

# Milwaukee, Wisconsin Urban Water System



1880  
Sewerage



1955  
Flushing  
Tunnels



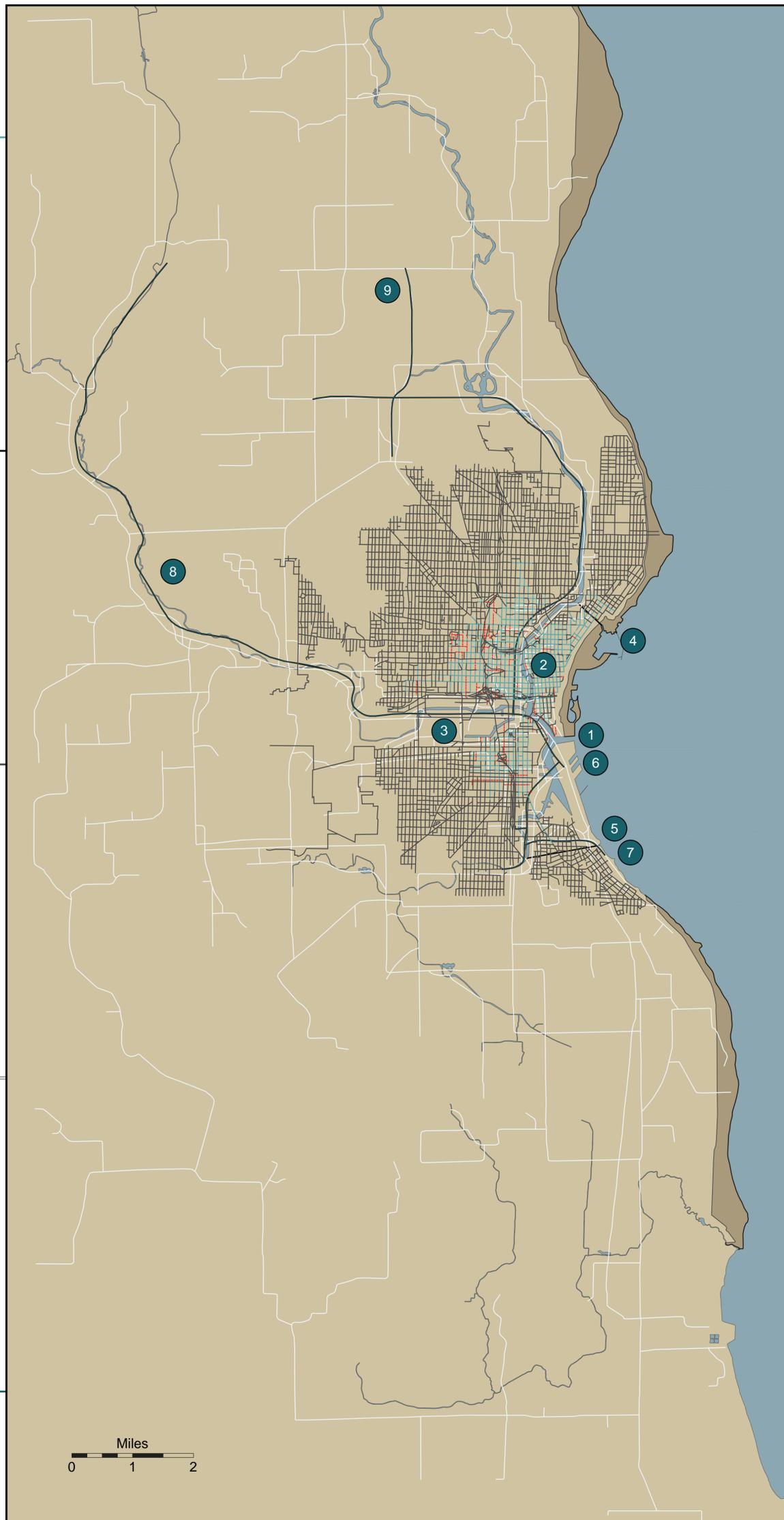
2011  
Combined  
Sewers



2011  
Sewerage



2011  
Deep  
Tunnels



- 1 1913 Sewerage Commission was authorized to acquire the north 1,000 feet of the Island for a municipal sewage disposal plant.
- 2 1869 Milwaukee began work on a municipal sewer system which diverted the sewage into the nearest river.
- 3 1880 New pipes intercepted sewer lines before it could reach the rivers transporting it to a station at Jones Island from which the sewer water was pumped into the lake.
- 4 1888 City crews bored a tunnel through the East Side's bedrock from Lake Michigan just below the dam. A pump that could move 40,000 cubic feet of water every minute was placed on the lake end flushing the river with clean lake water.
- 5 1907 A second flushing tunnel was constructed in the Kinnickinnic River.
- 6 1925 The Jones Island Wastewater Treatment Plant was completed using the sludge method where microorganisms feed on the pollutants.
- 7 1968 The South Shore Wastewater Plant was opened in the City of Oak Creek.
- 8 1977 The Milwaukee Pollution Abatement Program was created to begin repair and expand the metropolitan area wastewater system including work on constructing Milwaukee's Deep Tunnel system; 28.5 miles of Deep Tunnels dug 300 feet underground that would trap sewer overflows. The tunnels store excess wastewater until it could be treated and then it would convey the wastewater to the treatment plan. The tunnel is capable of holding up to 521 million gallons of storm and waste water runoff. Waste water is conveyed to the Jones Island and South Shore waste water treatment plants by a 2,200-mile system of collector sewers and a 310-mile system of intercepting and main sewers. The two treatment facilities collect and treat more than 200 million gallons of waste water each day, and return cleaned water to Lake Michigan.
- 9 1994 Deep Tunnels are fully operational.