



CITY OF
WARREN
OHIO

Honorable William D. Franklin, Mayor
Eddie Colbert, Director of Public Safety & Service



2323 Main Street
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Edward Haller, Director

2022 STORMWATER NEWS

The City of Warren is required by the Ohio EPA to implement a stormwater management program. This program is managed by the Water Pollution Control Department (WPC). Part of this program includes letting residents know about the program and providing information about stormwater pollution and how to prevent it from entering our rivers, lakes and streams.

As stormwater flows over the ground, it picks up litter, chemicals, and pollutants that can contaminate our drinking and recreational water supply. Unlike residential wastewater (from toilets, showers, and sinks) that is filtered through a wastewater treatment facility, anything that enters a storm sewer system or roadside ditches in the City of Warren goes to **Mosquito Creek** or **the Mahoning River** with no treatment.

"The Big 6" Stormwater Pollutants

Litter can block storm drain grates and cause flooding. Plastics are often mistakenly eaten by wildlife.

LITTER



WHAT CAN YOU DO?
Keep litter out of your ditches, participate in cleanups and spread the word.

PESTICIDES/ HERBICIDES



Pesticides kill the good bugs in water that help keep the water clean. Herbicides kill plants that stabilize stream banks, which prevents flooding.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
Use fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides sparingly on lawns and gardens. Be sure to apply when there is NOT a chance of rain!

AUTO WASTE



Oils and other car fluids have metals and chemicals in them that pollute water. Soaps used to wash cars harm aquatic wildlife.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
Clean up oil/fluid leaks, wash your car in the lawn or go to a car wash.

PET WASTE



Bacteria and parasites in pet waste can cause health problems for humans and other animals when washed downstream.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
Clean up after your pet. Bag it and toss it!

Yard waste contains nitrogen and phosphorus that can encourage algal blooms. It also clogs inlets and causes flooding.



YARD WASTE

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
Rake leaves, grass clippings and yard waste to prevent inlets from clogging. If you notice street inlets or culverts need cleaned, call WPC.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE



Cleaning agents, oil-based paints, cooking grease and medicines cause illness and death for aquatic life.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
Properly dispose of household hazardous waste. If you see pollutants in our waterways, call WPC. Contact the agencies below with questions on disposal methods.

**City of Warren
Environmental Services**
613 Main Ave. SW, Warren
330.841.2561

**Geauga-Trumbull Solid
Waste Management**
5138 Enterprise Blvd.,
Northwest Business Park, Warren
1.800.707.2673

JOIN US FOR A PUBLIC MEETING TO LEARN MORE!

On **May 26 at 3pm**, WPC will review the new Stormwater Management Plan and how it fulfills Ohio EPA's requirements to prevent pollutants from entering our water systems. We will also touch on Warren's comprehensive stormwater planning efforts, which seeks to address other stormwater issues that residents have been facing.

To register, visit
<https://bit.ly/wpcmeeting>

Call WPC at
330.841.2591
to report sanitary backups
or flooding problems

IDENTIFYING THE SOURCE:



HOW TO TELL IF IT'S SEWAGE OR RAIN

Storm sewers convey rainwater from streets, rooftops, driveways, yards, parking lots and sump pumps. Sanitary sewers convey wastewater from homes, commercial and industrial facilities, through a sanitary sewer lateral on each property, which collect flow from sinks, toilets, showers, tubs, laundry facilities, dishwashers and floor drains.

HOW DOES RAINWATER ENTER THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM?

Some rainwater enters the sewers through cracks in pipes or manholes due to age of the infrastructure or tree roots. This type of rainwater entering a sanitary sewer system is called **sewer infiltration**. Other sources of rainwater that enter the sanitary sewer system, called **sewer inflow**, comes from illegally connected sump pumps, failed sump pumps, and directly connected downspouts from roofs. The existing sanitary sewers are not designed to convey this water, nor is the wastewater treatment plant designed to treat these flows. Infiltration and inflow increase sewage treatment costs and cause sanitary backups in homes because the system has been overwhelmed with rainwater and can no longer convey sewage.

