

Voluntary Sanitary Sewer Lateral Cost Sharing Program

The voluntary sanitary sewer lateral cost sharing program provides assistance to residents in alleviating sewage backups occurring in their homes. The cost share program pays up to 20% of the total cost of the sanitary sewer backup improvement, or a maximum of \$1,260, whichever is less. The cost share program is applicable to only sanitary sewer laterals and to single-family homes.

The City owns and maintains approximately 130 miles of sanitary sewer main of various pipe sizes and pipe materials. Connected to the City's sanitary sewer main are approximately 10,000 private sanitary sewer lateral connections, owned and maintained by property owners. These sanitary sewer laterals run from the City sewer main (in the street or parkway area) towards and into the homes. The size and condition of these private sewer laterals vary greatly, with the majority of them being either 4-inch or 6-inch in diameter.

The City sanitary sewer mains and the resident sewer lateral pipes are designed to carry only waste water coming from the homes or businesses. The sanitary pipes are not meant to carry rain water. If the sanitary sewer lateral is not properly maintained (breaks, blockages, and/or leaks), these pipes will contribute to inflow and infiltration (I/I) of storm water into the laterals and eventually to the City's sanitary sewer mains. The additional stormwater in the sanitary sewer could lead to City sewer surcharges and/or residential lateral surcharges resulting in sewer backups inside homes.

The voluntary cost sharing program is available to property owners on a first-come, first-serve basis. The cost share can be applied to a stand-alone sanitary sewer lateral rehabilitation projects such as lateral sewer replacement or sewer lining, or other approved flood reduction measures such as sewer backflow devices or overhead sewer systems.

Prior to the City authorizing the cost sharing program, a building permit will be required for the work. As part of building permit, the City will inspect the property for any cross connection of storm sewer laterals to sanitary sewer laterals. If found, the property owners are required to disconnect the cross connection laterals at their own expense. Upon approval of building permit inspections, the City would reimburse 20% of the total cost of the improvement, or a maximum of \$1,260, whichever is less.

For more information on the voluntary sanitary sewer lateral cost sharing program, please visit the City of Highland Park website at http://www.cityhphil.com/government/city_departments/public_works/voluntary_sewer_lateral_cost_share_program2.php or contact Public Works Department Sewer Section staff at 847.926.1150 during normal business hours.