The Durkees Run stormwater project will reduce street and basement flooding in the Earl Avenue area, and west of 18th Street near Lafayette Jefferson High School.

Near the high school on 18th Street and along Earl Avenue between 23rd and 27th streets, the city will separate the stormwater and sanitary sewers, and stormwater will flow into a ditch at 18th Street. The sewer separation will alleviate capacity problems in the existing sanitary sewer and reduce raw sewage overflows into Durkees Run. Approximately 1,000 feet of 48 inch pipe and 220 feet of 54 inch pipe and new stormwater outlets will be installed to eliminate cross connections of the sanitary and storm sewers.

In addition to the sewer separation, Lafayette also plans to incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to remove pollutants from the stormwater before it enters local waterways. Bioretention landscaping and a shallow detention infiltration basin will slow the flow of stormwater, while also filtering silt, sediment and other pollutants. The use of BMPs will improve the quality of stormwater entering Durkees Run and the Wabash River.

By completing these stormwater improvements, the city will reduce the volume of stormwater in the sanitary sewer and free up capacity to transport wastewater for treatment. Thanks to the Durkees Run stormwater project, the city expects that the diameter of a future Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) tunnel can be reduced. The tunnel will temporarily store raw sewage, that would otherwise flow untreated into the Wabash River. When capacity becomes available, the wastewater will be pumped to the treatment plant. A reduction in the CSO tunnel size will result in significant savings for the city and sewer users.

The Durkees Run East Stormwater Improvements project is part of Lafayette’s capital improvement program to improve the water quality of the Wabash River and other local streams and to address poor drainage conditions. The projects will reduce flooding and satisfy the requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

**Bioretention Best Management Practices**

1,000 feet of 48 inch pipe and 220 feet of 54 inch pipe and new stormwater outlets will be installed to eliminate cross connections of the sanitary and storm sewers.

**City to Improve Water Quality**

**Highlights**

- **Project:** Storm water improvements
- **Estimated Project Cost:** $3,004,000
- **Status:** Planning
- **Project Benefits:**
  - Improved water quality in Durkees Run and the Wabash River
  - Reduced street and basement flooding
  - Reduced pollutants in local waterways
  - Opportunity for future savings on CSO tunnel project