

Sewage, rain water flood Gull Lake wetlands

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Kalamazoo

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RICHLAND -- Heavy rains over the weekend caused about 81,000 gallons of water to overflow into the 5-acre, privately owned wetlands adjacent to the Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority's main pumping station at 7300 N. 37th St., said the authority's director, Rich Pierson.

Pierson said no homes or commercial properties were affected by the overflow, which was a mix of rain water and sewage. He said the pumping systems were working at maximum capacity but could not handle the large amount of water.

A contributing factor to the overflow, which Pierson said was the first in five years, was the water coming into the system through pick holes in manhole covers.

Pierson said he submitted a report of the overflow to the Kalamazoo district office of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The state department has not yet indicated whether it will inspect the affected area, Pierson said.

The station was back to its normal operation by 11:30 p.m. Sunday.