



Director of Wastewater Engineering

CHRIS NASTALLY

GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY

Follow your heart and don't be afraid to take chances. The worst thing that happens is you make a mistake, and then you make a different decision! The best thing that could happen is your decision turns out to be the best thing you've ever done!

What does a typical day look like in this role?

I oversee a team of engineers, inspectors, and office administrative individuals responsible for execution of capital projects for improvements to GLWA wastewater infrastructure.

What are the most challenging aspects of this career?

Understanding that growth and knowledge take time. We all want to be the boss when we graduate college, but, experience is the right mix of growth and knowledge. Don't rush it. Build your foundation!

What are the most rewarding aspects?

For me, it's leadership. I enjoy seeing what my team can accomplish when we work together as a team. A close second is watching things be fixed, rebuilt, repaired, or improved that once weren't working and now work better than they did before.

Educational Requirements

What level of education is typically required?

Bachelors Degree in Engineering

Are there specific Field of study that are most relevant?

Civil Engineering is most common, but others include electrical, structural, mechanical, or chemical.

What soft skills are important

Be able to talk in technical and non-technical terms depending on your audience. Have excellent written and verbal communication. Have a knack for solving problems and have a natural curiosity of equipment & processes.

What was your journey to find this career?

I started out wanting to do transportation engineering. I expanded my skillset to include CAD, surveying, staking, construction engineering, and process engineering eventually before really finding my passion in wastewater. Don't miss an opportunity to try something new, it could be the best thing you ever did!

Was there someone who made an impact on your career?

"When you work hard, good things happen" ~ my high school wrestling coach – Ed Brighton. I realized after high school that this quote applies to all of life.