



PUBLIC SECTOR
CONSULTANTS



WATER CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



A STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Michigan's Water Infrastructure Funding Gap

PREPARED BY

Public Sector Consultants and
University of Michigan Water Center

WITH SUPPORT FROM

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

PREPARED BY



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**CHARLES STEWART
MOTT FOUNDATION**

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FOREWORD

Every Michigander knows we face daunting infrastructure challenges affecting all aspects of our daily lives: aging roads, bridges and dams; an energy grid strained by increasing demand and a changing climate; and drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems that are in serious need of repair and modernization.

From the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation's vantage point in our hometown of Flint, we would argue that nothing is more fundamental to human health and well-being than clean, safe, affordable water. We've seen firsthand the devastating consequences of government funding decisions that did not put the health and well-being of citizens first.

That's why we were pleased to support a request from Michigan Sen. Sarah Anthony, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to provide the Committee and any relevant workgroups with nonpartisan education, analysis and recommendations on the state and condition of Michigan's water infrastructure and related funding needs. The request provides an excellent example of how the public and philanthropic sectors can work together to serve citizens. It was a logical request to make of the Mott Foundation, as our One Water initiative seeks to promote safe, affordable water for all – from the source to the tap.

At Mott, we've learned that you can't solve a problem until you understand its full dimensions. So we turned to researchers at the University of Michigan Water Center and Public Sector Consultants and asked them to help document the price tag for addressing Michigan's water challenges.

We hope this information helps spark an earnest and necessary conversation about how our state can and must address water infrastructure needs. We're grateful to the report's authors for their excellent work in helping to start that conversation.

We recognize that meeting the needs described here will take time and sustained effort. The Mott Foundation hopes this report will help to inform and accelerate action across the public, private and philanthropic sectors for the benefit of all Michiganders.



Ridgway White

President & CEO

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In April 2026, the chair of the State of Michigan Senate Appropriations Committee sent a written request to the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, asking for technical assistance to help develop a data-driven, equitable framework for water infrastructure investment. The Mott Foundation provided grant support to the University of Michigan Water Center, which collaborated with Public Sector Consultants (PSC) to conduct nonpartisan research and analysis to provide a holistic view of investment needs across six categories of water infrastructure in Michigan.

The research examined source water protection, private wells and septic systems, gray infrastructure, stormwater, water assistance, and dams. Some categories are well documented, with robust evidence of the investment needed. Others have little or no research on condition or investment need; for those, the research team developed its own estimates where possible.

BOTTOM LINE

Based on the research, we have concluded that over the next 20 years, Michigan needs at least \$39.6 billion in one-time capital investment, plus roughly \$860 million every year in ongoing costs, to bring its water infrastructure to a state of good repair. Current spending, though large by historical standards in recent years, is not nearly on pace to close that gap.

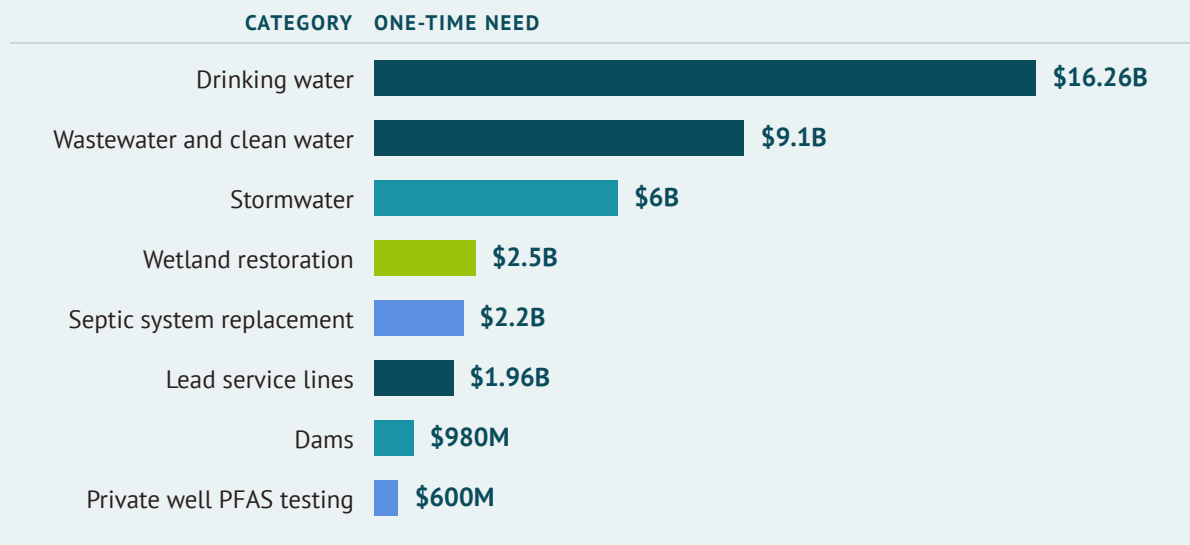
In this report, a state of good repair means infrastructure that reliably does the job it was built to do—delivering safe drinking water, treating wastewater, moving stormwater, and holding back floodwater—at the level of service that regulations and customers expect, with assets inspected, maintained, and replaced on schedule rather than run to failure.

This report reaches the conclusion that Michigan is not on pace to close the gap for three reasons: the size of Michigan's documented need already dwarfs what the State and local communities have historically spent; the State's response, even in categories where the State has invested significant resources, has not kept pace with capital investment needs or ongoing costs; and the true number is larger than \$39.6 billion, because whole categories of Michigan's water infrastructure do not have assessment data or published funding needs attached to them.

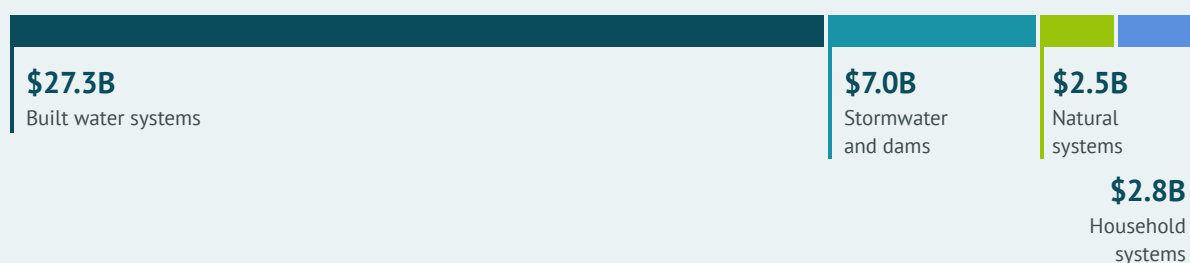
EXHIBIT ES-1

One-Time Need by Category

■ Built water systems ■ Stormwater and dams ■ Natural systems ■ Household systems



\$39.6 billion total one-time need



Source: Exhibit 1, Funding Needs Analysis.

1

The documented need is enormous.

Where investment needs have been documented, they include:

- The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2023 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA) estimates a \$16.26 billion, 20-year drinking water capital need. Replacing the state's 245,236 projected lead service lines would cost an estimated \$1.96 billion more.

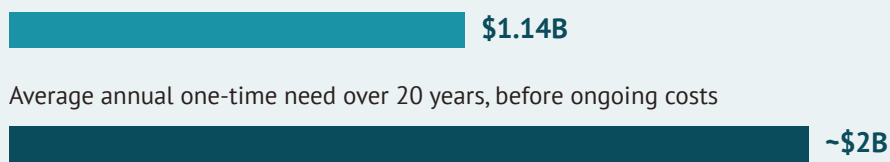
- EPA's 2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) estimates a \$15.072 billion, 20-year clean water need, of which about \$6 billion is for stormwater.
- The Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) March 2025 dam rehabilitation study estimates a \$980 million one-time need, a four- to fivefold increase over its 2016 estimate, following the dam failures in Midland and Gladwin Counties.
- The Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) estimates it would cost \$600 million to test all private wells for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). No estimate exists for PFAS remediation across drinking water systems.
- PSC's 2023 Water Rate Study estimated \$181 million per year to subsidize an estimated 394,881 qualifying households for water utility bill payment assistance.
- Based on the average cost of projects approved through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Septic Replacement Loan Program, this report estimates a \$2.2 billion immediate need to replace the 130,000 household septic systems that are failing, and then an additional \$676 million per year for ongoing replacement.
- Restoring 500,000 acres of wetlands, the State's goal, would cost roughly \$2.5 billion at the low end of published per-acre costs.

Combined, just these categories total roughly \$39.6 billion in one-time capital need plus approximately \$860 million per year in ongoing costs. Against that, Michigan communities, through rate revenue and limited federal and state earmarks, have historically invested only about \$1.14 billion a year in water infrastructure capital spending (2004–2013 US Census Bureau average). Spread over 20 years, the one-time need alone averages about \$2 billion a year, roughly 75 percent more than that historical level, before any ongoing costs (Exhibit ES-2).

EXHIBIT ES-2

Need versus Historical Spending, per Year

Historical annual water capital spending (2004–2013 US Census Bureau average)

 **\$1.14B**

Average annual one-time need over 20 years, before ongoing costs

 **~\$2B**

Source: US Census Bureau, 2004–2013 average; Exhibit 1, Funding Needs Analysis.

2

Michigan's response has not kept pace with that need, even when substantial investments have been made.

The larger recent investments are less durable than they appear. EGLE's core drinking water appropriation nearly tripled (from \$159.0 million in FY 2022–23 to \$446.6 million in FY 2025–26), and an additional \$384.3 million in legislator-directed and one-time EGLE water appropriations has been enacted since FY 2022–23, contributing to the \$6.4 billion EGLE reports investing in drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater systems since 2019. But the Michigan House Fiscal Agency attributes most of that growth to federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars, which wind down after FY 2026, and not to new, sustained state revenue.

The Dam Risk Reduction Grant Program has awarded \$44.3 million over three years. But at that pace, it will take approximately 65 years to close the current billion-dollar backlog, which does not account for new needs arising in the next 65 years. Beyond the \$35 million Septic Replacement Loan Program, private septic and well testing, maintenance, and replacement receive almost no state support, and the \$125 million spent cumulatively through FY 2023 on PFAS testing and remediation went mainly to public water systems, not toward private wells or source water protection.

3

The true number is much larger than stated, because whole categories of Michigan's water infrastructure have never been measured.

For some categories of water infrastructure, no statewide assessment or funding need has been developed. There is no statewide well condition assessment. Estimates of the septic failure rate range from 10 to 27 percent, and EGLE's annual septic reporting is missing reporting from 17 of 83 counties. For source water protection, data exist on water quality monitoring and on the need to protect wetlands, groundwater, and surface water and to remediate contamination, but no funding need has been estimated beyond wetland restoration. No one has priced flood mitigation or green stormwater infrastructure statewide.

Each data gap points toward a larger number, not a smaller one—the \$39.6 billion figure is a floor, not a ceiling.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Great Lakes hold roughly one-fifth of the world's available fresh surface water. Michigan borders four of the five Great Lakes. Water literally defines our borders. Water powers our economy, provides for our basic needs, and allows millions of visitors and residents to fish, boat, and recreate. But Michigan is failing to be a responsible steward for this crucial resource. Our history of manufacturing and innovation has left behind legacy contamination that is threatening our water supplies. Our water infrastructure is aging faster than it can be replaced. Most was built in the 1920s and the postwar decades, when federal dollars covered the majority of capital costs; the federal share of national water infrastructure capital spending fell from 50 to 60 percent in the late 1970s and early 1980s to about 7 percent in 2021, shifting the burden onto ratepayers as pipes, treatment plants, and dams exceeded their planned design life.

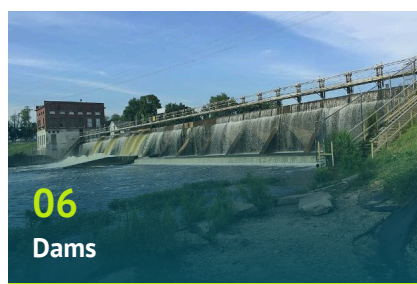
This report is designed to illuminate the funding needs across six main categories of water infrastructure, aligned with a One Water framework that promotes a holistic view of water—ensuring that policies and protections exist from the source to the tap and recognizes that water is connected. Water infrastructure needs are documented in many places, with PSC and the University of Michigan's Water Center at the center of much of the research documenting the need and condition of our water resources. This report compiles more than 60 reports, surveys, and analyses into one statewide inventory organized around One Water.

