

CITY OF TOLEDO

CARLETON S. FINKBEINER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DAVID E. LEFFLER, DIRECTOR

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES



SEWER SYSTEM EVALUATION FACT SHEET

The City is conducting this project to evaluate the sewer system in your area.

What work will be performed as part of the study? Manhole inspection, storm and sanitary sewer cleaning and televising and smoke and dye testing will be conducted as part of the study. This work will be conducted to determine the condition of the sewer system, improve system operation and identify defects and clean water sources of inflow and infiltration (I/I) into the sanitary sewer system.

What is a sanitary sewer? A sanitary sewer is a pipe located in the street or an easement that is designed solely to transport wastewater from sanitary fixtures inside your building to the treatment plant. Sanitary fixtures include toilets, sinks, bathtubs, lavatories and floor drains.

What is a storm sewer? A storm sewer is a pipe designed to carry rain water away. Storm sewers are normally much larger than sanitary sewers because they are designed to carry much larger amounts of water. In many neighborhoods, drainage ditches and swales perform the same function as storm sewer pipes.

What is (I/I)? Inflow is storm water or clean water other than wastewater entering a sanitary sewer system (including sewer connections or “laterals”) from sources such as gutter drains, low or loose manhole lids, direct or indirect storm sewer connections, surface runoff and street drainage, improperly sealed cleanouts, etc. Infiltration is ground water, storm water, or water other than wastewater entering a sanitary sewer system (including laterals) from the ground via cracks in the sewer pipe, open or offset joints in the sewer pipes, root intrusions, cracks or openings in manholes, deterioration or pipes in stream crossings, etc. All of this water is called “clean water” (although it may appear dirty) to distinguish it from sanitary sewage.

Why is this water a problem? Too much clean water in the sanitary sewer can overload the pipe and cause sewer backups and overflows when it rains.

How can overloaded sanitary sewers cause basement flooding? The water in an overloaded sewer flows at a higher level than normal. If the home has sanitary fixtures or floor drains that are below this higher, overload level, water can flow backward through the sanitary sewer lines into basements. An overloaded sewer cannot take the sanitary flow from your home and may actually force flow backward into low points like your basement.

How can I help? Disconnect improper connections to the sanitary sewer. Some examples of improper connections include downspouts, groundwater sump pumps, foundation drains, drains from window sills and outer basement stairwells and drains from driveways. This water should be diverted into storm sewers, lawns, areas away from house foundations and drainage ditches.

Who do I call with questions? Please contact the Toledo Waterways Initiative SSES Project Hotline at (# to be determined). The telephone number will be available at the public meeting.