City of Springfield
Office of Public Works

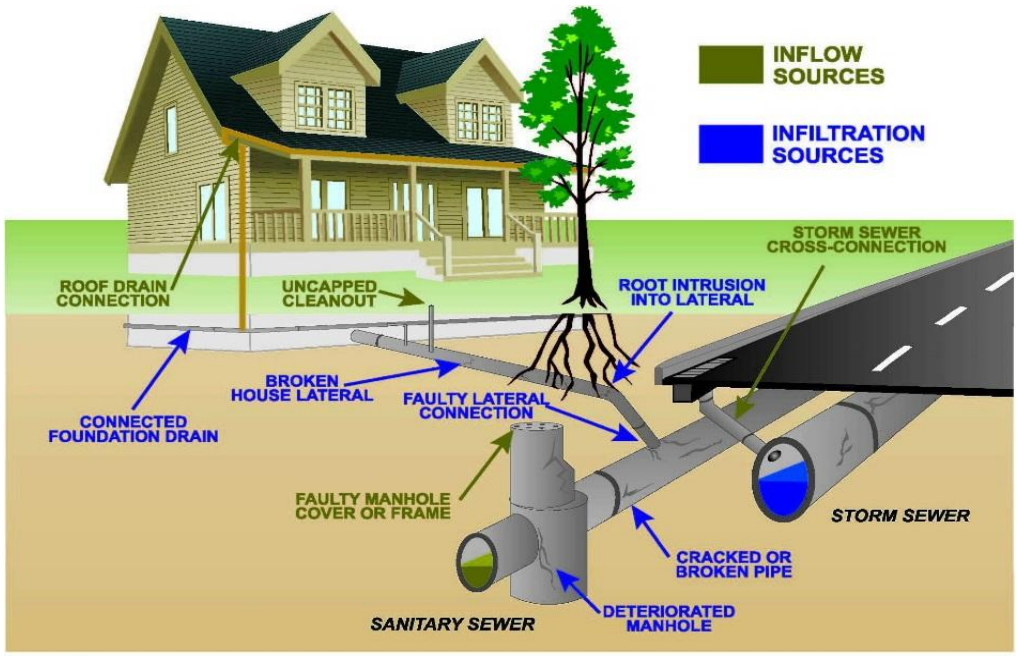
ADDRESSING NORTHEAST AREA SANITARY SEWER ISSUES

Why are we addressing the Northeast Area Sewers?

The City is studying sanitary sewer related overflow issues in the Northeast Area to address basement backup conditions and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory requirements. The cause of these issues can be tied to deteriorating sewers and improper private connections that allow stormwater to enter into the system causing sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and basement backups. The study will provide the information necessary to make a decision on how best to address the problems.

What's wrong with our sewers?

The sanitary and storm sewers in the NE area are separate, which is a good thing. The sanitary sewers collect waste from our homes while the storm system collects rainfall. The problem is that, during a major rain, excess water enters the sanitary sewer system through defective pipes & manholes, as well as from private property (broken sewer laterals, connected downspouts, connected sump pumps, etc.). This causes the sanitary sewers to overflow.



What the study will involve:

The study will conduct an in-depth investigation of the sewer system characteristics and develop a computer model to help determine the most cost-effective solution to address the problem. The goal will be a plan that is mutually agreeable to residents, city government and USEPA.

CMT

How long will all this take?

The study is an important step and is scheduled to be completed by June of 2015. The USEPA will need to review and approve the study before any improvements will be made.

What kind of actions will likely be taken once the plan is finished to reduce the stormwater entering the sanitary sewers?

Public sewer improvements will primarily involve rehabilitation to sewer mains and manholes including potential sewer lining. Additional sewers to increase capacity is another option.

Private sewer improvements includes potential rehabilitation of the lateral sewers that connect the sewer to the houses and buildings. Illegal connections such as down spouts or sump pumps discharging into the sanitary system will be removed. The study will help to identify the most cost-effective combination of improvements for the Northeast Area.

What role do private property owners play in this?

The most cost-effective approach to reducing overflows is to address as much as possible upstream of the public sewers. There is essentially just as much sewer line length on private property as there is on the public side in the Northeast Area. Therefore, it will be imperative that private side connections and conditions be addressed through a **Private Property Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) Removal Program.** Funding for the improvements will need to be determined.

How are other communities dealing with this same issue?

Cities throughout the US, including those here in Central Illinois are battling the consequences of aging sewer infrastructure and the years of improper private connections that collectively over time contribute to this problem. The NE Area is just the first neighborhood in Springfield being addressed. Some cities are in the process of rehabilitating the private lateral sewers while some cities are also disconnecting improper private connections.

What role you can play:

- Residents' participation is critical to the success of the program helping to identify problem areas, evaluating options and refining the solution
- Plan to attend and participate in future meetings
- Complete the *Private Property Sewer Service Questionnaire* and share this information with your neighbors.

  Send your comments, questions and/or information to the attention of:

  John Higginbotham – Sewer Engineer: 217-789-2244 or Public.Works@Springfield.il.us