The six categories are:



WATER BILL		Sample
Water service		\$42.18
Sewer service		\$38.40
Stormwater fee		\$6.25
Assistance payment applied		-\$40.00
Amount due		\$46.83

05 Water assistance



Michigan's water infrastructure is unusually fragmented: more than 1,300 public water systems, hundreds of local wastewater utilities, dozens of county drain commissioners, and a patchwork of regional authorities each set their own rates and capital plans; more than 1 million households rely on their own wells or septic systems; and no single statewide inventory or assessment connects them. The cost of water service in Michigan has risen 188 percent (inflation adjusted) since 1980, and up to 320 percent in some cities (Read et al. 2022). The State's 30-year water strategy (Michigan Office of the Great Lakes 2016) and 2020 MI Clean Water Plan have begun organizing the response around the ambition that every person in Michigan has access to safe, clean, and affordable water, but they lack a cohesive funding strategy to reach that goal.

Because of the lack of data and the fact that much of this infrastructure is underground or underwater, it is difficult to assemble a holistic understanding of the condition of Michigan's water infrastructure and the funding needs associated with it.

Research and history tell us that proactive investment in maintenance and upkeep is almost always less costly than waiting until the infrastructure has deteriorated past the point of repair. But Michigan has taken for granted the abundant resources that surround us, and our failure to protect the resource, and the infrastructure that safeguards our health and homes and drives much of our economy, is now coming at a steep price. **This report puts a spotlight on the immediate and long-term investments our state needs to make to steward our communities, families, and economy.**

MICHIGAN'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

This report examines the water funding needs from source to tap, capturing the investments necessary to maintain Michigan's water for today and future generations.

Source Water Protection

FUNDING NEED

**\$2.5 billion for wetland restoration (low-end estimate);
other source water protection needs unknown**

Source water is the lake, river, or groundwater a public system or private well draws from before any treatment happens—literally the source of the water before it has been filtered, disinfected, or tested. Michigan draws its drinking water from two general sources: surface water from the Great Lakes and their connecting channels and watersheds, which supplies the state's largest systems, including the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA); and groundwater aquifers, which supply smaller municipal wellfields and, for roughly 1 million households, private wells that sit entirely outside the public water system.



Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Upper Peninsula. Photo: sgharvey, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Source water protection is the work of keeping contaminants, such as PFAS and other emerging chemicals, agricultural runoff, urban stormwater, and discharge from failing septic systems, out of that water before it is ever utilized. Part of this protection encompasses preserving the wetlands, floodplains, forests, and riparian buffers that filter and store water naturally on the way there. In the One Water framework, source water protection sits deliberately upstream of the “gray infrastructure” category: gray infrastructure covers what happens once water enters a treatment plant or leaves one, while source water protection covers the water and the land around it before that point. The distinction is more than organizational. Keeping a contaminant out of the source is generally cheaper than removing it downstream through treatment. Moreover, source water protection has additional benefits for ecosystems and quality of life.

How we reviewed the data. The eight sources consulted for this category fall into two groups that answer different questions and are presented separately rather than forcing them into a single statewide total.

State planning documents (the State's 2016 30-year water strategy and EGLE's 2024 Source Water Protection Program overview) set goals and describe voluntary programs but attach no statewide dollar figure to the category as a whole. Issue-specific sources, by contrast, give numbers, but only for narrower slices of the problem: the 2018–2019 statewide PFAS study and MPART's fact sheets quantify PFAS contamination and testing costs; two pieces of investigative journalism (*Bridge Michigan*/Interlochen Public Radio and *Inside Climate News*) address private wells; the 2024 Water Use Advisory Council report quantifies groundwater and surface water monitoring capacity; and a Union of Concerned Scientists analysis values Michigan's remaining wetlands.

Unlike drinking water and wastewater, source water protection has no federal needs survey, so no statewide need figure exists from which to start.

PFAS and private wells. Michigan was the first state in the nation to complete a comprehensive statewide PFAS study of its public water supplies, testing 1,114 public water systems, 461 self-supplied schools, and 17 tribal water systems in 2018–2019. The results were reassuring at the public-system level, with 90 percent of systems showing no detection and only two exceeding the federal health advisory threshold in place at the time, but the study did not include the roughly 1 million Michigan households on private wells.

At the time, MPART's executive director put the cost of testing every private well in the state at approximately \$600 million, and that testing remains entirely unfunded and incomplete as of this report. Meanwhile, the roughly \$125 million the State has spent on PFAS investigation and mitigation to date (through FY 2023) has gone mainly toward public systems and remediation efforts.

Groundwater and surface water monitoring. The 2024 Water Use Advisory Council report, tied to Michigan's obligations under the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Compact, prices one-time streamflow depletion testing at \$1.2 million, plus roughly \$3.7 million a year in ongoing monitoring costs starting in FY 2026. That funding covers the State's ability to measure withdrawals and detect depletion but does not account for what it would cost to fix a depleted aquifer or a contaminated wellfield once monitoring finds one.

Additionally, the state has recently started an effort to map its groundwater aquifers. This work is being conducted by the Michigan Geological Survey. To continue this work, the Water Use Advisory Council estimates that a \$3 million annual investment is necessary.

Wetland Protection and Restoration

Wetlands are linked to water infrastructure because they function as green infrastructure: they filter pollutants and store floodwater before it reaches an intake or a home, substituting for built capacity that would otherwise have to do the same job. Sources differ on how much wetland Michigan has lost, and the State has set a restoration goal, but none estimates the cost of preserving or restoring wetlands.

- The State's 2016 water strategy estimates that roughly 40 percent of historic wetlands have been lost and sets a 500,000-acre restoration goal, without pricing it.
- A 2015 Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) summary, citing a 1989 US Fish and Wildlife Service baseline, instead puts the state at 11.2 million original acres against 5.58 million remaining—a 50 percent loss.
- A December 2024 Union of Concerned Scientists analysis counts 6.4 million acres of wetlands still remaining.

The cost of creating wetland mitigation banks offers a rough benchmark. A 2026 guide from Midwest Wetland Improvements, a mitigation bank developer working in Minnesota and Wisconsin, puts restoration at \$5,000 to \$15,000 or more per acre restored, monitored, and maintained, depending on site conditions and credit type, with lower per-acre costs on larger projects. Applied to the State's 500,000-acre restoration goal, that range implies roughly \$2.5 billion to \$7.5 billion.

In Michigan, EGLE's Wetland Mitigation Bank Fund made four grants in 2016 and 2017 totaling \$426,172, with local match, to establish 150 acres of municipal wetland banks, and the private market had 35 bank sites covering more than 1,700 acres as of 2019.

With one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water, Michigan may take for granted the availability of and access to groundwater and surface water. But the importance of protecting and restoring source water cannot be overstated. Investment at the front end, at the water source, saves money on the treatment of the water further downstream at the treatment plant. The savings are documented: a Trust for Public Land and American Water Works Association study of 27 water suppliers found that every 10 percent increase in forest cover in a source watershed lowered treatment and chemical costs by about 20 percent.

Funding need. Wetland restoration is the only part of source water protection that can be roughly priced. At \$5,000 per acre, the low end of the mitigation bank range, restoring the State's 500,000-acre goal would cost about \$2.5 billion, the figure this report carries in its totals. The Water Use Advisory Council's monitoring and aquifer mapping needs (about \$1.2 million one-time plus about \$6.7 million a year) are small by comparison and are not included in the totals.

Gaps in the research. Because source water protection spans surface water and groundwater protection, land conservation, wetland restoration, contamination cleanup, and monitoring, no statewide funding estimate exists for the category as a whole. Estimates of remaining wetland acreage disagree (from 5.58 million to 6.4 million acres), and no agency has priced the State's own 500,000-acre restoration goal; the \$2.5 billion figure above is an illustration based on out-of-state per-acre costs. The \$600 million estimate for testing private wells for PFAS traces to a single official's statement.

Private Wells and Septic Systems

FUNDING NEED

One-time investment of \$2.8 billion (\$2.2 billion for septic replacement and \$600 million for private well PFAS testing), plus \$676 million a year for septic replacement

Private wells and septic systems are household-level systems that draw groundwater and treat wastewater without ever touching a public utility. An estimated 1.3 million septic systems handle wastewater treatment on site for homes not connected to a municipal sewer, and roughly one million households draw drinking water from private wells rather than a public water system. Unlike in every other category in this report, responsibility for this infrastructure

belongs almost entirely to individual homeowners rather than a utility or a municipality: there is no rate base to fund system replacement, no routine operator inspecting performance, and, as this section documents, in parts of the state no requirement to prevent, test for, or fix a failing system or contaminated well.



Septic tank installation. Photo: Jonathan Billinger, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

How we reviewed the data. This category has the weakest data foundation of the six, and the review largely consisted of tracing every failure rate estimate back to its origin to understand what it was counting. Most reports and advocacy documents use the 2016 21st Century Infrastructure Commission's estimate of approximately 130,000 failing systems (10 percent). EGLE's own communications, advocacy groups, and journalists ultimately trace back to it, even when they cite a different, higher number. We compared that lineage against EGLE's own operational data (the annual Statewide Sewage System Evaluation Summary) and against on-the-ground practice in counties that inspect septic systems at point of sale. None of the higher, more commonly repeated figures (20, 25, and 27 percent) could be traced to a study.

For wells, we looked for anything resembling a condition assessment or cost estimate and found none; Wellogic, the state's own well database, is a construction-and-location registry, not a condition survey, so we report that absence as a finding.

The failure rate estimates more than double depending on which one you use. The 2016 Commission figure (10 percent, or 130,000 of 1.3 million systems) is the only estimate with a traceable original calculation. Every subsequent figure is higher: EGLE's newsroom has said "more than 20 percent" are failing; a 2025 EGLE-adjacent source put it at "up to 25 percent"; the For Love of Water (FLOW) 2026 policy brief, citing EGLE, puts the figure at 25 percent (330,000 of 1.3 million systems); and the Michigan Environmental Council's campaign page cites a range as high as 27 percent. Field data support the higher end: the handful of counties that require septic inspection when a home is sold report failure rates of 20 to 25 percent.

The cost to maintain a septic system varies widely. Pumping out a system can cost a few hundred dollars. Maintenance, depending on the type of system and repairs needed, can cost a homeowner a few thousand dollars. A septic tank typically needs to be replaced every 20 to 40 years, depending on the material from which it is made. A conventional gravity system ranges from \$7,000 to \$15,000, while a mound system (more typical in Southeast Michigan with heavy clay soils) can cost \$15,000 to \$25,000 or more. The best Michigan-specific benchmark is EGLE's own Septic Replacement Loan Program: the 372 projects approved since the program began in 2024 total \$6,285,964, an average of about \$16,900 per system. At that cost, replacing the 10 percent of septic systems that are failing would cost about \$2.2 billion, and about \$5.5 billion if the 25 percent failure rate is the more accurate number.

Assuming that approximately 40,000 septic systems need to be replaced each year due to reaching the end of their designed life, the annual investment needed at the same average cost is about \$676 million.

That assumes a service life of a little over 30 years for the state's 1.3 million systems. The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE's) 2018 report card, which assumed a 25-year life (about 52,000 replacements a year), put the figure at \$780 million per year.

SPOTLIGHT

The public health case for closing this data gap

A 2013 *Bridge Michigan* investigation, citing the State's prior estimate of septic failures, put the volume of untreated wastewater from failed septic systems at roughly 9.4 billion gallons a year, a direct measure of what an unquantified failure rate actually means downstream. FLOW's 2026 policy brief goes further, citing testing that found human fecal contamination in 100 percent of sampled Lower Peninsula rivers. That finding comes from a Michigan State University study that sampled 64 rivers draining 84 percent of the Lower Peninsula, detected a human fecal marker in every sample, and identified septic systems as the primary driver (Verhougstraete et al. 2015).

Wells have no data. Where septic systems at least have a contested range of estimates, private well conditions in Michigan have none. Wellogig records where a well was drilled and by whom; it says nothing about whether that well, or any other, is functioning safely today. No source we reviewed—state, academic, or advocacy—has produced a statewide well condition assessment or funding need of any kind. This means that an estimated 1 million households depend on water infrastructure whose condition the State cannot currently describe with any level of confidence.

Funding need. This report uses \$2.2 billion to replace the roughly 130,000 systems estimated to be failing (10 percent), plus about \$676 million a year for end-of-life replacements, both at the EGLE loan program average of about \$16,900 per system. For private wells, the only priced need is MPART's estimate of about \$600 million to test every well for PFAS (see Source Water Protection); the cost of repairing or replacing wells is unknown.

