

# IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT CLEAN WATER



NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT  
**2005 ANNUAL REPORT**



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Design assistance: Environmental Education Specialist Linda Mayer-Mack and Co-op Student Jamie Danelishen

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# IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT CLEAN WATER

Not only is our work seen as unglamorous — if it's seen at all — but it is also easy to take for granted. Wastewater treatment and conveyance is a service people expect. So when you flush your toilet, bathe, wash clothes, you probably don't think about the bad things that could happen if there was no place for the waste to go.

Allow us to give you some insight: For a few moments, imagine life without clean water. In some cases, all you have to recall is the not-so-distant past.





# RIGHT

Cleveland's industrial past built success, but compromised our water resources and the surrounding environment. Pollution streaked surfaces of the lake and river, leaving them incapable of supporting many species of fish.

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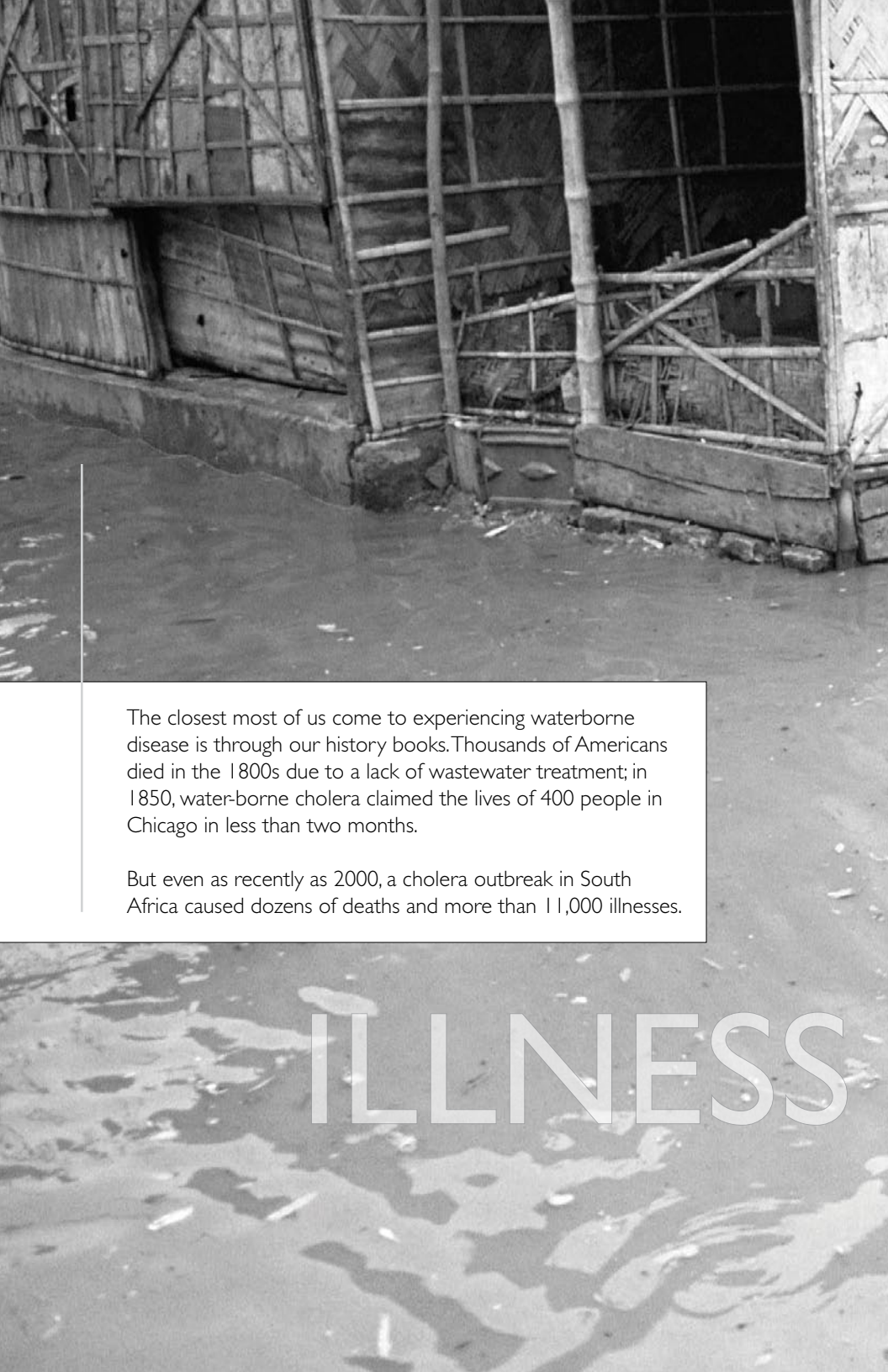
beauty

