DRAIN & FLOW

Projects, strategies, and recommendations that focus on ensuring water drains effectively, that there is connectivity throughout the built and natural system, and that water flows in the desired direction within a timely manner.

Priority Projects:

• **Separate, Restore, & Improve Connectivity**
  - Improve ditches through restoration and modifications: Steiger Ditch, Canal #1, Harding Ditch, Piat Place Ditch.
    - Review designs through equity lens, life safety, and quality of life and health standards.
    - Clean out, expand, and regular maintenance agreements (ESTL, Cahokia Heights, St. Clair County, MESD, USACE, NRCS)
    - Expand buffer on ditches and terrace edges. Consider multipurpose with recreation.
  - Separate combined sewers in East STL and other areas (ESTL, USACE, EPA, IEPA, cities, counties)
  - Replace and secure pump stations: Replacement of Lauralee and Beachland pump stations to fix major operational and design issues at these pumps and flooding in the surrounding areas.
    - Replace and secure lift stations: Replace lift station at N. 82nd St. and Bluff Ave. in Cahokia Heights.
  - Pump Station #19: Assess current condition, upgrade or repair as necessary, secure site to prevent maintenance issues. (ESTL)
  - Secure funding to continue repairs of lift stations and pump stations already underway by East St. Louis and Cahokia Heights. (ESTL, Cahokia Heights, St. Clair County, USACE, IEPA)
  - Smoke test and televising sanitary and storm sewers in all communities that haven’t yet been surveyed.
    - Build on pilot projects implemented by IEPA 319 grant to HeartLands Conservancy. (ESTL, Cahokia Heights, cities, county, IDNR, IDOT, USACE, USEPA)
  - Municipalities should build and share full digital maps of drainage networks. (counties, cities, MESD, IEPA, IEMA, IDOT, EPA, USACE)
    - Develop a list of locations where more extensive slip lining and repair or resizing of sewer lines should take place. This to be implemented as more funds come in, after point repairs. Coordinate with other efforts underway by USACE in partnership with City of Cahokia Heights (ESTL, Cahokia Heights, USEPA)
    - Check for damaged sewer lateral connections on open/vacant lots, properties, and businesses.
  - Distribution and installation of backflow preventers and sewer cleanout covers to prevent sewage backups during storm events.
  - Repair and replacement of culverts to ensure proper flow of water during storm events.
  - Increase sewer staffing: A total of three sewer maintenance staff is far below expected staffing levels for operation and maintenance of a sewer system with such a large number of lift stations, and for a community of over 10,000 residents (EPA, 1973).