This category's data gap is not merely an accounting inconvenience; it is a public health and water quality problem that the State has no systematic way to assess, let alone price.

Gaps in the research. No statewide well-condition assessment exists. Roughly 1 million Michigan households rely on private wells, and no report evaluates their condition, failure risk, or remediation cost beyond PFAS testing. Septic failure rate estimates differ by more than a factor of two (10 percent to 25–27 percent), and EGLE's annual reporting does not cover 17 of 83 counties. The \$2.2 billion replacement estimate rests on the lower failure rate and would rise to about \$5.5 billion at 25 percent.

Gray Infrastructure

FUNDING NEED

\$25.3 billion over the next 20 years, plus an estimated \$2 billion for lead service lines

Gray infrastructure is the built, engineered plumbing of a water system, composed of the pipes, treatment plants, pump stations, storage tanks, and sewer lines that carry water from a source to a tap and wastewater away from it again. It covers two linked systems: drinking water infrastructure (treatment and distribution) and wastewater infrastructure (collection and treatment). Also included in this category is lead service line replacement.



Clarifier tanks at a wastewater treatment plant

How we reviewed the data. The analysis is largely taken from the two federal surveys that exist specifically to measure this need: EPA's Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA) and the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS), both of which are congressionally mandated, recur on a set cycle, and use consistent methodology across states. In addition, the research drew on a 2025 federal addendum with an updated, materials-based lead service line count; EGLE's multidecade trend report on combined and sanitary sewer overflows; and utility-level financial documents.

The 2023 DWINSA puts Michigan's 20-year drinking water capital need at \$16.26 billion, including:

- \$11.69 billion in distribution and transmission pipe alone (72 percent of the total)
- \$2.24 billion in treatment
- \$1.11 billion in storage

On the wastewater side, the 2022 CWNS puts Michigan's total need at \$15.072 billion, more than double the \$7.0 billion the same survey found in 2008. That total covers every clean water category in the survey, including about \$6 billion for stormwater management, which this report presents separately in the Stormwater section; the balance is roughly \$9.1 billion.

The drinking water need alone now roughly equals the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission's entire 2016 estimate for drinking water and wastewater combined (\$16 billion). Either the documented gap has grown substantially in less than a decade, or the earlier estimate understated it.

Michigan's Lead Service Lines

EPA's January 2025 DWINSA addendum provides a materials-based inventory: 183,756 confirmed lead-content lines and 245,236 projected total lines statewide, about 2.72 percent of the national total. EPA estimated lead service line replacement at \$50 billion to \$80 billion nationally, but no state-level cost estimate was produced alongside it.

Recent lead service line replacements in cities like Benton Harbor and Detroit have cost from \$6,000 to upward of \$10,000 per line. Using an average of \$8,000 as a proxy, we estimate it will cost \$1.96 billion to replace the 245,236 projected lines.

The wastewater trend line is a Michigan water quality success story, but it took sustained spending to get there. EGLE's 2020 combined sewer overflow (CSO) report documents uncontrolled CSO outfalls falling from 613 in 1988 to 102 in 2020—an 83 percent reduction achieved through more than \$1.4 billion invested by Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and GLWA, plus \$400 million in Grand Rapids and roughly \$460 million in Dearborn, on top of \$450 million historically through the State's Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) program and \$207 million in a single year (2020) of Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loans for CSO or sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) work.

Sustained capital investment measurably closes an infrastructure gap, but the work is never finished. In February 2026, GLWA's CEO described the system as being “at an inflection point,” with roughly 220 miles of drinking water pipe (a quarter of the regional network) now needing replacement at an estimated \$1.2 billion, even after decades of investment toward the CSO progress above.

Funding need. The two federal surveys put Michigan's 20-year gray infrastructure need at about \$25.3 billion: \$16.26 billion for drinking water and about \$9.1 billion for wastewater, after setting aside the roughly \$6 billion stormwater share of the CWNS total (carried in the Stormwater section). The lead service line estimate adds about \$1.96 billion, for about \$27.3 billion in all.

Gaps in the research. The federal surveys count only utility-documented projects, so they tend to understate long-term need. The most recent statewide measure of what Michigan communities actually invest in water infrastructure is the 2004–2013 Census average cited in the executive summary; no current figure exists. Larger figures in circulation, such as the \$40.5 billion drinking water and \$44.2 billion clean water needs in ASCE's 2026 Michigan fact sheet, come from the Value of Water Campaign's November 2025 economic report, which extrapolates from the federal surveys to account for long-term needs and new regulatory requirements, such as PFAS removal, that utilities will face.

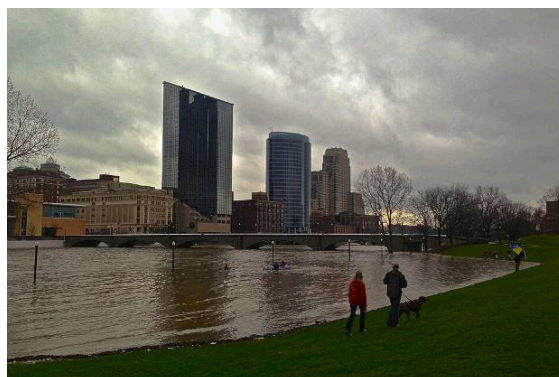
Finally, EPA's 2023 DWINSA counts some lead service line replacement need (about \$45 billion of the \$625 billion national total), so part of the separate \$1.96 billion lead line estimate may already be inside Michigan's \$16.26 billion.

Stormwater

FUNDING NEED

\$6 billion over the next 20 years

Stormwater infrastructure manages rain and snowmelt runoff—the catch basins, storm sewers, retention ponds, and county drains that carry water off streets and land during and after a storm, as distinct from the sanitary sewer system that carries wastewater from homes and businesses. In much of Michigan's older urban infrastructure, the two systems were never separated: a single “combined sewer” was built to carry both stormwater and sanitary flow, which is why stormwater and wastewater needs can be hard to separate. Stormwater is also the category with the least centralized institutional ownership of the six: rather than a public water utility or a state agency running one program, it is managed piecemeal by county drain commissioners, road agencies, and municipalities, most without a dedicated source of revenue for it.



Grand River flooding in downtown Grand Rapids, 2013. Photo: WMrapids, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

How we reviewed the data. The state's \$6 billion stormwater need is documented in Category VI of the 2022 CWNS, the federal survey's dedicated stormwater management line. The frequently cited figure of \$1 billion per year in Southeast Michigan is from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) 2021 story map *The New Future of Water Infrastructure*, which places that figure inside a larger \$3.5 billion per year regional need spanning drinking water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater. For flood impacts, we drew on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Weather Service records, state emergency declarations, and university research.

Flooding is already costing Michigan billions. ASCE's 2023 report card counted seven federal disaster declarations in Michigan tied to severe storms or dam breaks in the preceding decade, and 2026 has added another federal major disaster declaration and a separate state emergency.

The damage from individual events is large:

- August 2014, Metro Detroit: A single afternoon of rain caused nearly \$1.8 billion in damage, the costliest weather event in state history, according to the National Weather Service.
- June 2021, Southeast Michigan: Storms flooded freeways and tens of thousands of basements in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw Counties. FEMA paid more than \$188 million on roughly 56,000 claims, and the US Small Business Administration approved another \$119 million in disaster loans.
- April 2026, statewide: Record rain on top of late-season snowmelt affected 43 counties, washed out roads and culverts, and threatened dams from Cheboygan to Bellaire. The president approved a major disaster declaration on July 2, 2026, and one early estimate put the damage at more than \$800 million.
- June 2026, northern Lower Peninsula: Four to seven inches of rain in a few hours washed out sections of M-66, M-88, and M-119 and collapsed culverts in Antrim, Cheboygan, and Emmet Counties, prompting another state of emergency.

These are not only once-in-a-generation events. A Wayne State University–led survey found that 43 percent of 4,667 Detroit households reported flooding in their homes between 2012 and 2020, and it linked recurrent flooding to asthma and other health problems. Risk is also wider than official maps show: First Street Foundation modeling identifies roughly four times as many Michigan properties at flood risk as FEMA's flood maps do.

Storms are getting heavier, and the systems were not built for them. Total annual precipitation in the Great Lakes region has increased about 14 percent since 1900, and the amount of rain falling in the heaviest 1 percent of storms has increased 35 percent since 1951. Most stormwater systems were built generations ago to do one thing: move rain off roofs, roads, and parking lots and into the nearest storm drain as fast as possible, sending it straight into a lake, river, or stream. Those systems were never designed for the frequency and severity of today's storms, and because they have gone years without adequate funding for maintenance, upgrades, or modernization, they are increasingly failing. When heavy rain hits, basements back up, streets and neighborhoods flood, and polluted runoff pours into our waterways.

No one has priced flood mitigation statewide, but the available estimates point to a need well beyond \$6 billion. The CWNS figure counts only the stormwater projects communities documented for the federal survey. ASCE's Michigan Section estimated in 2018 that simply replacing storm sewers and manholes every 120 years and inlets and catch basins every 40 years would cost \$400 million to \$500 million per year statewide, or \$8 billion to \$10 billion over 20 years. SEMCOG puts the need for stormwater collection systems in Southeast Michigan alone at \$1 billion or more per year through 2045.

And in the 2026 request cycle (for the FY 2027 budget), House members submitted 18 stormwater and flood control requests totaling \$652.2 million, including a single \$600 million request for Wayne County's North Branch Ecorse Creek (see Appendix B). **These estimates overlap and should not be added together.** A regional flood mitigation study that GLWA and the US Army Corps of Engineers began in 2024 should produce the first priced out plan for Southeast Michigan. What is already known is that mitigation costs less than recovery: the National Institute of Building Sciences, a nonprofit established by Congress, found in its 2019 *Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves* report that **every \$1 invested through federal hazard mitigation grants saves \$6 in future disaster costs, and \$7 for riverine flood projects.**

Green infrastructure. Rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavement, street trees, detention basins, and restored wetlands and floodplains hold rain where it falls instead of sending all of it into a pipe at once. An EPA review of 17 projects found capital savings of 15 to 80 percent in most cases compared with conventional designs, and a 2012 survey of 479 projects by the American Society of Landscape Architects and partners found that 75 percent cost the same as or less than gray alternatives. In Detroit, a 2023 analysis led by The Nature Conservancy found capital costs for 14 green stormwater projects ranging from about \$0.05 to \$1.48 per gallon managed and concluded that green infrastructure can be cost-competitive with gray infrastructure in some cases.

Michigan communities are already making these investments. Detroit's \$40 million Far West stormwater project built two detention basins and green pathways in Rouge Park and disconnected downspouts at about 400 homes; it keeps an estimated 98 million gallons of stormwater a year out of the combined sewer system and aims to reduce basement backups and street flooding for roughly 1,200 homes. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department has committed to investing \$50 million in green stormwater infrastructure by 2029. Ann Arbor has funded stormwater through a dedicated utility since 1980, charging properties by impervious area and crediting owners who install rain gardens, and a study of a small set of its green projects estimated about \$100 million in net benefits over 50 years. Even so, no statewide inventory, target, or cost estimate exists for green stormwater infrastructure, and the federal survey does not report it separately.

Funding stormwater infrastructure. Michigan has about ten stormwater utilities, compared with more than 200 in Wisconsin and more than 100 each in Minnesota and Ohio, in part because a 1998 Michigan Supreme Court decision, *Bolt v. City of Lansing*, left communities unsure whether a stormwater fee would survive a legal challenge. County drains are paid for through assessments on the properties they serve, and no statewide estimate of county drain investment needs exists. A 2024 change to the Drain Code doubled the amount drain commissioners can spend on routine maintenance without a petition, to \$10,000 per mile per year. ASCE's 2018 study implies that industry-standard replacement schedules would require roughly \$7,000 to \$14,000 per mile per year.

The new limit falls within that range, but it caps what commissioners may spend without a petition; it does not provide any new funding.

Funding needs. This report uses the \$6 billion CWNS stormwater figure in totals as a baseline. The ASCE replacement-schedule estimate (\$8 billion to \$10 billion over 20 years) and SEMCOG's Southeast Michigan estimate suggest the true need is considerably higher, and none of these figures fully counts flood mitigation or green infrastructure.

Gaps in the research. No statewide estimate exists for flood mitigation, county drain investment, or green stormwater infrastructure, and there is no statewide count of county drain miles or planned investments from which to build one.