But that has changed. Since the Sewer District's inception in 1972, the number of fish species in our waterways have rebounded. A significant factor behind these improvements is that the treated water we release to the lake and Cuyahoga River is even cleaner than the water already there.



**Northeast Ohio Regional  
Sewer District**

*Protecting Your Health and Environment*



The closest most of us come to experiencing waterborne disease is through our history books. Thousands of Americans died in the 1800s due to a lack of wastewater treatment; in 1850, water-borne cholera claimed the lives of 400 people in Chicago in less than two months.

But even as recently as 2000, a cholera outbreak in South Africa caused dozens of deaths and more than 11,000 illnesses.

# ILLNESS





**Northeast Ohio Regional  
Sewer District**

*Protecting Your Health and Environment*

Waterborne diseases are no longer a serious threat in our society because proper wastewater treatment has become commonplace, despite how frequently this gift is overlooked.

# wellness

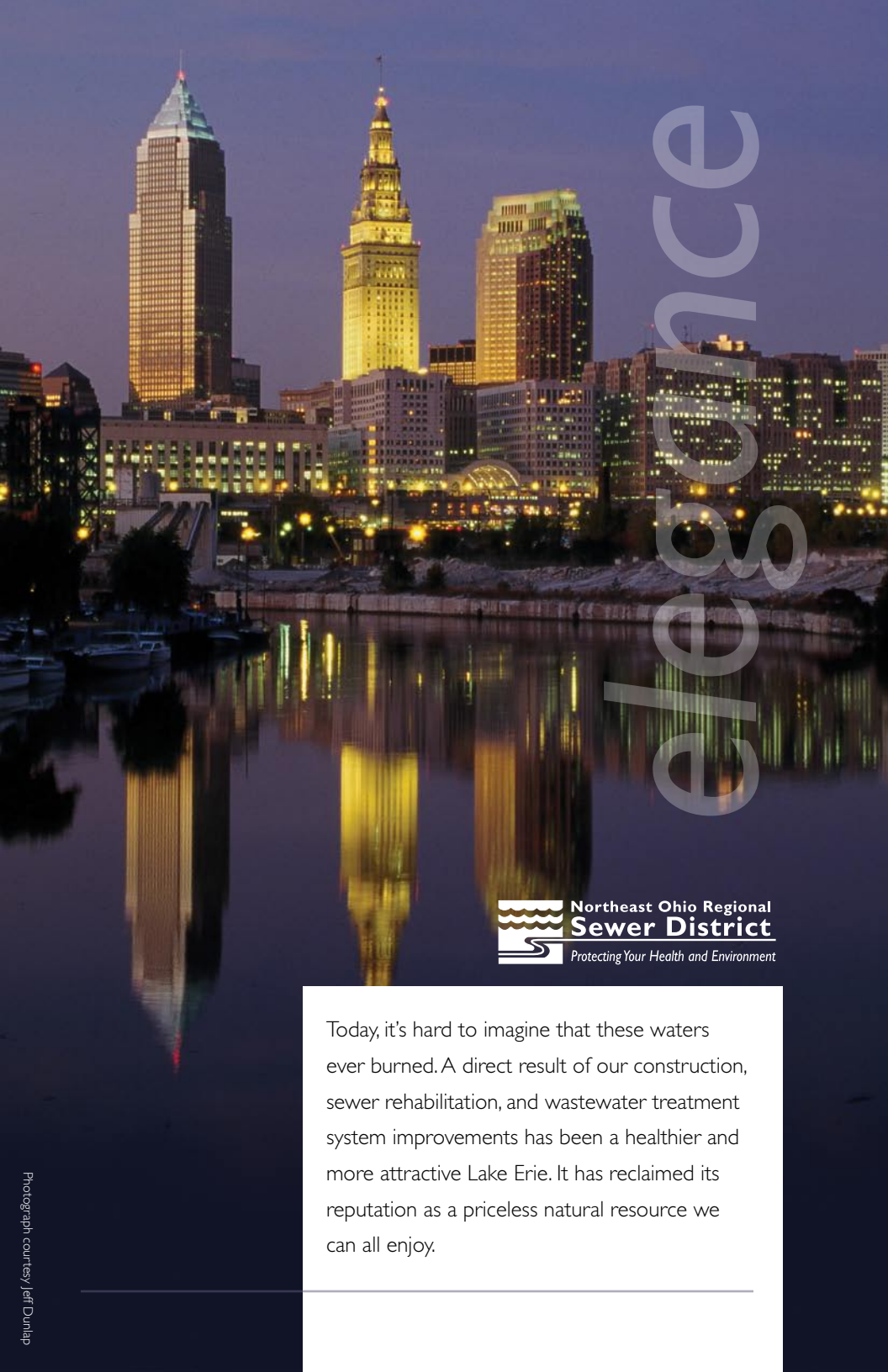


The burning river. For Clevelanders who experienced it in 1969, it is not easy to forget. A response to this tragedy was the Clean Water Act, legislation which directly inspired the creation of the Regional Sewer District.

# NEGLIGENCE







source



**Northeast Ohio Regional  
Sewer District**

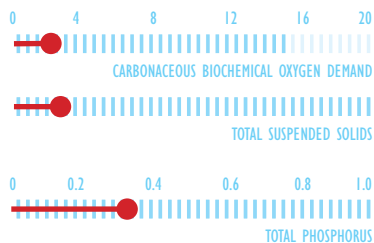
*Protecting Your Health and Environment*

