

## FRANKFORT'S SEWER SYSTEM & CLEAN WATERWAYS PROGRAM

When our nation's and Frankfort's sewer systems were first built years ago, they were designed to carry both sewage and stormwater in the same pipelines. These "combined sewer systems" typically allowed excess water to overflow into area rivers and streams during heavy rainstorms.

As Frankfort and other cities grew and the negative environmental impacts of such overflows became apparent, separate "sanitary" sewer systems were built to keep stormwater separate from raw sewage.



Although the construction of combined sewer systems is no longer allowed, Frankfort — like more than 700 communities nationwide and nearly 20 in Kentucky — still has several points at which a combination of stormwater and sewage escapes into local rivers and streams. Like Frankfort, each of these cities is under state and federal mandates to make improvements that will dramatically reduce the frequency of such sewage and stormwater overflows.

In Frankfort, these improvements, which we call our Clean Waterways Program, will take several years and cost millions of dollars. This investment will improve our entire community's health and quality of life while protecting and enhancing the water in the Kentucky River, Elkhorn Creek and other nearby waterways.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

**Q.** *Why should I care?*

**A.** Achieving clean waterways is everyone's responsibility. We must all contribute to the solution because we all stand to benefit from it.

**Q.** *How will I know when property inspections will begin in my area?*

**A.** The Frankfort Sewer Department will notify property owners in each neighborhood or area before inspections begin.

**Q.** *What will the inspectors be looking for?*

**A.** Inspectors will be looking for evidence of illegal discharges of stormwater into the sewer system. They will typically need access to basements, crawl spaces and the exterior of any structures on your property. They will be looking for connections that allow rainwater to enter the sewer system. See the diagram in this brochure for examples of such connections.

**Q.** *How long will the inspections take?*

**A.** These inspections usually take 20 to 30 minutes but could take longer, depending on the size of the property.

### MORE QUESTIONS?

To learn more, to see the city and county Sewer Use Ordinances, or to view videos about these issues, please visit the Frankfort Sewer Department's Clean Waterways Program Website at [www.cwffc.org](http://www.cwffc.org), or call us at (502) 875-2448.

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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY & FRANKFORT'S SEWER SYSTEM



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# We can solve our wet weather issues by working together.

## HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU & YOUR PROPERTY?

Sanitary sewer overflows like those discussed here happen primarily when rainwater is added to the sanitary sewer system, overwhelming its capacity and limiting its ability to move wastewater to the city's wastewater treatment plant. When this combination of stormwater and sewage overflows into the river and other area waterways, it contaminates them, endangering recreational areas and wildlife habitat.

**The solution?** Limiting the amount of stormwater that enters the sanitary sewer system. As a resident of our community, you can contribute to the solution by eliminating sewer connections, whether illegal or permitted, that add water to the sewer system.

## WHAT IS AN ILLEGAL SEWER CONNECTION?

Any connection that allows stormwater to enter the city's sanitary sewer system is a violation of city and county "Sewer Use Ordinances." Such illegal connections include:

- downspouts;
- sump pumps; and
- drains.

This means that every residential and commercial property owner is prohibited from making any new illegal connections, and they are responsible for disconnecting any existing illegal connections that allow stormwater to enter the sanitary sewer system.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Every property owner in Frankfort and Franklin County has a responsibility to help solve these issues. In the coming months, the Frankfort Sewer Department (FSD) will be conducting inspections of residential and commercial properties in various areas of the city and county to determine whether properties and improvements on them are illegally connected to the sanitary sewer system.

When illegal connections are found, property owners will be granted a reasonable period of time — after written notice — to correct the situation and comply with the ordinances. The FSD is prepared to work with property owners to help them identify alternatives to illegal connections.

In the meantime, property owners may want to perform their own inspections of downspouts, drains and sump pumps to determine whether they are illegally connected to the sewer system. Ideally, these situations would be corrected before the FSD begins its property inspections.

While our focus will be on areas served by the sanitary sewers, you can be part of the solution even if your property is in an area served by the combined sewer. That's because stormwater that enters the combined system sometimes exceeds that system's capacity, contributing to the problem. For that reason, property owners in areas served by the combined sewer system — whether in the city or county — are encouraged to disconnect any sump pumps, drains and downspouts from the sewers. Although these connections are technically legal, they contribute to pollution in our area's waterways, so disconnecting them will help make those waterways cleaner and safer.

