



2026 State Bonding Bill Project

Cook Water & Sewer Infrastructure Improvements



MAP LEGEND

- Sewer Project Area
- Lift Station
- City Hall
- WWTF Ponds



Erosion at WWTP



Intake Structure



Sewer with High I&I

PROJECT COST
\$3,700,000

FUNDING SOURCES
Federal - \$330,000 (Secured)
CDBG - \$150,000 (Secured)
IRRR - \$150,000 (Requested)
Funding Gap - \$3,070,000

BONDING BILL REQUEST
\$3,070,000

SCHEDULE*
Design- Summer/Fall 2026
Bid- Winter 2026
Construction -Summer 2027
Completion- December 2027
*Contingent on funding

Background

The City of Cook is facing critical wastewater infrastructure failures and utility limitations that threaten environmental compliance, public health, and local economic growth. Severe inflow and infiltration (I&I), a deteriorating sewer collection system, and inadequate water and sewer capacity along the County Highway 115 business corridor are straining operations and limiting business expansion. These issues also pose risks to the Littlefork River and hinder the city’s ability to meet Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) requirements.

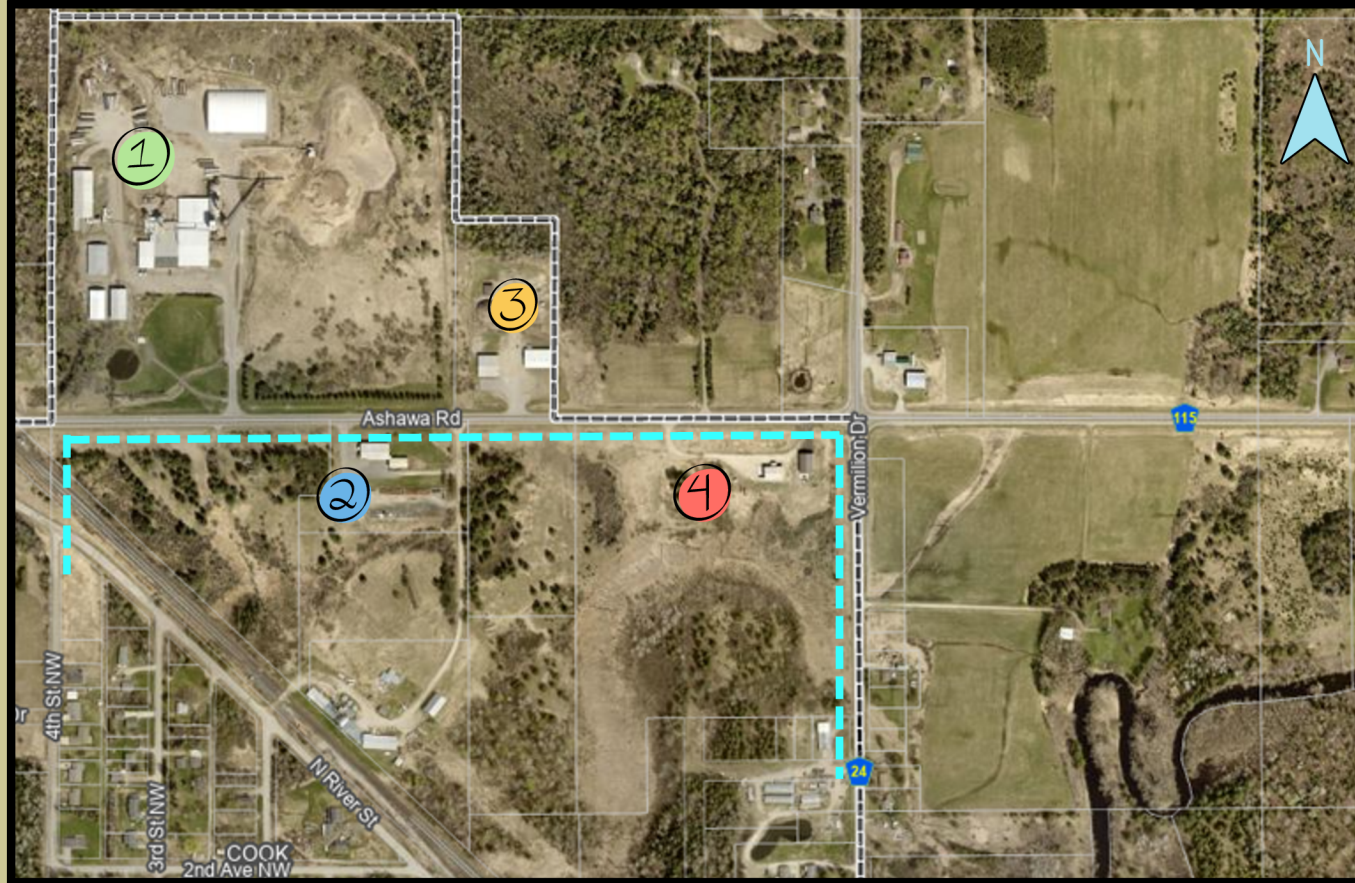
Response

To address environmental and regulatory concerns, the City must upgrade key wastewater facilities and collection system components. Heavy I&I during rain events causes excessive lift-station run times, pond overflows, erosion of dike walls, and illicit discharges into the Littlefork River. MPCA has identified necessary improvements to aging concrete structures and eroded dikes to maintain compliance. A 2021 I&I study documented widespread deterioration in the collection system, including a failing river crossing, broken clay tile pipes, leaking manholes, and other structural defects. These failures increase operating costs, reduce system reliability, and create environmental risks. Utility constraints along the County Highway 115 business corridor are also limiting job growth. Employers such as Hill Wood Products, Lake Country Power, the City of Cook, and Northern Lights Auto Supply Inc. lack adequate water pressure, volume, and sewer capacity, preventing facility expansion and constraining economic development.



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MAP LEGEND

Water & Sewer Line Route

BUSINESSES

1 Hill Wood Products

2 Lake Country Power

3 Cook Public Works Garage

4 Northern Lights Auto Supply Inc.

Solution

State bonding support will enable the City of Cook to complete essential infrastructure upgrades, including:

Wastewater System & Collection Improvements:

- Rebuilding eroded dike walls and replacing aging concrete structures
- Targeted sewer lining, spot repairs, and replacement of the failing Littlefork River crossing
- Measures to reduce I&I, stabilize operations, and protect state waters

Business Corridor Utility Upgrades:

- Installation of approximately 4,500 linear feet of new PPE water main and PVC sewer interceptor
- New service connections, valves, and manholes
- Creation of a looped water system to improve pressure, reliability, and service redundancy

These investments will protect the Littlefork River and reduce environmental liability, ensure regulatory compliance, support existing employers and open additional parcels for development, and strengthen northern Minnesota's economic base and job market. State bonding will allow Cook to both meet environmental obligations and enable long-term, sustainable economic growth along this critical commercial corridor.