Today, it's hard to imagine that these waters ever burned. A direct result of our construction, sewer rehabilitation, and wastewater treatment system improvements has been a healthier and more attractive Lake Erie. It has reclaimed its reputation as a priceless natural resource we can all enjoy.

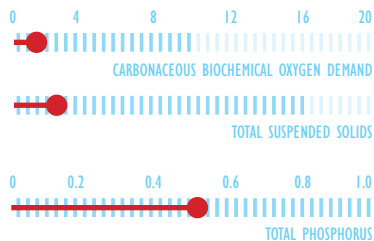
# PERFORMANCE

Our plants' performance is based on the quality of the water they release to the environment after treatment compared to their respective permit limits. The criteria listed to the right indicate the high quality of our treated effluent and the positive impact of our processes on the environment.

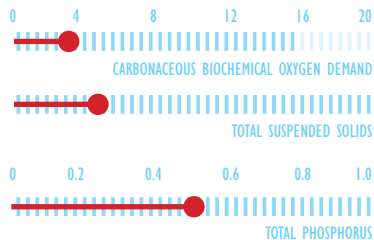
## EASTERLY



## SOUTHERLY



## WESTERLY



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PLANT DATA, VISIT [NEORSO.ORG](http://NEORSO.ORG)



# CLEAN-WATER ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2005



## **WORKING TOWARD BETTER TESTING**

We are continuing research to reduce the amount of time it takes to obtain bacteria-testing results at local beaches. Faster and accurate tests mean faster public notification of beach and water advisories.



## **CONTRIBUTING TO A CLEANER CUYAHOGA**

Saving ratepayers \$4,000,000, our Finance department refinanced bonds to reduce debt service payments. That savings will be invested in future construction.



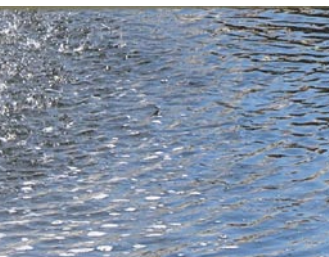
## **PLANT IMPROVEMENTS INCREASE EFFICIENCY**

All three of our wastewater treatment plants earned performance awards in 2005 for meeting stringent permit limits. This performance speaks to our high water-quality values.



