Headworks

The headworks is the first line of defense against the onslaught of materials flowing into the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

At the Headworks, incoming sewage passes through a series of screens that remove inorganic materials from the wastewater stream, allowing the liquids and organic materials to continue flowing through to the rest of the treatment plant. The system consists of three channels with different types of screens. The manual screen has approximately ¾" openings that capture large or bulky items that must be routinely raked by a plant employee to remove the debris from the screen. Other screens include a cylindrical rotating drum screen with a smaller opening, and a continuous traveling screen constructed of stainless steel with even smaller openings.

The headworks is a very important component of the wastewater plant because it removes items that can't be processed by chemical or biological means.
The waste removed at the headworks is dewatered, then put into a compactor and disposed of at a landfill.

Improvements to the headworks will consist of adding an additional channel and screen for grit removal, enclosing the structure to assist with odor control, connecting to the SCADA system to allow monitoring via computer, and providing more redundancy in the system. Addition of the grit removal process is particularly desirable because grit buildup in the digester or aeration basins reduces the overall capacity and efficiency of the downstream treatment processes.

For an overall description of the Treatment Plant processes, please see the *Liquid Treatment Process* and *Biosolids Treatment Process* pages. For an overall description of the Treatment Plant Upgrade, please see the *Improving the WWTP* page.