Water Assistance

FUNDING NEED

\$181 million annually

Water assistance is the financial aid, emergency grants, or structural support designed to help low-income or vulnerable households afford critical residential drinking water and wastewater services. Affordability, by contrast, is long-term structural ability to pay for water based on income, and is commonly measured against EPA's traditional benchmark of combined water and sewer bills at or below 4.5 percent of median household income.

Studies vary: the University of Michigan assessment cited below uses 5 percent of household income, and the affordability tiers in PSC's analysis cap bills at 2 or 3 percent of income for low-income households.

Inflation-adjusted average Michigan water costs have risen 188 percent since 1980, and as much as 320 percent in some cities—over the same period that the federal government's share of national water infrastructure capital spending fell from 50 to 60 percent in the late 1970s and early

WATER BILL		Sample
Water service		\$42.18
Sewer service		\$38.40
Stormwater fee		\$6.25
Assistance payment applied		-\$40.00
Amount due		\$46.83

Illustrative sample bill showing an assistance credit; amounts are hypothetical.

1980s to about 7 percent in 2021. As federal capital dollars receded, the cost of replacing aging pipes and plants shifted onto local ratepayers, and water bills rose to cover it, exacerbating an affordability challenge and creating an assistance crisis.

How we reviewed the data. PSC's 2023 water rate study, a direct survey of 470 Michigan utilities covering 69 percent of the state's population, provided most of the investment needs data for this category. The research was conducted on behalf of State Senator Stephanie Chang's water assistance workgroup, which developed the parameters for the affordability analysis, with gap payment levels aligned with the following guidelines:

- Households with incomes below 135 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL): Combined water and sewer bill must be less than 2 percent of average household income.
- Households with incomes between 136 and 200 percent of the FPL: Combined water and sewer bill must be less than 3 percent of average household income.

Water/sewer rates were broken down into separate price-per-gallon, price-per-person, and fixed-cost estimates for each water utility, and the median price-per-person cost and median fixed cost were then calculated for each geographic area of analysis. PSC then estimated the number of households that would qualify for a water assistance program based on the above guidelines. PSC used US Census Bureau Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data to generate estimates in each geographic area of analysis, accounting for household size, poverty level, annual household income, and water service charges. Estimates were made for each Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) in the state.

The University of Michigan's 2024 update of its statewide affordability assessment found that 6.07 percent of Michigan households, about 145,400, pay more than 5 percent of their income for water and sewer service. The burden is heaviest in Wayne County, where 10.66 percent of households (55,631) exceed that threshold, followed by Berrien, St. Clair, and Muskegon counties. The statewide average household bill is about \$697 a year.

Water utility bill assistance today is temporary and patchwork. The federal Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), created during the pandemic, helped 20,218 Michigan households by mid-2023 before it expired. Since then, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has funded assistance through community action agencies; its \$35 million Water Affordability Program, which ran from April 2024 through September 2026, had served 21,555 households and spent \$20.7 million as of June 2025, with up to \$3,000 a year in bill assistance per household. Ongoing state support is much smaller: the FY 2026 budget and the FY 2027 budget approved by the legislature each include \$5 million for water affordability assistance.

Local programs fill part of the gap but depend on short-term money. Detroit's Lifeline Plan, launched in 2022 with \$15 million, served as many as 29,000 households before its reserves ran out; its replacement, Lifeline H2O, is funded with \$3.5 million in regional assistance through the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), enough for about 5,000 households, and had 4,711 enrolled in May 2026.

SPOTLIGHT

GLWA's Water Residential Assistance Program

GLWA operates one of Michigan's largest utility-funded water assistance programs, the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP). WRAP aids households at or below 200 percent of the FPL within GLWA's service territory, including help paying down past-due balances and water and sewer bill payment assistance for up to two years. Bill credits hold a household's payment to about 3 percent of income, with a \$25 minimum benefit; arrearage assistance covers up to \$1,200 in each of the first two years; and conservation and healthy home services provide up to \$2,000 in repairs. Eligible seniors and people with permanent disabilities can obtain bill credit assistance without an expiration date. GLWA funds the program with one-half of 1 percent of its budgeted revenues: about \$4.4 million across its service areas in FY 2025, or roughly \$6.7 million counting additional Detroit funding.

Assistance and infrastructure are two sides of the same ledger. Every dollar of capital need documented elsewhere in this report will ultimately be paid by someone, and as federal support has shrunk, that someone has increasingly been the ratepayer. Without assistance sized to the need, the investment this report calls for will push more households past the affordability threshold, increasing the need for a statewide solution to water utility bill assistance.

Funding needs. Using the parameters developed by Senator Chang's workgroup, PSC estimates that approximately \$181 million per year would be needed to subsidize the estimated 394,881 Michigan households that qualify for assistance, with average subsidies ranging from \$201 to \$664 per household per year depending on household income and water bill. PSC's study also models a straightforward funding mechanism: a flat per-meter monthly fee applied across the state's 2,633,607 retail connections. For context, a \$2-per-month charge would raise approximately \$63 million a year.

Gaps in the research. The \$181 million estimate reflects 2023 rates and assumes every eligible household that pays a water bill enrolls; participation in assistance programs is typically lower, which is why the University of Michigan's estimate assuming 40 percent enrollment is about \$75 million. No state agency tracks shutoffs, past-due balances, or participation across local programs, and households whose water costs are folded into rent are not captured by bill-based estimates.

Dams

FUNDING NEED

\$980 million

Dams are barriers that hold back water to form lakes, ponds, and reservoirs for hydropower, recreation, water supply, or flood control, or to maintain lake levels. Michigan has more than 2,500 of them. In this report, dam infrastructure means the structure itself (its embankments, spillways, and gates) and the cost of repairing, rehabilitating, or removing it.

The main risk dams pose is not the gradual degradation seen elsewhere in this report, but sudden, catastrophic failure. A dam in poor condition can function normally for decades and then fail in hours, as Michigan learned directly in May 2020 when the Edenville and Sanford Dams suffered catastrophic failures. Dams also differ from every other category in this report in a second way: ownership is mixed. Many of Michigan's dams, including the ones that failed in 2020, are or were privately owned, which means the State's dam safety role is largely about inspecting, regulating, and, where necessary, forcing action on infrastructure it does not own and did not build.



Sturgis Dam on the St. Joseph River, St. Joseph County. Photo: Drdpw, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

How we reviewed the data. Data on dams comes from a top-down statewide estimate, an independent peer review of the State's dam safety program, a detailed state inventory, and an audited reconstruction project against which we could check statewide estimates. We started with the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission's pre-failure 2016 estimate and compared it against ASDSO's March 2025 national rehabilitation cost study. This information was also checked against both EGLE's own current dam inventory and a 2020 study of the State's dam safety program's capacity.

Finally, we cross-checked the data against the Four Lakes Task Force's actual, itemized cost to rebuild the four dams that failed or were damaged in 2020, to compare a statewide extrapolation against an ongoing rebuild.

The Four Lakes Task Force's rebuild of the four Midland-area dams—Edenville, Sanford, Secord, and Smallwood—is the clearest real-world cost benchmark in this report. The task force puts the estimated project cost at approximately \$364 million. The 2020 failures also caused more than \$200 million in property damage to households and businesses below the dams.

Since 2020, the State has awarded \$44 million through the Dam Risk Reduction Grant Program to repair or remove 57 privately owned dams, plus roughly \$50 million in emergency grants that are now fully spent or committed.

Funding needs. Before the Edenville and Sanford dam failures, the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission's 2016 estimate put Michigan's additional dam funding need at \$225 million to \$227 million over 20 years. ASDSO's March 2025 study, the current best national methodology for pricing dam rehabilitation, puts it at \$980 million across 986 assessed dams, including \$300 million for the 168 dams rated high hazard potential. This report carries the ASDSO figure. The Four Lakes rebuild alone, about \$364 million for four dams, equals more than a third of that statewide estimate, which suggests the \$980 million is conservative.

Gaps in the research. ASDSO's estimate covers 986 assessed dams, while Michigan has more than 2,500, so the condition and repair cost of many smaller dams is unknown. Ownership adds uncertainty: for privately owned dams, the State can order repairs but cannot readily estimate or compel the investment, and the 2020 peer review found the State's dam safety program is understaffed for its workload.

FUNDING NEEDS ANALYSIS

Across the categories that can be priced, Michigan's one-time capital need totals **roughly \$39.6 billion**, plus about \$860 million a year in ongoing costs (Exhibit 1). These figures do not consider the condition of private wells, source water protection beyond wetlands, and flood mitigation, among other categories. Confidence ratings reflect the source behind each figure: high for a federal survey or published engineering methodology, medium for a calculation that rests on an assumed unit cost or rate, and low for a single-source estimate.

EXHIBIT 1

Michigan Water Infrastructure Funding Needs by Category

Category	Best Available Statewide Estimate	Basis/Time Horizon	Confidence Factor
Source water protection (groundwater and source water)	Unknown	No estimate exists for surface water and groundwater protection	Not rated
Source water protection (wetlands)	\$2.5 billion	State's 500,000-acre restoration goal at \$5,000 per acre (low end of mitigation bank costs)	Low
Private wells	\$600 million (PFAS testing only)	MPART estimate to test all private wells for PFAS; no statewide condition assessment exists	Low
Septic systems	\$2.2 billion one-time; \$676 million/year	Replace 130,000 currently failing systems, then about 40,000 end-of-life replacements a year, at about \$16,900 each (average of EGLE Septic Replacement Loan Program projects)	Medium
Gray infrastructure—drinking water	\$16.26 billion	20-year capital need (EPA 2023)	High
Gray infrastructure—wastewater/clean water	\$9.1 billion	20-year capital need (2022 CWNS state total of \$15.072 billion, less the roughly \$6 billion stormwater category shown below; EPA 2024)	High
Gray infrastructure—lead service lines	\$1.96 billion	245,236 projected lines (EPA 2025) at an assumed \$8,000 per line (PSC estimate)	Medium
Stormwater	\$6 billion	20-year statewide need (2022 CWNS Category VI; EPA 2024)	High
Water assistance	\$181 million/year	Annual subsidy, 394,881 households (PSC 2023)	High
Dams	\$980 million	Rehab cost, 986 assessed dams (ASDSO 2025)	High
Total, priced categories	\$39.6 billion one-time; \$857 million/year		

Source: Information synthesized by PSC and the University of Michigan Water Center from the sources cited in each category section.

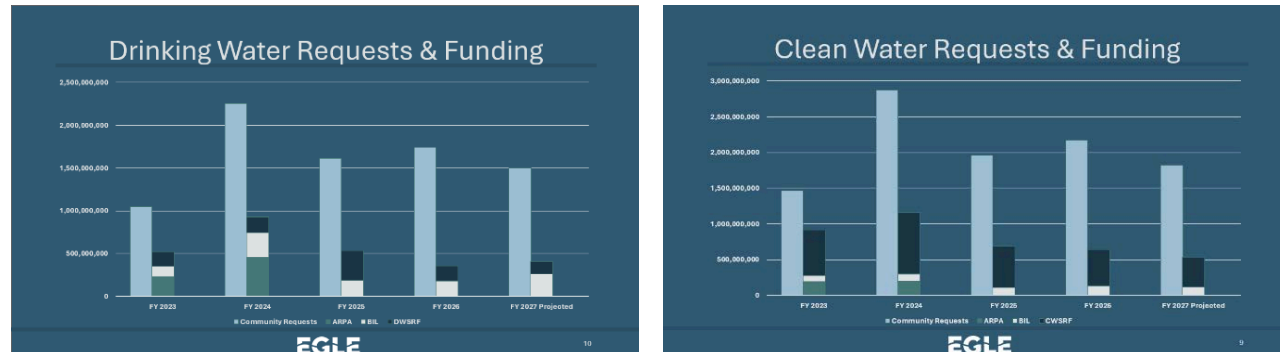
State Funding to Date

The most significant recent state commitment to water infrastructure funding was Public Act 53 of 2022, the \$4.7 billion infrastructure supplemental signed in March 2022. Most of that was federal money routed through the drinking water and clean water revolving funds (\$1.27 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act and \$506 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), including about \$259 million earmarked for lead service line replacement. It also included \$43.2 million for dam risk reduction and \$35 million for a failing septic system loan program, and the act separately provided \$200 million toward rebuilding the Four Lakes dams.

Historical data show the revolving funds were once underutilized. But the BIL money, which included loan forgiveness and grants for lead service lines, led to a surge in interest: in the FY 2025 cycle alone, 246 applicants requested \$3.6 billion (Exhibit 2). This suggests that demand has always existed, but that the reliance on loans rather than grants, along with program scoring and administrative burdens, kept many communities from applying.

