LANCASTER AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

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LASA System Upgrades & Improvement Plan

Frequently Asked Questions
LASA is investing in long-term improvements to modernize aging infrastructure, protect public health, improve water quality, and ensure reliable wastewater service for more than 125,000 residents and businesses. This guide answers common questions about the project and what it means for our community.

Why is LASA investing in system upgrades?

LASA's wastewater system was originally constructed between 1965 and 1972, and many components have been in service for more than 50 years. While improvements have been made over time, much of the system now requires modernization.

These upgrades are part of a long-term, system-wide investment that builds on improvements made over the past five years and continues through a 10-year capital plan. They will modernize aging infrastructure, improve nutrient removal, and support reliable service for more than 125,000 residents and businesses.

Why are these upgrades happening now?

Delaying these improvements increases the risk of service disruptions, system failures, and impacts to local waterways. By investing now as part of a phased, long-term plan, LASA can proactively upgrade aging infrastructure, keep service reliable, and reduce pollution entering local streams and the Chesapeake Bay, while avoiding more costly emergency repairs in the future.

What improvements are being made?

LASA's system includes 944 miles of pipeline, 46 pumping stations, and two treatment plants, along with additional capacity at the City of Lancaster Treatment Plant. In total, LASA treats an average of over 15 million gallons of wastewater per day.

Improvements are being made across LASA's entire wastewater system, including treatment facilities, pump stations, and pipelines. The project includes upgrades to treatment processes, new and expanded facilities, and improvements to critical equipment that has been in service for decades.

Together, these improvements will strengthen system reliability, reduce the risk of backups and overflows, improve nutrient removal, and enhance water quality in local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

A key component of this work is the upgrade to the Blue Rock Water Resource Recovery Facility (Blue Rock WRRF), where construction began in March 2026.

Key improvements include:

- Pump station upgrades to improve reliability and help prevent overflows
- Pipeline and interceptor improvements to better manage flow and reduce system stress
- Rehabilitation and replacement of aging equipment that has reached the end of its useful life

How will these upgrades benefit me?

These upgrades help protect homes and businesses from service disruptions while improving the waterways our community relies on.

They will:

- Reduce the risk of sewer backups and service disruptions
- Protect public health across homes, neighborhoods, and businesses
- Improve water quality in local streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay
- Ensure reliable service for our community now and for future generations

How are these improvements being funded?

LASA is funding these upgrades through a balanced approach that includes existing revenues, reserves, bonds, and loans. A portion of the funding is supported through gradual rate adjustments over time.

Will this project increase system capacity?

These upgrades are primarily focused on improving system reliability and environmental performance. While they do not significantly increase permitted capacity at this time, they are essential to maintaining and supporting the system's ability to serve the community into the future.

LASA's current system capacity is expected to support the community's needs for approximately the next 20 years. These improvements help ensure that capacity remains dependable, efficient, and ready for future growth.

Will construction impact my service?

LASA will work to minimize disruptions during construction, and most customers are not expected to experience impacts to their service. Most work will take place within existing facilities or infrastructure areas, and any necessary updates will be communicated in advance.

Where can I learn more or stay updated?

LASA is committed to keeping customers informed throughout the project.For updates, additional information, and answers to common questions, visit https://lasa.org/upgrades/. You can also follow LASA on social media to stay informed.

What is the Blue Rock Water Resource Recovery Facility (Blue Rock WRRF)?

The Blue Rock Water Resource Recovery Facility (Blue Rock WRRF) is LASA's primary wastewater treatment facility, located in Washington Boro. It plays a critical role in treating wastewater from across the service area before it is safely returned to the environment.

Originally constructed between 1965 and 1972, the facility has undergone targeted upgrades over the years, but much of its core treatment infrastructure has been in service for decades.

As part of LASA's system-wide improvement plan, the Blue Rock WRRF is undergoing a major upgrade to modernize treatment processes, improve nutrient removal, and enhance long-term reliability. Construction on this project began in March 2026 and is expected to be completed in 2029.

These improvements will allow LASA to meet today's environmental standards, reduce pollution entering local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay, and continue providing reliable service for the community.