

The City of Pigeon Forge continues to grow in popularity as a premier family vacation destination. With the growth expansion of the City's infrastructure is required to meet the needs of various residential, industrial, and commercial developments.

A major component of the infrastructure to any community is the wastewater collection and treatment system. **The City of Pigeon Forge** owns and operates a collection system and treatment plant **(capable of treating 8.5 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater)**. The highly treated effluent from the plant is discharged into the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River.

(In 2005) a study was presented to the City Council that developed projections of wastewater flow for the next 20 years. Based on the flow estimates presented in the report **(the average daily flow was projected to be 6.75 MGD with a peak flow of 20.33 MGD in 2023)**

At that time, the City explored what options were available to increase the plant capacity. As part of the review, the City contacted the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to request an increased discharge at its current location **(In 2004, the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River was placed on the 303(d) list of impaired streams. In the 2006 revision of the list, "municipal point sources" were specifically identified as a pollutant source for the river)** In addition, the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River was upgraded from a Tier I to a Tier II stream. As a result, TDEC is not able to grant a permit for an increased discharge into the river.

TDEC suggested the stakeholders in the watershed work together to develop a plan to protect and restore the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River. TDEC recommended Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg's treatment plant discharge effluent to a point on the French Broad River. To begin this process, the