

January 2025

WVU Tech Research Partnership

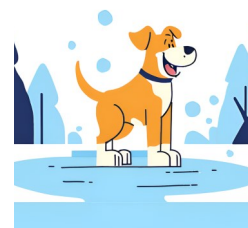
Over the years, Beckley Sanitary Board and WVU Tech have cultivated a community partnership, committed to growing education and experience in environmental stewardship. Since 2017, WVU Tech students have been involved in a wide variety of local projects, including infrastructure inspections, community clean-ups, and watershed research. These opportunities strengthen BSB's understanding of complex challenges, and offer students hands-on experience while addressing local environmental concerns. Most recently, students and faculty in the WVU Tech Biology department have teamed up with the Beckley Sanitary Board for a unique research opportunity to study "fatbergs" in the local sewer system. "Fatbergs" are rock-like masses of fat, grease, oil, and solid materials like wet wipes, which can form in sanitary sewers, causing clogs and other system problems. The research team is investigating what kind of microbes exist in these strange masses. Beckley Sanitary Board helped to determine locations to collect samples, and those fatberg samples are now being analyzed in the laboratory. Students involved in this research are gaining valuable insights into the world of microbiology, public infrastructure, and public health. Fatbergs can pose a threat to water quality, especially when they cause sanitary sewer overflows. WVU Tech's research has already produced interesting findings, and has been submitted for evaluation at multiple upcoming science expos.



New Year's Resolutions

Everyone can play a part in helping keep our water ways clean. In 2025, here are some Stormwater New Years Resolutions to practice:

- No dumping in storm drains. Only rain down the drain.
- Don't let car washing runoff go into storm drains.
- Scoop the Poop! Dispose of pet waste properly.
- Volunteer with a local organization for a trash clean up.
- Report suspected stormwater pollution to 304-256-1760.
- Don't put "flushable wipes", grease, or anything else that shouldn't be in the sewer down the drain or in the toilet. These things can clog pipes and cause sanitary sewer overflows into the environment.



Ice Melt

While ice melting salt is a great resource to keep us safe from slipping and falling, it can also cause harm to our environment, our property, and our furry friends when used excessively. This winter season, be cautious of using *too much* salt on your drive-ways and sidewalks—try to use *just enough* to melt the ice and snow. You can also consider using pet friendly ice melt to keep your furry friend's paws safe!

Beckley Sanitary Board
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www.facebook.com/BeckleySanitaryBoard

Stormwater Improvements

This fall, BSB's contractor replaced 80 feet of large stormwater line under Osprey Rd. The metal pipes under the road had badly corroded and were causing damage to the roadway. These failing pipes were replaced with new plastic pipes, which have a much longer expected service life. This upgrade will enhance the reliability and longevity of the stormwater infrastructure, ensuring better flow capacity and reducing future maintenance needs. BSB crews and contractors continue to construct stormwater improvements throughout the area, protecting public safety and the environment.



Pre-Construction:
Twin corrugated metal pipes and head wall were failing.



Pre-Construction:
The bottom of both corrugated metal pipes had corroded away.



Construction:
Installation of new headwall & HP Dual Wall pipe.



Post-Construction:
Twin HP Dual Wall Pipes functioning as designed.

Internship Opportunity

Are you a college student passionate about environmental science, engineering, biology, or GIS? This is your chance to gain real-world experience in the sanitary sewer and stormwater industry! Those who intern at Beckley Sanitary Board work on meaningful projects, collaborate with industry professionals, and gain valuable insights into the environmental sector.

Position: Summer Intern

Location: Beckley, West Virginia

Duration: Summer 2025

Don't miss this unique opportunity to jumpstart your career in the environmental field! **Send your resume to jobs@beckleysanitaryboard.org by February 15, 2025.**

"My experience at the BSB helped me tremendously by giving me the introduction to this industry (engineering) I work in currently. I was able to see sanitary sewer and storm water infrastructure. Before I was only able to see it in books or videos."



"I developed GIS mapping skills, sharpened my public speaking abilities, got to network with those who had like goals, and see a new side of my community."

To report suspected stormwater pollution, please call BSB at 304-256-1760.