Before

After

Case Study: North Oak Sewer

When Confluence Rivers acquired the North Oak Sewer facility, the system was exceeding permit limits for BOD and E. coli. As an extended aeration activated sludge plant, it was designed for more robust treatment—but years of inadequate maintenance had left it underperforming. There was no dedicated disinfection process, serious solids accumulation had overwhelmed the clarifier, and the system lacked functional skimmers or scum handling. In one striking example of neglect, tomato plants had begun growing inside the treatment tanks, nourished by the built-up sludge.

Further complicating performance, the clarifier's outdated baffle wall created hydraulic issues that pushed solids to the surface, while deteriorating sludge return systems limited the plant's ability to manage biological solids effectively.

Confluence Rivers initiated a full-scale rehabilitation. Excess solids were removed, and the aging blower building was completely restored. New aeration blowers and control panels were installed to increase treatment efficiency. Sludge return and scum piping were replaced, and an upgraded influent screen was installed to remove debris from the incoming flow and protect downstream equipment.

Work is ongoing to enhance clarifier performance, including the installation of a new stainless steel scum baffle and safer access walkways for operators. Once completed, these upgrades will ensure the North Oak Sewer facility operates cleanly, safely, and in full compliance—built for lasting service to the community.