canton Renewables	8,107
19	Northville	Northville Village Center	7,544
20	Plymouth	Robert Bosch Corp	7,439

*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 for the last 10 years. 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
2025*	\$ 13,008,665	\$ 12,776,549	232,116
2024	11,694,579	11,462,466	232,113
2023	11,252,152	11,047,660	204,492
2022	8,689,494	8,457,375	232,119
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

*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
2024	\$ 124,167,926
2023	128,673,945
2022	128,597,033
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

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 \$2.32 and \$2.45 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 \$2.32 and \$3.46 per thousand gallons of wastewater processed, respectively.