JERSEY CITY
MAKE IT GREEN
Stormwater

Did you know that Jersey City has a Combined Sewer System (CSS)? Learn about how this affects our waterways and how you can take action for a cleaner community.

C[TY

Stormwater downspouts

Stormwater catch basins

Sewer

Storm sewer

Combined sewer

Combined sewer overflow (CSO)

WHAT IS A COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM (CSS)?

A combined sewer system collects rainwater runoff and wastewater in the same system of underground pipes. Jersey City's combined wastewater is then pumped under the Hackensack River to a treatment facility in Newark.

WHAT IS A COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW (CSO)?

CSOs happen during heavy rain events when too much water enters the system and untreated stormwater and sewage overflow into our local waterways.

CSO outfall

Water Treatment Facility

WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?

Untreated overflow threatens human health and the animals and vegetation that live in and around our waterways.

Treated water

WHAT CAN WE DO?

See reverse for steps we can take to reduce combined sewer overflow events.

Jersey City's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) aims to evaluate Jersey City's sewer infrastructure and develop long-term strategies to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and improve the quality of the City's waterways. By July 2019, the Jersey City Municipal Utility Authority (JCMUA), the City's CSO permittee, will submit a Development and Evaluation of Alternatives Report to the NJDEP that lays out the City's initial plan.