EXHIBIT 2

Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Requests



Source: Boeskool and McDonald 2025

Legislatively Directed Spending Demonstrates Need

In requests for the FY 2027 budget, House members submitted 108 water infrastructure requests totaling \$954.4 million, more than a third of all dollars requested. Counting Senate-only requests, 125 distinct water projects worth about \$1.02 billion were requested by 78 of 148 legislators from both parties (43 Republicans and 35 Democrats), for communities in 42 of 83 counties. Appendix A analyzes these requests in more detail, and Appendices B (House) and C (Senate) list each one.

The demand is broad. Fifty-six of 110 House members, more than half, asked for at least one water project. For 19 of them, a water project was their single largest request, and for 13, water made up at least half of their ask. In the Senate, 22 of 38 senators, a majority of both parties' members, asked for at least one water project.

It is the top ask for local governments. Of the 366 requests made on behalf of cities, villages, townships, and counties, 100 (27 percent) were for water systems, accounting for 59 percent of the dollars (34 percent without the \$600 million Ecorse Creek request). Local governments asked for more water projects than road, bridge, and trail projects. In the Senate, water accounted for about 20 percent of local government requests (40) and 23 percent of their dollars (\$105.9 million).

EXHIBIT 3

FY 2027 Water Infrastructure Requests by Type, House and Senate Combined

Type of Project	Requests	Amount Requested
Drinking water	50	\$142.1 million
Sewers and wastewater	43	\$185.2 million
Stormwater and flood control	22	\$662.7 million
Combined water and sewer	8	\$21.7 million
Seawalls	2	\$11.0 million
Total	125	\$1,022.7 million (\$422.7 million without the \$600 million Ecorse Creek request)

Source: Michigan House and Senate legislatively directed spending portals, 2026 request lists; PSC review of every request form, October 2026. Projects requested in both chambers are counted once, at the House amount. The stormwater total includes the single \$600 million request.

Ultimately, the FY 2027 budget included 21 legislator-directed water projects totaling \$27.9 million, less than 3 percent of the amount requested. From FY 2023 through FY 2027, the legislature enacted 67 such projects totaling \$177.8 million.

MUNICIPAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT NEEDS

Exhibit 1, in the Funding Needs Analysis section, is a top-down, statewide estimate, taken from a survey or a commission working from aggregate data to a single number for the whole state. This section inverts that approach: it reports what individual Michigan municipalities and utilities have adopted in capital improvement plans (CIPs), as the water, sewer, and stormwater work they expect to need over the next five to ten years. **These are not enacted appropriations, awarded grants, or explicitly funded projects.** A CIP is a planning document, representing the judgment of a local water or sewer utility, or a city finance department, of what its system needs, independent of whether the State, the legislature, or a federal program ever provides the money to build it, and a municipality can (and often does) revise, defer, or fail to fund line items inside it.

How this sample was built. The project team independently searched municipal and regional authority websites for publicly posted CIP documents. It is deliberately scoped as an initial survey, not a census, and gives priority to Michigan's largest municipalities by population. Across the more than 30 entities with extracted data, the sample identifies more than \$4.7 billion in planned water, wastewater, and stormwater capital investment: \$2.56 billion in drinking water, \$1.99 billion in wastewater/sewer, and \$234 million in stormwater or other categories (full table in Appendix D). This partial sample, which includes only 21 of Michigan's 50 largest municipalities, already identifies \$4.7 billion in planned investment over ten years or less, is telling and confirmation of the scale of the statewide need this report identifies from the top down.

CONCLUSION

Michigan's water infrastructure needs at least \$39.6 billion in one-time investment over the next 20 years, plus about \$860 million a year in ongoing costs, to reach a state of good repair. That figure accounts only for what has been measured: the federal surveys of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater needs; the cost of replacing lead service lines; the cost of restoring 500,000 acres of wetlands; the estimated cost of rehabilitating the state's assessed dams; the cost of replacing failing and aging septic systems; the cost of testing private wells for PFAS; and the cost of keeping water bills affordable for low-income households. It does not count the condition of a million private wells, the broader protection of the lakes, rivers, and aquifers that supply them, or the full cost of protecting homes and roads from flooding, because no one has measured those needs. Against that, Michigan communities historically invested about \$1.14 billion a year in water capital, and the recent surge in state spending was built largely on federal dollars that are now winding down.

The six categories are one system. The One Water framework is not an abstraction; the research shows the categories failing together. When the Edenville and Sanford Dams failed in May 2020, the flood overwhelmed Midland's wastewater treatment plant, and that single event accounted for nearly half of all the sanitary sewer overflow volume reported statewide that year. Failing septic systems are the primary driver of the human fecal contamination found in all 64 Lower Peninsula rivers sampled by Michigan State University researchers, the same surface water that becomes source water downstream. Heavy rain sends stormwater into combined sewers, which discharged 3.84 billion gallons of untreated overflow in 2020 even after decades of investment. Michigan's remaining wetlands provide an estimated \$4.77 billion a year in flood protection while filtering the water that feeds drinking water intakes and wells. And every capital dollar spent on pipes, plants, and dams eventually reaches household bills, which have risen 188 percent since 1980 after inflation. Investments in one category protect, or undermine, the others.

Michigan pays for water infrastructure one crisis and one project at a time. The state's largest water investments have followed emergencies or arrived as one-time federal dollars: \$180 million after Flint, \$200 million after the Midland-area dam failures, and roughly \$1.9 billion for water in the 2022 infrastructure supplemental. In the 2026 request cycle alone, legislators sought about \$1.02 billion for 125 local water projects, more than five times the \$177.8 million in legislator-directed water projects enacted over five budget years. Those requests show that communities cannot fund this work through rates alone, and that lawmakers in both parties know it. Funding the need at the district level after failures occur is a backward way of investing in the state's most critical infrastructure.

Water defines Michigan. The question this report raises is not whether the state will pay for its water infrastructure, but whether it pays through planned investment that treats water as one system, or in piecemeal fashion one failure at a time and at a much higher price.

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APPENDIX A: ANALYSIS OF LEGISLATOR-DIRECTED WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING REQUESTS, FY 2027

Legislators were required to submit legislatively directed spending requests electronically before the budget was adopted. For the FY 2027 budget, members of both chambers submitted 1,337 requests, 152 of them for water infrastructure. Because 27 Senate water requests duplicate House requests, those 152 represent 125 distinct projects. Exhibit A1 compares the two chambers.

EXHIBIT A1

House and Senate Water Infrastructure Requests Compared

Measure	House	Senate	Both Chambers (Each Project Counted Once)
All requests submitted	786	551	—
Total dollars requested, all purposes	\$2.66 billion	\$1.75 billion	—
Members who submitted requests	99 of 110	35 of 38	—
Water infrastructure requests	108 (13.7% of requests)	44 (8.0% of requests)	125
Water infrastructure dollars	\$954.4 million (35.9%)	\$126.9 million (7.3%)	\$1,022.7 million
Water dollars without the \$600 million request	\$354.4 million (17.2%)	\$126.9 million	\$422.7 million
Members with at least one water request	56 of 110	22 of 38	78 of 148
Counties with a water request	38	18	42
Median water request	\$1.8 million	\$1.9 million	\$1.8 million

Source: Michigan House and Senate legislatively directed spending portals, 2026 request lists; PSC review of every request form, October 2026. 27 of the 44 Senate water requests duplicate House requests.

Exhibit A2 shows the distribution of requests across regions of the state.

EXHIBIT A2
Water Infrastructure Requests by Region

Region	House	Senate	Both Chambers (Each Project Counted Once)
Metro Detroit (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb)	37	22	44
East Central, Flint and the Thumb	34	5	35
South Central and Southwest	10	5	13
Southeast outside Metro Detroit	9	6	12
West Michigan	11	0	11
Northern Lower Peninsula	6	3	7
Upper Peninsula	1	3	3
Total	108	44	125

Source: Michigan House and Senate legislatively directed spending portals, 2026 request lists. Regions combine the state’s ten prosperity regions into seven and follow the ZIP code of the recipient’s listed address, which is a headquarters address for some regional recipients (GLWA is counted in Metro Detroit).

Appendices B (House) and C (Senate) list each water-related request.

APPENDIX B: HOUSE FY 2027 WATER-RELATED REQUESTS

House FY 2027 Water-Related Requests

Lawmaker	Amount Requested	Recipient	What the Request Is For
Drinking water (43)			
Rep. Luke Meerman	\$17,000,000	City of Coopersville	Construct a new 20-inch water transmission main from the Grand Rapids system to Coopersville, backing up a single 53-year-old main
Rep. Bradley Slagh	\$10,000,000	Georgetown Charter Township, Ottawa County	Construct a water transmission line along Baldwin Street to the storage tanks, securing supply for Georgetown Township, Blendon Township, and Grandville
Rep. Tim Kelly	\$6,570,000	City of Carson City	Replace aging water mains and lead or galvanized service lines in Carson City, whose system also serves a state correctional facility
Rep. Rylee Linting	\$6,500,000	City of Southgate	Line 19,288 feet of Southgate's most failure-prone water mains, many over 70 years old, using cured-in-place pipe
Rep. Phil Skaggs	\$6,100,000	Cascade Charter Township	Connect at least 240 homes with PFAS-contaminated wells in the Aspen Woods area to municipal water
Rep. Noah Arbit	\$5,400,000	Cass Lakeside Community Association	Replace 20,000 feet of 100-year-old water main serving 240 households, eliminating lead service lines and leaks and improving fire flow
Rep. Mike Mueller	\$4,170,010	City of Linden	Final phase of switching Linden's drinking water from an aging municipal groundwater system to county-supplied Lake Huron water
Rep. Ron Robinson	\$3,730,000	City of Utica	Replace deteriorating water mains installed in the 1950s and later in Utica
Rep. Reggie Miller	\$3,330,182	Sumpter Township	Replace about 1.5 miles of 1969 12-inch water main on Willow Road that has broken nine times in eight years
Rep. William Bruck	\$3,000,000	Whiteford Township Water Plant	Fully upgrade the township water plant: build a water tower, expand the plant, and replace ultra and nano filters
Rep. Gregory Alexander	\$2,400,000	Sebewaing Light and Water	Replace aging cast iron and asbestos cement water mains with PVC lines
Rep. Pat Outman	\$2,400,000	Edmore Village Manager	Address critical failures in the Village of Edmore's drinking water system documented by EGLE
Rep. Matthew Bierlein	\$2,200,000	Village of Akron	Improve the Village of Akron's drinking water system, which lacks pressure and storage and has EGLE-documented deficiencies
Rep. Mike Hoadley	\$2,200,000	City of Rose City	Water main replacements and extensions to loop the system, plus a booster pump, for Rose City's public water supply
Rep. Angela Witwer	\$2,000,000	Windsor Township in Eaton County	Connect the Grand Pointe subdivision and nearby homes, now on an aging private well, to Lansing Board of Water and Light municipal water
Rep. Brad Paquette	\$2,000,000	Niles Charter Township, 320 Bell Road, Niles, MI 49120	Extend the municipal water main about 1.5 miles along Niles Buchanan Road to the US-31 bypass, replacing low-producing wells at an assisted living center
Rep. Emily E. Dievendorf	\$2,000,000	City of Grand Ledge	Replace an unstable 118-year-old 8-inch cast-iron water main running under the Grand River to the city water tower

