

SUMMARY OF LEMONT SANITARY AND STORM SEWER INFORMATION

What is a Sanitary Sewer System?

A sanitary sewer system is the system of underground pipes that carry sewage from bathrooms, sinks, and other plumbing components to a wastewater treatment plant, where it is filtered, treated and discharged.

What is a Storm Sewer System?

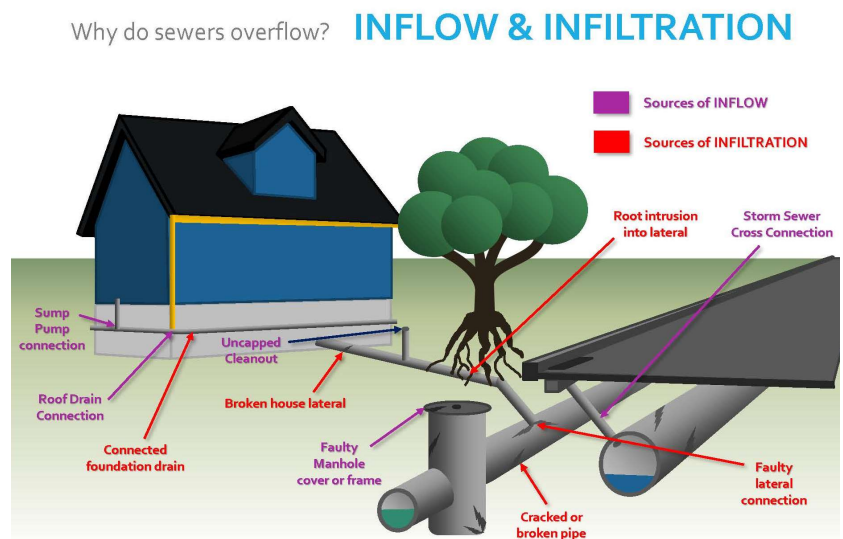
A storm sewer system is the system of underground pipes that carry storm water runoff from the ground and buildings to the nearest ditch, creek or river.

What is a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO)?

An SSO occurs when sewage leaves the sewer system before it has had a chance to be treated at the wastewater treatment facility. These overflows leave the system through manholes and basement backups (BBs).

Why do sanitary sewers overflow?

- **Lack of system capacity** – as cities grow, the amount of sanitary sewage is greater than the sewer was built to handle.
- **Improper connections** – Improper or unapproved connections from house gutters and basement sump pumps will overwhelm the sanitary sewer system
- **Aging Systems and I&I** – Many pipe systems are cracking and leaking because of the age of the system. As a result, unplanned sources of water enter the sanitary sewer system, which is called Inflow & Infiltration (I&I). See the diagram for the different sources of Inflow & Infiltration.



Why are SSOs a serious problem?

Raw sewage from SSOs can contaminate our waters, causing serious water quality problems. SSOs can also expose people to health risks when released to populated areas, such as streets, yards, basements or recreational waters.

All sewer systems are regulated by the State and Federal government, and SSOs are expressly prohibited by the *Clean Water Act*. More specifically, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MRWD) is requiring the Village of Lemont to develop a private sector program (PSP) and long-term operation & maintenance plan (LTOMP) to address their sanitary sewer system and minimize the chance of SSOs occurring.

What is the Village of Lemont doing to address SSOs?

The village hired an engineering consultant, **Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.** (www.cmtengr.com) to develop the PSP and LTOMP that addresses the following items:



Addressing Sanitary Sewer Issues in Lemont

SUMMARY OF LEMONT SANITARY AND STORM SEWER INFORMATION

- Ensuring there is an organizational structure in place to adequately operate and maintain the sanitary sewer system
- There are protocols in place to receive, address and track resident sewer complaints
- Planned and unplanned sewer system maintenance, as well as emergencies
- Performing routine sewer cleaning, inspection, assessment and developing repair/rehabilitation priorities
- Performing inspections of private property to identify and disconnect improper connections that contribute clear water to the sanitary sewer
- Ensure the Sewer Use Ordinance is current and the PSP and LTOMP is properly funded to sustain its objective

What kind of actions will likely be taken once the PSP and LTOMP is approved?

Public sewer improvements will likely involve rehabilitation of sewer mains and manholes. Private property defects must be corrected as required by Village Code. Improper connections, such as down spouts or sump pumps discharging into the sanitary system, will be removed. Other clear water connections, such as area drains will be documented and retained on a list. When a permit application is submitted to the Village that involves substantial improvements to the structure or the structure is demolished, the drains will be disconnected from the sanitary sewer.

How does the PSP and LTOMP affect me?

The sanitary sewer system is on both Public & Private domain, so defects and illegal connections will need to be investigated and resolved on both sides. Information from private property owners will provide more data, increasing the effectiveness of the solution. **The better the data, the better the solution.**

How can I help?

Residents' participation is critical to the success of the program. You can help significantly by simply contributing to the information gathering process! There are several easy ways to do this:

- Contact the Village Hall as soon as possible if you experience a basement backup or witness a sewer overflowing.
- When requested, cooperate with the Village to schedule an inspection of your property to identify clear water sources, if any.
- Disconnect any clear water connections such as downspouts and sump pumps from the sanitary sewer.
- Share this information with neighbors and friends.

What causes BBs?

The causes of BBs are similar to what cause SSOs; lack of sewer capacity, improper connections and old service sewer pipe. Specifically, for sewer services, the following reasons apply:

- Blockages cause by flushing inappropriate material into the plumbing system.
- Improper connections to the service sewer such as downspouts, foundation drains and sump pumps.
- Old service sewer pipe that has cracks and/or breaks that allow groundwater to seep in and use up some or all of the pipe capacity.



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SUMMARY OF LEMONT SANITARY AND STORM SEWER INFORMATION

What can I do to reduce BBs?

Residents can take steps to reduce the potential for BBS by doing the following:

- Allow only water and human waste into the plumbing system.
- Hire a qualified plumber to inspect your service sewer pipe for blockages, defects and improper connections.
- Install an overhead sewer system or a back-flow prevention valve.

Send your comments, questions and/or information to:

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<https://www.lemont.il.us/>