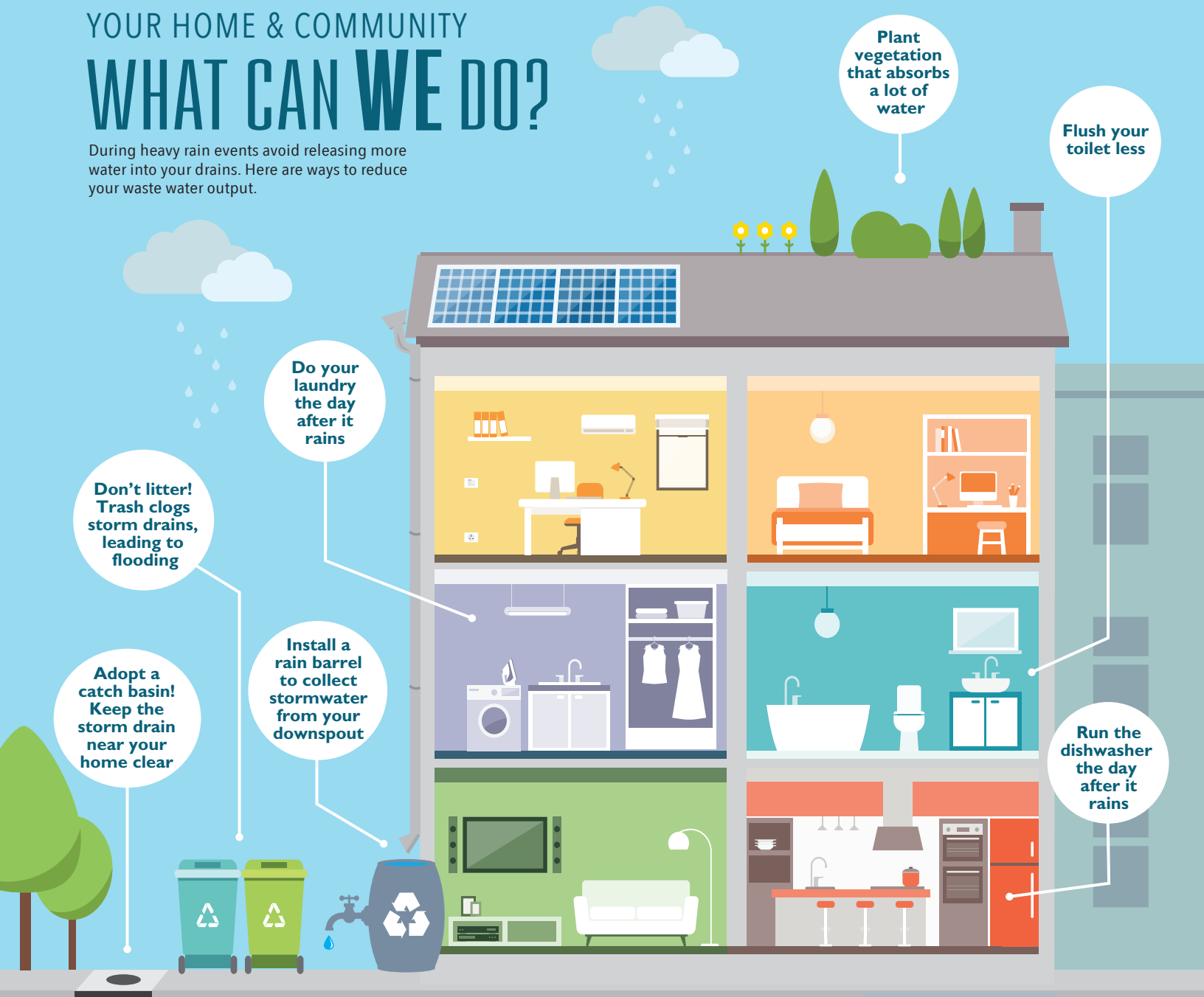
Find out more information about the LTCP at the JCMUA's website: www.jcmua.com/ltcp or www.jcmakeitgreen.org/jcstart
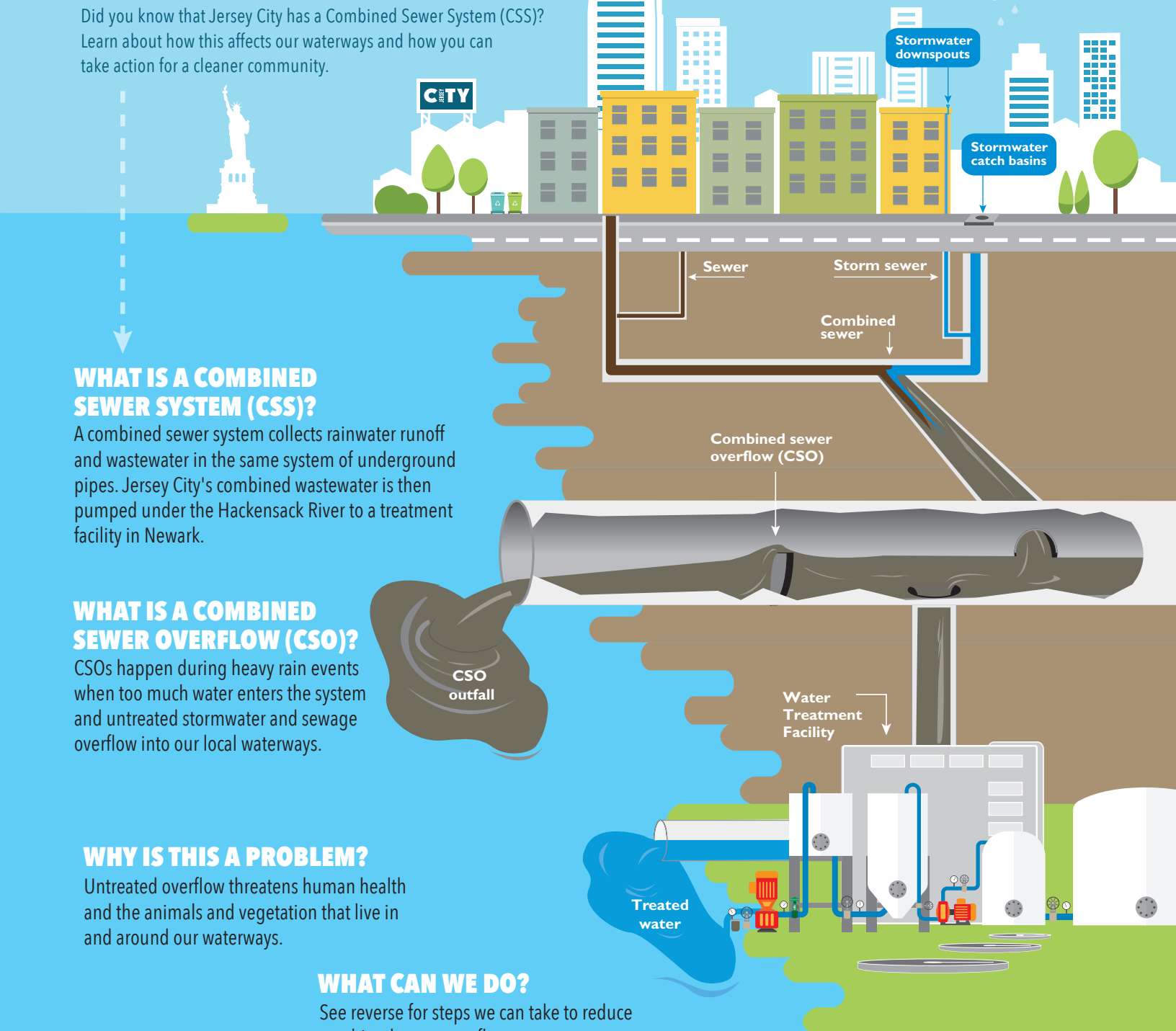
YOUR HOME & COMMUNITY
WHAT CAN **WE** DO?

During heavy rain events avoid releasing more water into your drains. Here are ways to reduce your waste water output.

Plant vegetation that absorbs a lot of water

Flush your toilet less

Do your laundry the day after it rains

Don't litter! Trash clogs storm drains, leading to flooding

Install a rain barrel to collect stormwater from your downspout

Adopt a catch basin! Keep the storm drain near your home clear

Run the dishwasher the day after it rains

What is Green Infrastructure?

The purpose of green infrastructure is to divert storm water from entering the sewer system. Here are some examples:

BIOSWALE
This oversized tree pit is filled with plants, sand, gravel, and engineered soil, which are specifically designed to absorb water. Inlets divert rainwater from the street into the bioswale instead of the storm drain.

RAIN BARREL
This container captures up to 50 gallons of stormwater runoff which would otherwise flow into the sewer. This water is not drinkable, but can be used for watering or washing outdoors.

RAIN GARDEN
A garden specially designed to absorb stormwater run-off from roads, parking lots, and sidewalks

POROUS PAVEMENT
This permeable surface allows stormwater to pass back into the ground instead of running off into storm drains. Surfaces like this also protect trees by accommodating root growth.