Lawmaker	Amount Requested	Recipient	What the Request Is For
Rep. Gregory Alexander	\$2,000,000	Village of Clifford	Build an iron removal treatment facility and related water treatment upgrades
Rep. Regina Weiss	\$2,000,000	Royal Oak Township	Improve early-1900s water infrastructure in Royal Oak Township that is prone to breaks and lacks fire-flow pressure
Rep. Parker Fairbairn	\$1,800,000	City of East Jordan	Water capacity and fire-suppression upgrades to support expansion of East Jordan's industrial park
Rep. Jay DeBoyer	\$1,765,050	Cottrellville Township	Replace about 100 aging shared water service laterals along River Road with individual laterals
Rep. Jason Hoskins	\$1,765,000	City of Lathrup Village	Replace about 4,100 feet of nearly 100-year-old cast-iron water main along Lathrup Boulevard
Rep. Jay DeBoyer	\$1,200,000	City of Marine City	Replace Marine City's failing, piecemeal water meter system
Rep. Regina Weiss	\$1,100,000	City of Oak Park	Replace a 1950s water main on Pearson from Marlow to Coolidge
Rep. Dylan Wegela	\$1,075,000	City of Garden City	Replace 2,200 feet of break-prone 8-inch water main on Kathryn Street
Rep. Gregory Alexander	\$1,000,000	City of Croswell	Water distribution improvements on the north and west sides, including replacing a critical water main under the Black River and lead service lines
Rep. Gregory Alexander	\$1,000,000	The City of Caseville	Capital improvements at the Regional Water Treatment Plant (filter membranes, turbidity monitoring, SCADA controls) serving Caseville, Pigeon, and Caseville Township
Rep. Gregory Alexander	\$1,000,000	Village of Carsonville	Construct two new municipal wells to replace three wells with arsenic above drinking water standards
Rep. Julie M. Rogers	\$1,000,000	The City of Kalamazoo	Identify and replace lead service lines as part of Kalamazoo's plan to replace every lead line
Rep. Jamie Thompson	\$999,998	City of Rockwood	Replace aging water mains in areas with above-average breaks
Rep. Jennifer A. Conlin	\$988,000	Barton Hills Village	Replace fire hydrants and control gate valves and upgrade the water tower in a 90-year-old public water system
Rep. Dave Prestin	\$950,000	City of Menominee	Restore water pressure for fire-suppression in the Menominee Industrial Park, lost when the water tower was decommissioned
Rep. Gregory Alexander	\$750,000	The City of Brown City	Construct a new municipal water supply well to replace 50-year-old production wells
Rep. Mike Mueller	\$700,000	Lake Fenton Community Schools	Offset the cost of connecting four Lake Fenton school buildings, now on wells in a high-arsenic aquifer, to municipal water
Rep. Ken Borton	\$641,000	City of Gaylord	Replace one-third of Gaylord's 20-year-old water meters, which are causing a 13% loss in water and sewer revenue
Rep. Timothy Beson	\$600,000	Bangor Charter Township	Build a 12-inch water main loop under the Kawkawlin River and replace about 30 lead service lines
Rep. Dylan Wegela	\$532,500	City of Garden City	Replace 1,320 feet of break-prone 6-inch water main on Brown Street with 8-inch pipe
Rep. Reggie Miller	\$475,000	City of Milan	Loop and reline a repeatedly failing water main in northwest Milan
Rep. Bill G. Schuette	\$450,000	City of Beaverton	Install water mains and valves so main breaks can be isolated, and to support future housing development
Rep. Pat Outman	\$350,000	City of Belding	Relocate and upsize 5,400 feet of aging cast-iron water main from under the M-44 driving lane
Rep. Noah Arbit	\$297,000	Cass Lakeside Community Association	Eliminate known and suspected lead service lines

Lawmaker	Amount Requested	Recipient	What the Request Is For
Rep. Noah Arbit	\$250,000	Cass Lakeside Community Association	Replace or refurbish two wells supplying water to 240 households
Rep. Cynthia Neeley	\$300,000	Flint Community Lab	Independent community water quality testing for Flint residents plus youth workforce and STEM training
Multiple systems (14)			
Rep. Cam Cavitt	\$6,900,000	City of Alpena	Install pavement plus water and sewer along Woodward Road and a road extension to Hemlock Lane (1.54 miles)
Rep. Jamie Thompson	\$3,750,000	City of Taylor	Lead service line replacement, sanitary sewer rehabilitation, storm drain improvements, and road repairs in Taylor
Rep. Brad Paquette	\$3,000,000	City of Buchanan in partnership with Bertrand Charter Township	Extend water and sewer lines from the City of Buchanan to Bertrand Crossing Industrial Park
Rep. Jennifer A. Conlin	\$2,950,000	Pinckney Core Infrastructure Renewal Project	Coordinated road, sewer, and water main improvements in the Village of Pinckney
Rep. Gregory Alexander	\$1,810,000	City of Sandusky	Replace failing water main and sanitary sewer and rebuild the road along about 2,000 feet of Lexington Street
Rep. Ken Borton	\$1,678,500	Mancelona Area Water and Sewer Authority (MAWSA)	Extend water and sewer to an unserved area and bolster the small wastewater treatment plant
Rep. Gregory Alexander	\$1,200,000	The Village of Peck	Install an 8-inch water main to loop the system, build a storm sewer system, and reconstruct roadway and system controls in Peck
Rep. Tim Kelly	\$400,000	Clinton County Catalyst	Extend water and sewer to the M-21 and US-127 interchange to unlock private development
Rep. Kathy Schmaltz	\$5,000,000	Jackson College	Replace failing underground water, sewer, drainage, and electrical systems in Jackson College's campus core
Rep. Dave Prestin	\$4,000,000	City of Escanaba	Construct 9th Avenue North and North 26th Street near the U.P. State Fairgrounds, including new storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and water main
Rep. Ken Borton	\$3,600,000	Village of Roscommon	Public infrastructure (lift station, sewer, water, roads) for a 149-unit housing development in Roscommon
Rep. Curtis S. VanderWall	\$2,500,000	City of Hart, MI	Complete full reconstruction of State Street, replacing aging water mains, sanitary sewer, and lead service lines beneath the roadway
Rep. Mike Mueller	\$2,500,000	Charter Township of Fenton	Improvements at the Thompson Road and US-23 interchange corridor, including access to municipal water and sewer
Rep. Peter Herzberg	\$2,500,000	Building and Planning Department City of Westland	Create a local Housing Infrastructure Assistance Fund to offset water main, sewer, stormwater, and road costs of large housing developments
Shoreline/seawall (5)			
Rep. Veronica A. Paiz	\$10,000,000	Charter County of Wayne	Rehabilitate and strengthen the existing seawall protecting Lake Shore Road from high water
Rep. Veronica A. Paiz	\$1,000,000	Village of Grosse Pointe Shores	Repair the existing seawall in Grosse Pointe Shores
Rep. Jennifer A. Conlin	\$1,909,621	Northfield Township	Reinstate funding for Northfield Township's shoreline park, restoring the shoreline to a more natural state
Rep. Noah Arbit	\$1,300,000	City of Keego Harbor	Reconstruct Brock Street with shoreline stabilization and dredging of the adjacent canal

Lawmaker	Amount Requested	Recipient	What the Request Is For
Rep. Will Snyder	\$1,000,000	Muskegon County	A lakefront master plan and seawall reinforcement at Muskegon's cruise ship dock
Stormwater/drainage/flood control (27)			
Rep. Tyrone Carter	\$600,000,000	Charter County of Wayne–North Branch Ecorse Creek Petition Project	North Branch Ecorse Creek petition project: drain reconstruction, regional stormwater detention, crossing replacements, floodplain storage, and home buyouts
Rep. Alabas A. Farhat	\$15,000,000	Charter County of Wayne	Rehabilitate six pump houses in high-risk flood zones with larger pumps, backup generators, and modernized electrical systems to reduce roadway flooding
Rep. Angela Witwer	\$10,000,000	Eaton County	Contribution toward the roughly \$60 million Bank Intercounty Drain project to upgrade failing drainage and reduce flooding in Delta and Lansing Townships
Rep. Tyrone Carter	\$5,000,000	Charter County of Wayne–North Branch Ecorse Creek Drain Maintenance project	Maintenance to restore the North Branch Ecorse Creek Drain to its historical capacity
Rep. Denise Mentzer	\$3,000,000	City of Mount Clemens	Combined sewer separation on several streets to reduce street flooding, sewer backups, and basement flooding
Rep. Tom Kuhn	\$3,000,000	OAKLAND COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER	Study, plan, and improve an underused regional stormwater detention basin in Troy (about 33 million gallons) and launch a detention credit program
Rep. Alicia St. Germaine	\$2,000,000	Macomb County Public Works	Inspect and repair aging stormwater drains serving Roseville, Eastpointe, and St. Clair Shores to reduce flooding and pollution to the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair
Rep. Kimberly Edwards	\$2,000,000	SE Macomb Stormwater Asset Management	Inspect, assess, and rehabilitate critical stormwater infrastructure in southeast Macomb County
Rep. Ron Robinson	\$2,000,000	Macomb County Public Works	Finish daylighting the Sterling Relief Drain between Van Dyke and Ryan Road into an open channel with flood storage
Rep. Tom Kuhn	\$2,000,000	Macomb County Public Works Office	Final phase of daylighting the Sterling Relief Drain between Van Dyke and Ryan Road to reduce flood risk (second submission)
Rep. Donni Steele	\$1,952,000	City of Auburn Hills	Storm water infrastructure repairs and improvements identified in the city's Storm Water Asset Management Plan
Rep. Denise Mentzer	\$1,500,000	Macomb County Public Works	Inspect and map aging storm drains in Clinton Township and Mount Clemens, correct deficiencies, and strengthen illicit discharge detection and spill response
Rep. Joseph A. Aragona	\$1,500,000	Macomb County Public Works	Extend flood management improvements along the Middle Branch of the Clinton River upstream to Hayes Road
Rep. Gregory Alexander	\$1,000,000	The Village of Sebewaing	Repair the most severely deteriorated sections of the village's 17-mile storm sewer system
Rep. Rachelle Smit	\$1,000,000	Allegan County Drain Commissioner	Improve the failing, undersized Bates Drain storm sewer system causing chronic flooding in Dorr Township
Rep. Matthew Bierlein	\$800,000	Flint River Dike Erosion & Control Board	Repair critically eroded sections of the Flint River dikes
Rep. Jennifer A. Conlin	\$400,000	Lyndon Township	Control untreated stormwater and sediment running off Guinan Drive into Sugarloaf Lake through drainage improvements
Rep. Carol Glanville	\$60,000	City of Grandville	Install two check valves in storm sewer lines discharging to the Grand River to stop backflow flooding

Lawmaker	Amount Requested	Recipient	What the Request Is For
Rep. Kathy Schmaltz	\$12,500,000	Huron River Watershed Council	Seed funding for the Rain Catchers Collective to expand residential rain gardens and green stormwater infrastructure across Southeast Michigan
Rep. Ken Borton	\$8,000,000	City of Lake City	Reconstruct a state highway through Lake City and upgrade storm drains that flow into Lake Missaukee
Rep. Angela Witwer	\$2,900,000	Delta Township	Emergency reconstruction at the Carrier Creek crossing on M-43: failed retaining wall, storm sewer, and sidewalk/pathway damaged by erosion
Rep. Nancy Jenkins-Arno	\$2,500,000	Lenawee Now	Adrian Riverfront Project: stabilize aging riverbanks, improve flood mitigation, and reuse bridges and utilities
Rep. Tonya Myers Phillips	\$2,050,000	City of Hamtramck	Reconstruct Hamtramck alleys, in part to improve stormwater management and reduce basement flooding
Rep. Tonya Myers Phillips	\$2,050,000	City of Hamtramck	Reconstruct Hamtramck alleys, in part to improve stormwater management and reduce basement flooding (second submission)
Rep. Noah Arbit	\$1,380,799	West Bloomfield Parks	Rain gardens and green infrastructure to filter stormwater at the new Connect Community Center
Rep. Alabas A. Farhat	\$500,000	Dearborn Public Schools	Build an "Eco-Wall" living wall at the Salina Schools campus to buffer noise and air pollution from rail and industry; includes stormwater capture and green infrastructure
Rep. Brian BeGole	\$250,000	Steam Railroading Institute	Engineering, hydrology, and site design for a water mitigation and drainage plan to address chronic flooding at the Steam Railroading Institute's rail campus
Wastewater/sewer (40)			
Rep. Sarah Lightner	\$34,750,000	The Charter Township of Emmett	Purpose field is general; the attached Michigan Avenue Corridor Wastewater Study recommends consolidating lift stations and upsizing sanitary sewers along the M-96 corridors
Rep. Greg VanWoerkom	\$28,000,000	Muskegon County	Construct wastewater infrastructure to add regional capacity and serve a large food and beverage manufacturing facility in Norton Shores
Rep. Brian BeGole	\$15,000,000	City of Owosso	Replace three failing 1986 nitrification towers at the Owosso Mid-Shiawassee County Wastewater Treatment Plant
Rep. Denise Mentzer	\$11,500,000	Macomb County Public Works	Line a 5-foot-diameter section of the 15 Mile sanitary sewer interceptor in Clinton Township and add manhole risers
Rep. Donni Steele	\$9,850,000	Village of Lake Orion	Replace aging mechanical and electrical components at a village-owned sanitary sewer pump station to prevent overflows
Rep. Gina Johnsen	\$9,200,000	City of Portland	Replace all three city sewer lift stations and structurally deficient sanitary sewer lines, plus related wastewater system improvements
Rep. Joseph Tate	\$5,000,000	Charter County of Wayne-Fox Creek Drain	Inspect and repair the Fox Creek Drain enclosure, which carries sewage from Wayne and Macomb communities, so it can transfer to GLWA
Rep. Jay DeBoyer	\$4,250,000	City of Algonac	Replace three 1964 sanitary sewer siphon crossings under St. Clair River canals, plus sewer replacement, lining, and grouting to cut infiltration
Rep. Jasper R. Martus	\$4,000,000	Genesee County Drain Commission	Install fermenter pre-treatment equipment to boost efficiency of the new digester at the county wastewater plant
Rep. Kathy Schmaltz	\$3,567,000	Leoni Township	Install flow meters to measure each member community's flow into the Leoni Township Wastewater Treatment Plant
Rep. Matthew Bierlein	\$3,500,000	Tuscola Township	Install new sanitary sewer along M-15 to serve a commercial district now on septic systems
Rep. Rylee Linting	\$3,440,000	City of Trenton	Replace and upsize Trenton's undersized lift station pumps to prevent sanitary sewer overflows and basement backups