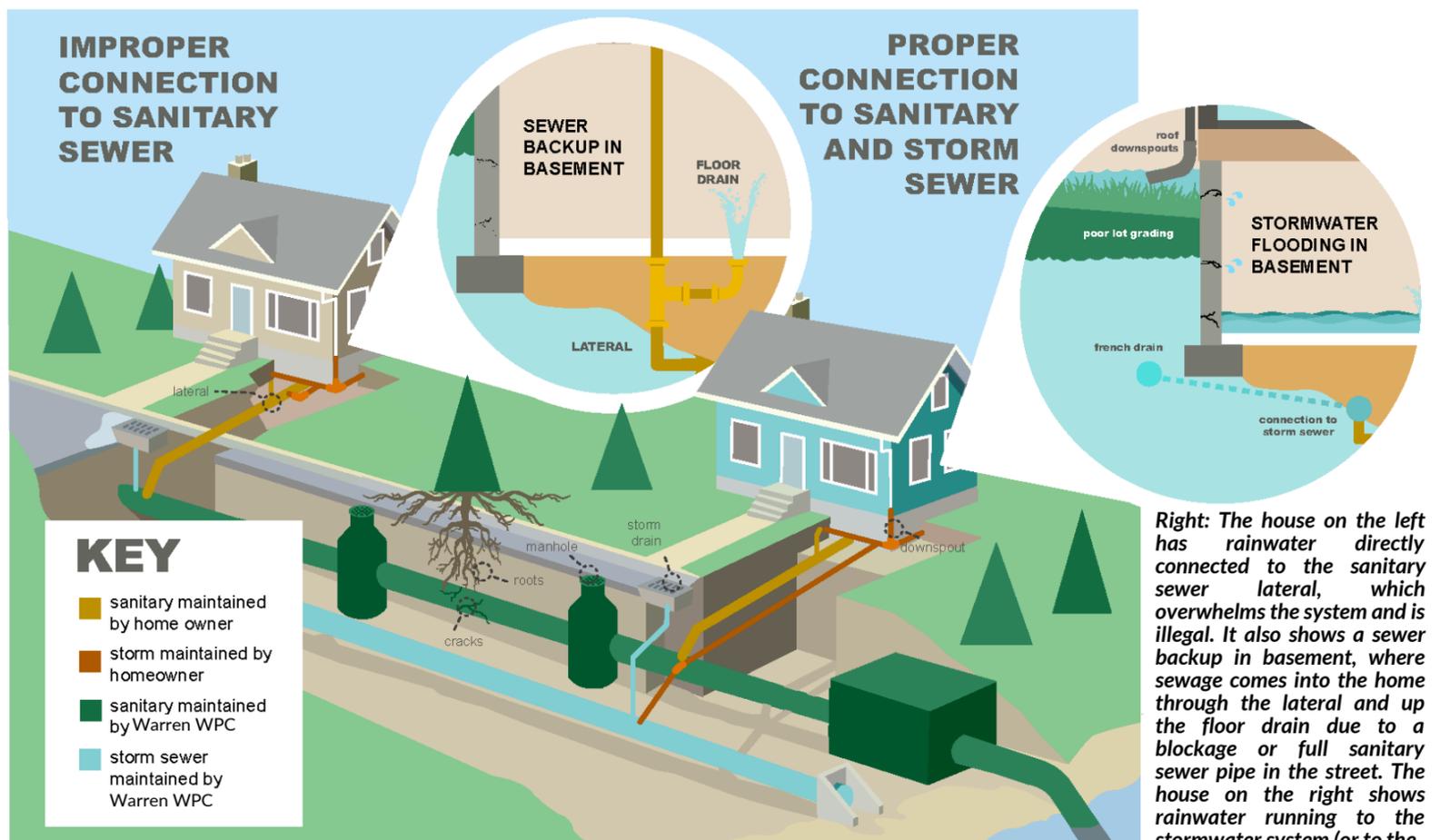
IF STORM SEWERS CONVEY RAINWATER, WHY DO SANITARY SEWERS BACK UP?

Sanitary sewers back up for several reasons:

1. the private sewer lateral is obstructed by roots, grease or another blockage (e.g. diapers, trash) and sewage cannot leave the house
2. the public sewer is clogged or collapsed, and sewage just upstream from the blockage has nowhere to go
3. rainwater has entered the sewer system through leaks or illegal connections, causing the amount of water to exceed the capacity of the pipe network.

Studies conducted by WPC have estimated that 70% of infiltration and inflow come from private sources. It's important to our community that we disconnect stormwater sources from our sanitary sewers!

See "Downspout Disconnection" below for more information.



Right: The house on the left has rainwater directly connected to the sanitary sewer lateral, which overwhelms the system and is illegal. It also shows a sewer backup in basement, where sewage comes into the home through the lateral and up the floor drain due to a blockage or full sanitary sewer pipe in the street. The house on the right shows rainwater running to the stormwater system (or to the street) properly. It also shows stormwater flooding in basement, where rain or groundwater comes in through wall and floor cracks if yards are not sloped or downspouts are not routed way from the home.

DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION:

Downspouts which do not properly discharge away from the house can cause flooding issues and can also overload the sanitary sewer system.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- Extend downspouts at least 3 feet away from your foundation.
- Slope ground away from house foundation.
- Keep gutters free of leave and debris to prevent gutters from overflowing next to your house.
- If your downspouts run to the street, make sure the line is working properly and is not blocked at the street.

Below: Disconnect your downspout from lines that connect to the sanitary sewer or that are blocked. Extend your downspout 3 to 5 feet away from your foundation.



UPDATE: WARREN'S STORMWATER COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING EFFORT



1. Assess where you are now

2. Identify & evaluate opportunities

3. List potential projects

4. Select, prioritize, & implement projects

The City is currently in assessment phase. This phase includes:

- Looking through existing data and input from residents
- Filling data gaps to determine baseline
- Developing a stormwater model
- Setting goals for stormwater system
- Identifying projects to meet goals

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May 26 at 3pm

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/wpcmeeting>