



WHITEWATER COURSE

The Columbus Whitewater Course extends for 2.5 miles in downtown Columbus and is the longest urban whitewater course in the world.

Tens of thousands of people recreate on the course every year.



Keeping Watch Over Our Waters Since 1994

www.chattahoochee.org

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS (CSO)

CSOs occur when more than 0.6" of rain falls in Columbus and the stormwater exceeds the capacity of the sanitary sewer system. When the system can no longer manage the amount of flow coming in, a mix of untreated or partially treated wastewater and stormwater are discharged into the Chattahoochee River. This occurs within the Columbus Whitewater Course. Effluent limits on fecal coliform bacteria are important to protect the safety of people recreating on the river.



PERMIT HISTORY & BACKGROUND

- 1990-1991: GA General Assembly passes Combined Sewer System (CSO) legislation
 - City of Columbus initiates CSO studies
- 1992: Columbus Water Works (CWW) is issued its first ever permit for Combined Sewer System
- 1993-1995: CSO control facilities design and construction
- 1998: Post-construction CSO permit issued
 - No effluent limits
- 2003: EPD extends 1998 CSO permit
- 2004: EPD issues revised draft CSO permit containing effluent limits.
 - CWW refutes that effluent limits are appropriate in CSO permit
- 2004-2010: EPD negotiates with CWW over permit requirements and effluent limits
- 2010: EPD issues 2nd post-construction CSO permit
 - Effluent limits were removed from the permit at the city's request
- 2012: Chattahoochee River Whitewater Rafting Course opens
- 2014: CWW submits application for CSO permit renewal
- 2015: EPD provides CWW with proposed draft CSO permit that once again contains effluent limits.
 - CWW responds to EPD and requests that the requirement for effluent limits be removed
- 2017: EPD issues draft CSO permit for public comments with effluent limits contained in permit.
- 2017-2018: CRK meets with CWW and EPD to discuss the draft permit and emphasize the need for effluent limits.
- 2018: Chattahoochee Riverkeeper formally provides EPD with public comments supporting the draft permit and requests that the agency issue the CSO permit with effluent limits to protect the river and public.
- Current: EPD is processing all public comments and has indicated that it will formally respond sometime in 2018.