## **SUPPORTING STEWARDSHIP**

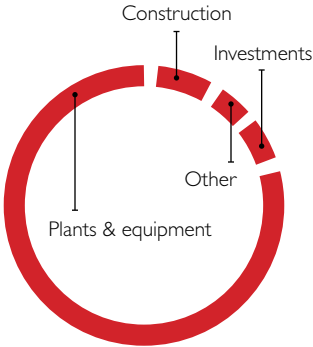
The District is supporting the development of a stewardship center and related educational programming in the Cleveland Metroparks West Creek Reserve.



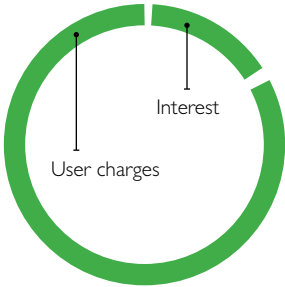
## **PROTECTING HEALTH AND BEAUTY**

Floating debris along waterfronts is an eyesore and a potential health hazard. The District captured and properly disposed of more than 15 tons of floating debris in 2005 through the use of netting facilities at five locations.

Since 1972, the Sewer District has invested more than \$2 billion in clean-water construction and rehabilitation. Of that total, \$646 million was funded by federal grants from the US Environmental Protection Agency, and \$597 million has been financed by Ohio EPA low-interest loans.



**ASSETS**  
as of 12/31/05 (in millions)



**REVENUES**  
as of 12/31/05 (in millions)

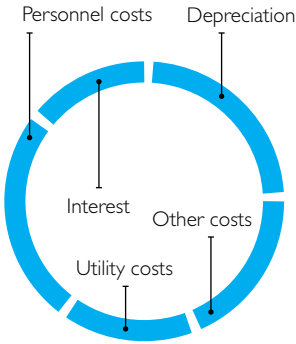
TOTAL .....\$1,719.4

TOTAL .....\$154.1



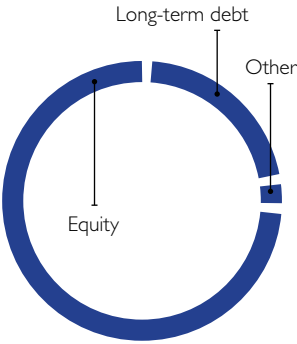
# 2005 FINAN





### EXPENSES

as of 12/31/05 (in millions)



### EQUITY & LIABILITIES

as of 12/31/05 (in millions)

More detailed financial data can be found in the District's 2005 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, available online at [www.NEORSD.org](http://www.NEORSD.org), on the *About Us* page.

TOTAL .....\$138.5

TOTAL .....\$1,719.4

FINANCIAL DATA

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Darnell Brown**  
President



**Ronald Sulik**  
Vice President



**Sheila Kelly**  
Secretary



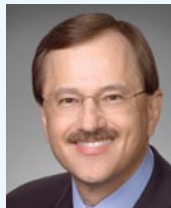
**Gerald Boldt**



**Mayor Thomas Longo**



**Michael Nelson**



**Mayor Gary Starr**

## SENIOR STAFF



**Erwin Odeal**  
Executive Director



**Michael Bucci**  
Finance



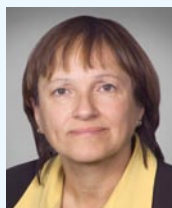
**Frank Greenland**  
Capital Programs



**Constance Haqq**  
Communications &  
Community Relations



**Thomas Lenhart**  
Employee Resources



**Ana Maldonado**  
Information Technology



**William Schatz**  
Legal Counsel



**Timothy Tighe**  
Operation & Maintenance



**Charles Vasulka**  
Engineering & Construction



### **WORKING FOR A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT**

This report was printed on 80% post-consumer, elemental chlorine free recycled paper. This selection was an environmentally friendly alternative to similarly priced papers, saving the environment 4,078 gallons of water, 432 pounds of solid waste, 839 pounds of atmospheric emissions, and 23 trees.

The savings, determined by examining paper-production techniques, are calculated from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) based on the research of the United States Post Office and Environmental Defense, originally developed by the Paper Task Force.

# WORKING FOR CLEAN WATER



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Sewer District**

*Protecting Your Health and Environment*

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