Lawmaker	Amount Requested	Recipient	What the Request Is For
Rep. David W. Martin	\$3,000,000	Genesee County Drain Commission	Install biogas energy recovery equipment at the county wastewater treatment facility to cut electrical costs about 55%
Rep. David W. Martin	\$3,000,000	Genesee County Drain Commission	Install a biosolids dewatering, storage, and truck transfer station at the county wastewater treatment facility
Rep. John R. Roth	\$2,000,000	Township of Elk Rapids	Extend sanitary sewer along the US-31 corridor in three phases, replacing on-site septic systems (about 197 connections)
Rep. Gregory Alexander	\$1,850,000	The City of Bad Axe	Improve Liberty Street and the failing Liberty Street wastewater pump station
Rep. Jason Hoskins	\$1,850,000	City of Farmington	Rehabilitate nearly 70-year-old sanitary sewer lines with cured-in-place pipe lining
Rep. Curtis S. VanderWall	\$1,731,614	City of Whitehall, MI	Replace two failing wastewater lift stations, install new force mains, and reconstruct an industrial roadway
Rep. Joey Andrews	\$1,600,000	GRSD Sewer Authority	Convert wastewater disinfection from chlorine to UV light and remove the deteriorating chlorine contact tank
Rep. Amos O'Neal	\$1,500,000	City of Saginaw	Adopt hydrothermal carbonization at the city wastewater plant to reduce PFAS and eliminate microplastics in biosolids and cut biosolids volume about 75%
Rep. Denise Mentzer	\$1,500,000	City of Mount Clemens	Fully replace the 50-year-old N. Rose wastewater pump station
Rep. Matthew Bierlein	\$1,500,000	Denmark Township	Replace the deteriorating sewer lagoon liner cited in EGLE compliance letters
Rep. Morgan M. Foreman	\$1,500,000	City of Saline	Sanitary sewer rehabilitation to reduce inflow and infiltration and protect the Saline River
Rep. Jay DeBoyer	\$1,250,000	City of New Baltimore	Clean and restore the city's primary sewer interceptor, never cleaned since the 1970s
Rep. Gina Johnsen	\$1,200,000	Village of Mulliken	Upgrade the village sewer system: improve the lift station, repair lagoons, replace the outfall pipe, and separate parts of the system
Rep. Jerry Neyer	\$1,000,000	Village of Shepherd	Village-wide sanitary sewer lining and manhole rehabilitation
Rep. Gregory Alexander	\$875,135	City of Marlette	Complete infrastructure upgrades at the Marlette Wastewater Treatment Plant to maintain regulatory compliance
Rep. Tim Kelly	\$800,000	Village of Breckenridge	Slip-line 55-year-old asbestos cement gravity sewer mains and coat manholes damaged by hydrogen sulfide gas
Rep. Jamie Thompson	\$700,000	Berlin Charter Township	Connect two subdivisions with failing septic systems (about 40 homes) to the Flat Rock municipal sewer system
Rep. Mike Hoadley	\$675,000	Standish Township	Help residents who cannot afford to connect to the new low-pressure sewer system replacing failing septic systems near Saginaw Bay
Rep. Bill G. Schuette	\$650,000	City of Coleman	Improve the sanitary sewer lift station serving the city's industrial district
Rep. Timothy Beson	\$610,000	Bay County Department of Water and Sewer	Wastewater collection and treatment upgrades in northern Bay County to handle agri-business processing expansion
Rep. Mike Hoadley	\$600,000	The City of Pinconning	Install a dedicated force main from the lift station to the wastewater plant to stop sewer surcharging and basement flooding
Rep. Natalie Price	\$600,000	City of Berkley	Accelerate Berkley's sewer lining program to rehabilitate aging pipes
Rep. Matthew Bierlein	\$550,000	City of Frankenmuth	Eliminate inflow and infiltration of clear water into Frankenmuth's sanitary sewer system

Lawmaker	Amount Requested	Recipient	What the Request Is For
Rep. Jason Hoskins	\$520,000	City of Lathrup Village	Clean, televise, and assess 50,000 feet of sanitary sewer and rehabilitate over 1,700 feet needing repair
Rep. Gregory Alexander	\$380,000	Port Austin Area Sewer and Water Authority (PAASWA)	Install a sodium bicarbonate feed system at the wastewater treatment facility to meet NPDES discharge limits
Rep. Dylan Wegela	\$320,000	City of Garden City	Renovate the failing Maplewood sewer lift station
Rep. John R. Roth	\$5,000,000	Village of Beulah, MI	Replace a village utility system "in the end stages of failure" that threatens Crystal Lake, and expand capacity for growth
Rep. Brenda Carter	\$150,000	Clinton River Water Resource Recovery Facility (CRWRRF) Drain Drainage District	Feasibility study of cost-effective PFAS reduction strategies at the Clinton River Water Resource Recovery Facility
Fire-suppression wells (3)			
Rep. David W. Martin	\$950,000	Groveland Township/Groveland Township Fire Department	Drill ten new fire-suppression wells in Groveland Township, which has no municipal water system
Rep. Donni Steele	\$630,000	Charter Township of Oxford	Install seven high-capacity fire protection wells in rural parts of Oxford Township outside the municipal water district
Rep. Jennifer Wortz	\$44,262	Sherwood Township Fire Department	Drill and install a new well to give the Sherwood Township Fire Department a local water supply
Other water-related (1)			
Rep. Tim Kelly	\$6,000,000	Clinton County Catalyst	Establish in-state TimberChar kiln manufacturing of filtration media to capture nutrients and contaminants
Source water, wetlands, habitat (4)			
Rep. Jamie Thompson	\$3,700,000	Sibley Prairie Acquisition and Initial Ecological Restoration	Acquire 440 acres of Sibley Prairie in Brownstown Township and begin ecological restoration and site amenities
Rep. Ken Borton	\$2,500,000	Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Anglers of the AuSable, AuSable North Branch Area Foundation, Upper Manistee River Assoc.	River restoration and habitat infrastructure work on the Au Sable and Upper Manistee rivers
Rep. Curtis S. VanderWall	\$1,191,497	Muskegon Conservation District	Reconnect 164 acres of diked former celery farm floodplain to the White River to improve fish habitat and paddling access
Rep. Bradley Slagh	\$500,000	Ottawa County—Office of the Water Resources Commissioner	Groundwater feasibility study of declining aquifer recharge in Ottawa County, with recommended solutions for long-term water supply
Water assistance (1)			
Rep. Tyrone Carter	\$3,000,000	The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW)	Utility assistance (gas, electric, and water payments) for low-income households statewide

APPENDIX C: SENATE FY 2027 WATER-RELATED REQUESTS

Senate FY 2027 Water-Related Requests

Lawmaker	Amount Requested	Recipient	What the Request Is For
Drinking water (22)			
Sen. Rosemary Bayer	\$20,000,000	GLWA (Great Lakes Water Authority)	Renew or replace sections of GLWA's 54-inch transmission main in southwest Detroit and the 14 Mile transmission main in western Oakland County
Sen. Darrin Camilleri	\$6,500,000	City of Southgate	Line 19,288 feet of Southgate's most failure-prone water mains, many over 70 years old, using cured-in-place pipe
Sen. Rosemary Bayer	\$5,400,000	Cass Lakeside Community Association	Replace 20,000 feet of 100-year-old water main serving 240 households, eliminating lead service lines and leaks and improving fire flow
Sen. Mallory McMorrow	\$3,800,000	City of Berkley	Replace a 100-year-old water main and lead service lines together with full reconstruction of pavement, curbs, and sidewalks in Berkley
Sen. Michael Webber	\$3,730,000	City of Utica	Replace deteriorating water mains installed in the 1950s and later in Utica
Sen. Stephanie Chang	\$3,587,000	City of Hamtramck	Replace 484 lead service lines in Hamtramck, which recently exceeded the state lead action level
Sen. Jon Bumstead	\$3,400,000	Village of Bear Lake	Replace the water main on Lake Street from Virginia Street to Maple Street in Bear Lake
Sen. Darrin Camilleri	\$3,330,182	Sumpter Township	Replace about 1.5 miles of 1969 12-inch water main on Willow Road that has broken nine times in eight years
Sen. John Damoose	\$2,750,000	City of Sault Ste. Marie	Replace about 10,500 feet of 1958 water main along Riverside Drive that has a history of breaks and low fire-flow pressure
Sen. Michele Hoitenga	\$2,200,000	City of Rose City	Water main replacements and extensions to loop the system, plus a booster pump, for Rose City's public water supply
Sen. John Damoose	\$2,000,000	City of Sault Ste. Marie	Replace leaking and failing water main crossings mounted under four city bridges in Sault Ste. Marie
Sen. John Damoose	\$1,800,875	City of East Jordan	Water capacity and fire-suppression upgrades to support expansion of East Jordan's industrial park
Sen. Sean McCann	\$1,000,000	City of Kalamazoo	Replace 150 lead service lines in Kalamazoo, combined with \$500,000 in city funds
Sen. Sue Shink	\$988,000	Barton Hills Village	Replace fire hydrants and control gate valves and upgrade the water tower in a 90-year-old public water system
Sen. Edward McBroom	\$950,000	City of Menominee	Restore water pressure for fire suppression in the Menominee Industrial Park, lost when the water tower was decommissioned
Sen. Chedrick Greene	\$600,000	Bangor Charter Township	Build a 12-inch water main loop under the Kawkawlin River and replace about 30 lead service lines
Sen. Jeff Irwin	\$500,000	City of Manchester	Install new water mains along N. Elton, Madison, and E. Main streets in Manchester

Lawmaker	Amount Requested	Recipient	What the Request Is For
Sen. Jeff Irwin	\$390,000	Village of Clinton	Construct a new municipal water supply well and advanced filtration system for the Village of Clinton
Sen. Rosemary Bayer	\$297,000	Cass Lakeside Community Association	Eliminate known and suspected lead service lines
Sen. Rosemary Bayer	\$250,000	Cass Lakeside Community Association	Replace or refurbish two wells supplying water to 240 households
Sen. Jon Bumstead	\$345,000	Village of Bear Lake	Crush and shape Lynn Street in Bear Lake, timed with planned water infrastructure improvements
Sen. Jon Bumstead	\$90,000	Village of Bear Lake	Crush and shape Stuart Street in Bear Lake, timed with needed water main improvements
Shoreline/seawall (3)			
Sen. Kevin Hertel	\$1,000,000	Village of Grosse Pointe Shores	Repair the existing seawall in Grosse Pointe Shores
Sen. Sue Shink	\$2,000,000	Northfield Township	Preserve wetlands and restore the shoreline to a more natural state at Northfield Township's shoreline park
Sen. Rosemary Bayer	\$1,300,000	Keego Harbor	Reconstruct Brock Street with shoreline stabilization and dredging of the adjacent canal
Stormwater/drainage/flood control (16)			
Sen. Sarah Anthony	\$10,000,000	Eaton County	Contribution toward the roughly \$60 million Bank Intercounty Drain project to upgrade failing drainage and reduce flooding in Delta and Lansing Townships
Sen. Dan Lauwers	\$6,500,000	City of Port Huron	Replace the storm-damaged Tainter Gate at the entrance of the Black River Canal and stabilize the surrounding shoreline, restoring flood control for more than 260 properties
Sen. Michael Webber	\$3,000,000	Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner	Study, plan, and improve an underused regional stormwater detention basin in Troy (about 33 million gallons) and launch a detention credit program
Sen. Kevin Hertel	\$2,000,000	Macomb County Public Works	Assess and rehabilitate large county storm drains serving Roseville, Eastpointe, and St. Clair Shores
Sen. Kevin Hertel	\$2,000,000	Macomb County Public Works	Build a new pump station to add capacity at the 1968 Chapaton Pump Station, which prevents flooding and combined sewer overflows into Lake St. Clair
Sen. Michael Webber	\$2,000,000	Macomb County Public Works	Finish daylighting the Sterling Relief Drain between Van Dyke and Ryan Road into an open channel with flood storage
Sen. Veronica Klinefelt	\$2,000,000	Macomb County Public Works	Inspect, assess, and rehabilitate critical stormwater infrastructure in southeast Macomb County
Sen. Jeremy Moss	\$1,952,000	City of Auburn Hills	Storm water infrastructure repairs and improvements identified in the city's Storm Water Asset Management Plan
Sen. Dan Lauwers	\$1,000,000	Macomb County Public Works	Richmond Relief stormwater project: evaluate, design, and make targeted improvements to relieve capacity limits and localized flooding in the Richmond area
Sen. Kevin Hertel	\$1,000,000	Macomb County Public Works	Inspect and map aging storm drains in Clinton Township and Mount Clemens, correct deficiencies, and strengthen illicit discharge detection and spill response

Lawmaker	Amount Requested	Recipient	What the Request Is For
Sen. Kevin Hertel	\$1,000,000	Macomb County Public Works	Improve flood resilience and drain performance in Chesterfield Township and New Baltimore by clearing invasive vegetation, restoring channels, and managing detention systems
Sen. Sue Shink	\$400,000	Lyndon Township	Control untreated stormwater and sediment running off Guinan Drive into Sugarloaf Lake through drainage improvements
Sen. Sue Shink	\$12,500,000	Huron River Watershed Council	Seed funding for the Rain Catchers Collective to expand residential rain gardens and green stormwater infrastructure across Southeast Michigan
Sen. Sarah Anthony	\$2,900,000	Delta Township	Emergency reconstruction at the Carrier Creek crossing on M-43: failed retaining wall, storm sewer, and sidewalk/pathway damaged by erosion
Sen. Joseph Bellino Jr.	\$2,500,000	Lenawee Now	Adrian Riverfront Project: stabilize aging riverbanks, improve flood mitigation, and reuse bridges and utilities
Sen. Rosemary Bayer	\$1,380,800	West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission	Rain gardens and green infrastructure (\$124,500), a nature play area, and a public plaza at a West Bloomfield community center
Wastewater/sewer (12)			
Sen. Rosemary Bayer	\$15,000,000	Great Lakes Water Authority	Match a \$15 million federal grant for a biosolids demonstration project at GLWA's wastewater plant that destroys PFAS and produces fuel
Sen. Joseph Bellino Jr.	\$5,000,000	Erie Township	Run a sewer north along the South Dixie Highway corridor through downtown Erie, replacing aging septic systems and serving the schools
Sen. Darrin Camilleri	\$3,440,000	City of Trenton	Replace and upsize Trenton's undersized lift station pumps to prevent sanitary sewer overflows and basement backups
Sen. Chedrick Greene	\$1,500,000	City of Saginaw	Adopt hydrothermal carbonization at the city wastewater plant to reduce PFAS and eliminate microplastics in biosolids and cut biosolids volume about 75%
Sen. Jeff Irwin	\$1,500,000	City of Saline	Sanitary sewer rehabilitation to reduce inflow and infiltration and protect the Saline River
Sen. Jonathan Lindsey	\$843,385	City of Bronson	Upgrade the Bronson wastewater treatment plant: replace the mechanical bar screen and rehabilitate influent pumps and valves
Sen. Roger Hauck	\$800,000	Village of Breckenridge	Slip-line 55-year-old asbestos cement gravity sewer mains and coat manholes damaged by hydrogen sulfide gas
Sen. Chedrick Greene	\$610,000	Bay County Department of Water and Sewer	Wastewater collection and treatment upgrades in northern Bay County to handle agri-business processing expansion
Sen. Jonathan Lindsey	\$500,000	Village of Quincy	Purchase a combination sewer cleaning truck for the Village of Quincy
Sen. Dayna Polehanki	\$320,000	City of Garden City	Renovate the failing Maplewood sewer lift station
Sen. Jonathan Lindsey	\$14,000	Village of Quincy	Purchase a sewer inspection camera for the Village of Quincy's water and sewer department
Sen. Jeremy Moss	\$150,000	Clinton River Water Resource Recovery Facility (CRWRRF) Drain Drainage District	Feasibility study of cost-effective PFAS reduction strategies at the Clinton River Water Resource Recovery Facility
Fire-suppression wells (1)			
Sen. Ruth Johnson	\$950,000	Groveland Township/Groveland Township Fire Department	Drill ten new fire-suppression wells in Groveland Township, which has no municipal water system

Lawmaker	Amount Requested	Recipient	What the Request Is For
Multiple systems (3)			
Sen. Sue Shink	\$5,000,000	Jackson College	Replace failing underground water, sewer, drainage, and electrical systems in Jackson College's campus core
Sen. Edward McBroom	\$4,000,000	City of Escanaba	Construct 9th Avenue North and North 26th Street near the U.P. State Fairgrounds, including new storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and water main
Sen. Dayna Polehanki	\$2,500,000	City of Westland	Create a local Housing Infrastructure Assistance Fund to offset water main, sewer, stormwater, and road costs of large housing developments
Source water, wetlands, habitat (3)			
Sen. Darrin Camilleri	\$3,700,000	Wayne County Conservation District	Acquire and restore the 440-acre Sibley Prairie, the state's largest remaining lakeplain prairie, in Brownstown Township
Sen. Roger Victory	\$500,000	Ottawa County, Office of the Water Resources Commissioner	Groundwater feasibility study of declining aquifer recharge in Ottawa County, with recommended solutions for long-term water supply
Sen. Sue Shink	\$350,000	Huron River Watershed Council	Two-year effort to restore habitat, repair eroding launches, and improve access along the 104-mile Huron River Water Trail
Water assistance (1)			
Sen. Mary Cavanagh	\$3,000,000	THAW (The Heat and Warmth Fund)	Utility assistance (gas, electric, and water payments) for low-income households statewide

APPENDIX D: MUNICIPAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN INVESTMENT NEEDS (PILOT SAMPLE)

The following 36 entities are the sample described in the Municipal Capital Investment Needs section above. These are capital investment needs identified in each entity's own planning documents, not funded projects, awarded grants, or enacted appropriations. The figures reflect each plan's own stated multiyear period (see "Plan Period"), which differs from entity to entity, so columns should not be summed across rows into a single-year figure. An em dash (–) indicates that no usable figure was found for that category in the source document, which in most cases (particularly for stormwater) means the work is folded into another budget category rather than that no work is planned.

EXHIBIT D1

Capital Improvement Plans Water Infrastructure Investments

Municipality/Utility	Plan Period	Drinking Water	Wastewater/ Sewer	Stormwater/ Other	Notes
City of Ann Arbor	FY 2026–31	\$294,645,000	\$86,982,000	\$63,165,000	
City of Battle Creek	FY 2027–32	\$38,410,150	\$33,275,131	–	
City of Big Rapids	FY 2022/23–27/28	\$6,100,000	\$2,650,000	–	Water and wastewater each combine an operating fund + a replacement fund
Comstock Charter Township	2024–29	–	\$2,680,687	–	Water main projects identified but not yet costed; sewer figure covers only 2024–2026 of the 2024–2029 period (partial)
Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD)	FY 2022–26	\$222,945,000	\$205,601,000	\$53,471,000	'Other' is green infrastructure, a subset of sewer spending (not additive)
City of East Lansing	FY 2025–30	\$10,470,000	\$32,478,000	\$260,000	
City of Farmington Hills	FY 2025/26–30/31	\$36,538,000	\$39,556,121	\$39,120,000	'Other' is a dedicated Drainage category
City of Grand Rapids	FY 2026–30	\$145,430,000	\$83,925,500	\$7,057,000	
Great Lakes Water Authority (regional wholesaler)	FY 2025–29	\$1,071,788,000	\$982,525,000	–	Regional wholesaler; 5-year plan with a 10-year outlook to FY 2034
City of Greenville	FY 2024/25–29/30	–	\$16,700,000	–	Water bundled into combined 'SAW' line items; sewer dominated by a \$16.7M WWTP expansion but could not be cleanly isolated from bundled items
City of Hastings	FY 2026–31	\$14,279,885	\$22,683,249	\$2,869,616	
Holland Charter Township	FY 2026–31	\$37,055,000	\$38,180,000	–	Plan also lists \$51.5M water / \$30.8M wastewater in 2032+ projects, excluded here to keep periods consistent

Municipality/Utility	Plan Period	Drinking Water	Wastewater/ Sewer	Stormwater/ Other	Notes
Independence Charter Township	2023–43	\$5,182,938	—	—	2023 plan with a 20-year present-worth horizon; a single DWSRF plan covering two water-main-extension projects only, not a general CIP
City of Inkster	FY 2026–31/35	\$95,600,000 <i>(combined water/sewer)</i>		\$250,000	Combined water and sewer fund
Village of Jonesville	FY 2021/22–26/27	\$448,500	\$670,000	—	
City of Kalamazoo	2023–27	\$314,286,976	\$133,669,465	—	Service area extends beyond city limits
City of Lansing	FY 2027–32	—	\$175,320,000	\$1,800,000	Fiscal years end June 30; no drinking-water category (Lansing BWL is a separate utility with its own capital plan)
City of Lincoln Park	FY 2023/24–28/29	\$37,365,550	\$8,950,000	—	Includes a small, bundled water/sewer equipment line counted under water
City of Midland	FY 2027–32	\$8,635,000	\$35,314,250	\$47,125,000	'Other' combines a stormwater-coordinated engineering line with the Stormwater fund
City of Mount Pleasant	FY 2027–32	\$34,988,000 <i>(combined water/sewer)</i>		\$3,207,000	Water and wastewater combined in one fund
City of Northville	FY 2025–30	\$8,851,900	\$378,000	—	
City of Novi	FY 2024/25–29/30	\$26,271,955	\$774,513	\$11,845,073	
City of Oak Park	FY 2022–27	\$13,819,000	\$4,100,000	—	
City of Owosso	FY 2025–31	\$83,246,146	\$8,108,900	\$525,000	Combines Sewer + Wastewater Treatment funds; 'Other' is storm sewer lining only
City of Portage	2019–29	\$20,470,000	\$8,335,000	\$500,000	10-year plan
City of Reading	2025–29	\$1,227,304	\$21,000	—	
City of Rochester Hills	2021–26	\$36,061,188	\$13,948,340	\$983,250	
City of Romulus	FY 2019/20–24/25	\$12,755,000	\$3,310,000	\$115,000	Water/sewer often combined in source, split here is approximate
City of Royal Oak	FY 2026/27–31/32	\$67,500,000 <i>(combined water/sewer)</i>		—	Combined water and sewer fund
City of Saline	FY 2021–26	\$4,714,530	\$6,671,595	\$1,450,000	Fiscal years end June 30; 'Other' bundles streetlights + sidewalks with stormwater
City of Sault Ste. Marie	2026–32	\$1,215,000	\$275,000	\$40,000	Sewer figure covers lift-station/WWTP items only
Village of Sparta	2023–28	\$3,173,717	\$1,283,984	—	No separate stormwater line; storm sewer folded into Local Streets
City of Traverse City	FY 2026/27–31/32	\$17,205,000	\$31,635,004	—	
White Lake Charter Township	2025–30	\$12,250,100	\$12,310,110	—	
City of Whitehall	FY 2025/26–30/31	\$2,572,075	\$3,888,000	—	No separate stormwater line; plan organized by fund, not infrastructure type
Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA)	Varies	\$40,358,610	\$11,000,000	—	Water: 2024–27 (DWRP); sewer: FY 2025/26 (CWSRF); covers Ypsilanti city + township jointly (neither runs its own utility); water and sewer figures cover different, only partially overlapping periods



Water defines Michigan. The question this report raises is not whether the state will pay for its water infrastructure, but whether it pays through planned investment that treats water as one system, or in piecemeal fashion one failure at a time and at a much higher price.

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