

# Rear Yard Sanitary Sewer Reconnection Program

*Mt. Pleasant*  
[meet here]

The City of Mt. Pleasant is phasing out the use of rear yard sanitary sewers and sewer leads serving multiple buildings. Various properties in the city are served by public rear-yard sewers, which are difficult to maintain. The city is constructing new sewers in public rights of-way ("street sewers") throughout the city. Rear yard sewer leads are planned to be transitioned to the street sewers over time.

## **Policy**

To review the rear yard sewer lead policy, visit the City's website at:

**<https://bit.ly/SewerReconnectionProgram>**

This policy outlines situations in which property owners are required to disconnect from rear yard sewers or leads serving multiple buildings. This policy also establishes cost assistance programs reimbursing property owners for a portion of the cost of transitioning to a new sewer connection.

To qualify for reimbursement under this policy, a property owner must:

1. Comply with all applicable provisions of Chapter 51 of the City Code relating to installation and connection of sewer leads, including, but not limited to, Sections 51.040 through 51.045.
2. Before commencing work, submit and obtain approval from the Engineering Department for plans showing the location of taps and routing of sewer leads, and obtain a permit. Except under special circumstances approved by the Engineering Department, new leads must tie into the sewer main rather than a sewer manhole.
3. If a new lead will cross private property other than the property that is the site of the building being served, provide a signed and recorded easement to the Division of Public Works in a form reasonably acceptable to the DPW director.
4. Before commencing work, submit the written cost estimate to the DPW director for approval.

5. Once the work has been completed, submit a copy of the paid invoice and/or other documentation of costs incurred, along with the completed application to the DPW office at City Hall.

## **How Do Sewer Leads Fail?**

Life spans of existing sewer lead pipes can be anywhere from 30 to 100 years, and are typically made of clay, iron, or coal tar wood fiber pipe (also known as Orangeburg Pipe). Like the pipes, the mortar used to seal the pipe joints also deteriorates over time resulting in misalignment. This allows tree roots to intrude into the pipe, disrupting the normal flow of sewage out of your home. If this occurs, the sewage could backup into your floor drain, basement, or shower, resulting in possible property damage or loss.

## **Sewer Line Abandonment**

If the city constructs a street sewer and abandons the rear yard sewer main in that area, the city will notify the affected property owners of the requirement to disconnect from the rear yard sewer and install and connect to the street sewer. Property owners may seek reimbursement of 90% of the cost up to a maximum of \$6,000.

## **Lead Failure**

When the lead to a rear yard sewer fails and the repair or replacement costs exceed \$500, as determined by the DPW Director, the DPW may require the property owner to disconnect from the rear yard sewer, and install and connect to the street sewer. The property owner may seek reimbursement of 90% of the cost, up to a maximum of \$2,500.

## **Leads Serving Multiple Buildings**

After an unauthorized lead serving multiple buildings is identified, the DPW may issue a written notice requiring the owner(s) to take corrective measures. Property owners may seek reimbursement of up to a total of 90% of the costs, up to a maximum of \$2,500.

# Rear Yard Sanitary Sewer Reconnection Program Application

Name:

Property Address:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Who did the work?

Applicant

Contractor

Please indicate reason for reimbursement:

Lead Failure (Max \$2,500)

Abandonment (Max \$6,000)

Lead Serviced Multiple Buildings (Max \$2,500)

Contractor Name:

Contractor Phone:

Was an easement required?

Yes

No

*If yes, please attach a signed and recorded copy to this application.*

Cost for Lead Installation: \$

Total Cost for Lead Installation: \$

Signature:

Date:

*(Exemption for maximum reimbursement may be made for procurement of easements.)*

**Mt. Pleasant** | Division of  
Public Works

320 West Broadway Street Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: (989) 779-5401 | Fax: (989) 772-6250

E-Mail: publicworks@mt-pleasant.org

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Contractor Insurance on File?

Yes

No

DPW Permit Number:

Total of Receipt (Attached): \$

Reroute Drawing Submitted?

Yes

No

Approved?

Yes

No

Reimbursement Amount (Attached): \$

Staff Initial:

Date: