

Alton, Illinois

Modernizing Wastewater Infrastructure and Protecting the Environment

TRUST IN WATER

The City of Alton faced a wastewater challenge familiar to many communities. Much of the sewer collection system dated back to the 1960s, and deteriorating clay pipes allowed significant inflow and infiltration during wet weather events. The city's wastewater treatment plant required significant upgrades, and faced major regulatory obligations under the EPA Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan. City leaders also sought to address major financial priorities, including police and firefighter pension obligations. The investments needed to modernize the wastewater system competed with other essential community responsibilities.

The Challenges

Alton faced a combination of operational, financial and infrastructure challenges across its wastewater system.

Aging Infrastructure
Wastewater infrastructure dating back to the 1960s was experiencing deterioration and significant inflow and infiltration during storm events.

Regulatory Requirements
EPA Long-Term Control Plan requirements demanded substantial investments to reduce combined sewer overflows and improve performance.

Financial Constraints
Existing wastewater rates could not generate sufficient revenue to fund needed infrastructure improvements.

Competing Municipal Priorities
City leaders faced competing demands, including wastewater upgrades, operational debt, and police and firefighter pension obligations.

A Long-term Solution for the Community

Through a competitive evaluation process, Alton selected Illinois American Water to own, operate, and invest in the wastewater system. The transaction provided immediate financial benefits while transferring responsibility for future infrastructure investment and regulatory compliance to a regulated utility with the resources to make long-term improvements.

Financial Flexibility

The City of Alton received approximately $53.8 million from the transaction, allowing leaders to address longstanding financial obligations, reduce debt, and make significant contributions to police and firefighter pension funds.

Infrastructure Investment

Since acquiring the system in 2019, Illinois American Water has invested approximately **$63.8 million in wastewater infrastructure improvements** and expects to invest another **$64 million during the next five years**.

Environmental Progress

More than $33 million has been invested in projects associated with Long-Term Control Plan requirements, helping improve system performance and environmental compliance. An **additional $8 million** has been invested to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant.

Results

Community Outcomes By the Numbers

INVESTMENT IN ALTON WASTEWATER SYSTEM	
Year	**Investment**
2020	$3.67 million
2021	$13.46 million
2022	$16.37 million
2023	$18.69 million
2024	$11.6 million
Total	**$63.79 million**

Significant Improvements
Invested $23.5 million to complete Piasa Valley Sewer Separation Project:

- Installed nearly 18,000 feet of new sewer main
- Constructed 126 new sanitary sewer manholes,
- Improved more than 10,000 feet of customer service laterals
- Rehabilitated portions of Alton's historic Piasa Tunnel.

Keeping Service Affordable for Families and Communities
Beyond infrastructure investment and service improvements, Illinois American Water supports affordability through an income-based discount program that can reduce monthly water and wastewater bills by as much as 80% for qualifying customers.