



How Does a Community Partner with a Private, Regulated Water and Wastewater Provider?

Municipalities across the United States are facing increasing infrastructure demands, fiscal pressure and competing capital priorities. The decision to transfer water and wastewater system ownership to a private, regulated provider is an opportunity to reinvest in the long-term wellbeing of the community. Communities have used this flexibility to enhance public safety, fund community services, and invest in redevelopment efforts that improve quality of life for residents.

McKeesport, Pennsylvania

The City of McKeesport leveraged approximately \$40 million in net proceeds from the sale of its water and wastewater systems to a private, regulated provider to stabilize municipal finances and implement a comprehensive reinvestment strategy, using the transaction as a catalyst for long-term community renewal. The City launched the “McKeesport Rising” initiative to drive economic and community development, directing resources toward blight removal, redevelopment of underutilized properties, and targeted investments in infrastructure and public safety. As part of this effort, the City expanded its street paving capacity—including the acquisition of new paving equipment—and increased roadway improvements, while aligning investments to support neighborhood stabilization, economic growth, and improved municipal services.

Long Hill Township, New Jersey

Long Hill Township utilized proceeds from its wastewater system sale to significantly strengthen its financial position and accelerate investment in highly visible community priorities. By eliminating long-term debt obligations and redirecting available capital, the Township was able to acquire nearly \$3 million in emergency service vehicles to enhance first responder capabilities, develop a new public park complete with walking trails and shared community space, and continue investing in recreational infrastructure, including athletic facilities and public-use amenities. These investments were prioritized to deliver immediate, tangible benefits to residents while avoiding additional tax burden on the community.

Benefits

Strengthen financial stability, reduce long-term liabilities and retire debt

Address deferred maintenance and accelerate long-term capital investment

Advance public safety, community well-being and quality of life priorities.

York, Pennsylvania

The City of York leveraged approximately \$235 million in proceeds from the sale of its wastewater system to a private, regulated provider in 2022 to stabilize municipal finances, avoid significant tax increases, address legacy obligations, and create reserves for public works and strategic priorities. With greater financial capacity, the City advanced a nationally recognized Group Violence Intervention (GVI) initiative focused on reducing violent crime through coordinated engagement across law enforcement, social services, and community organizations. While supported by multiple funding sources, including American Rescue Plan Act grants and local resources, enhanced fiscal flexibility has helped drive measurable outcomes. The City has reported reductions in homicides of approximately 70 percent since 2022, alongside declines in non-fatal shootings of more than 60 percent. Together, these efforts demonstrate how infrastructure investment can serve as a catalyst for broader community impact—complementing initiatives like GVI that improve public safety, expand access to services, and enhance overall quality of life.

Eureka, Missouri

The City of Eureka completed the sale of its water and wastewater systems for approximately \$28 million and strategically positioned those proceeds to support critical infrastructure and resilience investments. By leveraging proceeds alongside local funding and federal grants, the City advanced major capital projects that would otherwise have been financially constrained, including a new municipal and public safety building, as well as, comprehensive flood protection measures addressing chronic flooding in the City's historic district. These investments include the construction of floodwalls and pump systems designed to protect Old Town Eureka and key wastewater infrastructure, as well as broader stormwater and watershed improvements to enhance long-term resilience and mitigate flood risk.

Butler, Pennsylvania

Following the sale of its wastewater system, the City of Butler implemented a structured and forward-looking financial strategy designed to balance near-term investment with long-term stewardship. Central to this approach was the creation of a \$50 million Butler Legacy Trust, established to preserve principal and generate sustained financial returns for future community benefit, while additional proceeds were allocated toward capital improvement programs and investment accounts supporting ongoing financial stability. The City also developed a multi-year capital plan that includes investments in street paving, public infrastructure, and facility upgrades, ensuring that both immediate and future needs are systematically addressed.

