The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program accelerates investment in our nation’s water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects.

WATERWAY FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

BORROWER: Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
LOCATION: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
WIFIA LOAN AMOUNT: $41,615,374
TOTAL WIFIA PROJECT COSTS: $84,929,336
POPULATION SERVED BY PROJECT: 1,100,000 people
NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED: 130 jobs

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District’s Waterway Flood Management and Restoration Projects will improve stormwater management and reduce flood risk in historically disadvantaged communities. The District will design and construct a 31-million-gallon stormwater management facility on 15 acres of abandoned industrial property, transforming it into a naturalized green space. In addition, the projects include designing and constructing a 210-acre-foot flood storage basin, increasing the capacity of the culverts, replacing 2,800 feet of concrete channel lining with a natural channel design, and reconstructing 2,200 feet of non-concrete lined stream channel. Together, these projects will reduce flood risk to over 270 commercial and residential structures, decrease sewer overflows, restore riparian habitat, create green spaces, and mitigate urban heat island effects. This WIFIA loan will be the first of three loans in Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District’s WIFIA Master Agreement.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Improves stormwater storage and treatment while creating recreational space and restoring riparian habitat.
- Creates green spaces, reduces flood risk, and mitigates urban heat island effects in historically disadvantaged communities.
- Saves Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District approximately $5.5M by financing with a WIFIA loan.