

Private Sewer Repair Program

Why is the City doing this?

Removing rainwater from the sewer system is part of the City's \$200 million Overflow Control Plan to reduce overflows and improve water quality. Much of the excess water comes from downspouts, sump pumps and area drains improperly connected to the sanitary sewer.

The City is pursuing this program to find the most cost effective way to keep rainwater out of the sewer system at no additional charge to the property owner. This program is designed to keep future rates as low as possible.



photo courtesy of Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

Frequently Asked Questions



Why should I participate in the Private Sewer Repair Program?

This program offers property owners the opportunity to repair improperly connected plumbing on their property at NO CHARGE. The City will pay for the repair in the program to find the best method to remove unwanted rainwater from the sewer system. This program is designed to reduce long-term costs and capital and operating expenditures. Keeping rainwater out of the system reduces sewer overflows and building backups.

If improper connections are found on my property, am I "in trouble?"

No. The purpose of the Private Sewer Repair Program is to find improper connections and correct them.

If my property needs repairs, will I have to pay?

No. The City will pay plumbers directly for proper repairs.

How will I be contacted?

You will be contacted to schedule an appointment and to explain how the program works and to answer any questions you may have.



(417) 655-2175
sewerprogram@springfieldmo.gov
www.springfieldmo.gov/cleanwater



So what is the problem?

Sanitary sewers are designed to carry wastewater from every residence and business in Springfield. Rainwater entering the system overloads the system and can cause manhole overflows and building backups.

Uncapped Clean-Out

A sewer lateral clean-out is a significant source of rainwater entering the sewer system when left uncapped. The City will repair this improper connection to the sewer system at no charge to the owner.



Sump Pump

Sump pumps remove rainwater from building basements and sometimes are connected directly to the sanitary sewer. The city will repair this improper connection at no additional charge to the property owner.



Downspout

This downspout “disappears,” that is, it goes directly into the ground where it may connect to the sanitary sewer filling it with rainwater. If improperly connected, the City will repair this at no charge to the property owner.



How should the problem be addressed?

The program involves two steps for property owners:

1. Evaluation: All property owners will be contacted to schedule a plumbing evaluation to identify any improper connections to the sewer system.
2. Repairs: Where improper connections are found, property owners will be asked to allow qualified local plumbers, PAID BY THE CITY, to correct them.



This information plays an important part in the

Springfield – Greene County, Mo Integrated Plan for the Environment



In 2012, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its “Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework” which emphasized a commitment to work with states and communities to implement an integrated planning approach to address environmental objectives. In response to this opportunity, leaders from the City of Springfield, Greene County, and City Utilities developed a local approach to integrated planning. This holistic approach proposes to use local knowledge to examine our environmental resources in regards to air, water and land taking into account affordability.

For more information, visit www.springfieldintegratedplan.com.

The Evaluation: *what to expect*

A two-person evaluation team will contact you to explain the Private Sewer Repair Program and evaluate your property. All evaluation team members will clearly display identification as representatives from the City of Springfield. They will be in vehicles that have city logos and *Working as Promised* signs. A typical evaluation is completed in less than 45 minutes. There must be an adult (age 18 or over) present at the property during the evaluation.

Examples of connections to be reviewed by evaluators are:

- **Uncapped cleanouts** (photo far left): Is there a private sewer lateral clean out cap that is missing or damaged so that rainwater can enter?
- **Sump Pit/Sump Pump** (photo far left): Is there a sump pump? If present, does it discharge outside the basement through a rigid pipe (properly), or discharge to the sewer piping (improperly)?
- **Downspouts** (photo far left): Are there downspouts that go into the ground (improperly)? If so, where do they drain?
- **Various drains**: Is there a yard drain, driveway drain or foundation drain? If present, where do they drain?

Repair Work: *what to expect*

If an improper connection is found, your plumbing evaluator will review repair procedures with you. The repair process follows these steps:

- Property owner reviews and signs a voluntary repair agreement at no obligation to the property owner.
- Property owner selects plumber from the qualified local plumber list, or assigns city to select the plumber.
- Work will be performed at no additional charge to property owner.
- Plumber will contact property owner directly to schedule work.
- Plumber will perform work.
- A representative of the City will evaluate the work and provide the property owner with ownership information.
- City will pay the plumber.