

CITY OF BEREAL

COMMON TRENCH SEWER LATERAL IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The City of Berea is served by a separate sanitary sewer system. Ninety-one percent of the sanitary sewers are separate trench sewers, with nine percent of the sanitary sewers in a common trench.

Most common trench sewers were constructed before 1960 and due to leaks, likely represent the main cause of flooding issues in the South West Interceptor area.

A common trench sewer is in which both the storm sewer and sanitary sewer are placed in the same, or common, trench. Common trench sewers become problematic when the clay pipe degrades which causes leakage into the soil or into the other sewer in the same trench.

Leaky common trench sewers may contribute large amounts of sanitary sewer stormwater infiltration and inflow, which can cause surcharging; and may allow crossflow of sanitary sewer and storm sewer flows, which can contaminate stormwater.

The purpose of the Common Trench Sewer Lateral Improvement Partnership Program is to replace and/or reline the public portion of common trench lateral sewer lines, without regard to its condition, when the owner of the private property served by the public common trench sewer replaces and/or relines their lateral sewer line.

ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES

Using data from City records and from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the City has identified each address and parcel in the City served by a common trench sewer. These owners of these identified properties, which are actually served by common trench sewers, are eligible to participate in the Common Trench Sewer Lateral Improvement Partnership Program. The list of eligible properties is available in the Department of Public Service or on the City's website.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNER

The owner of the private property served by a common trench sewer will be required to make the following improvements to their property:

1. The entire lateral sanitary line from the house to the property-line (usually to the sidewalk) must be improved by either a total replacement of the sewer line or by lining the existing lateral line with PVC or some other material approved by the City Engineer.

In some cases, both the sanitary and storm sewer laterals be need to be replaced or lined.

2. A "Tee" type of cleanout shall be installed by the private property owner as close to the right-of-way as possible.

The program is also available to those private property owners whom have already replaced and/or relined their entire lateral sewer line. The City shall make a good faith effort to identify those properties already improved, but any property owner believing that their property has been improved may also contact the City Engineer to determine if their improvement qualifies for the program.

CITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon completion of the improvement project by the private property owner, the City shall replace or reline the public portion of the common trench sewer that serves the improved private property sewer line.

PROCEDURES

The Common Trench Sewer Lateral Improvement Partnership Program will be administered by the Department of Public Service.

The City shall maintain three lists: (1) Eligible properties; (2) Properties with outstanding building permits to make replace and/or reline the lateral sewer; (3) Private properties where the replacement and/or relining has been inspected and complete.

The City will not begin the improvement the public portion of the sewer until the private property sewer is replaced and/or improved in accordance with the program requirements. While the City will make every effort to complete their portion of the project in a timely manner, there are variables that may dictate the scheduling of the improvement to the public portion. Such factors include, but are not limited to:

- Weather - The weather will be a key factor in scheduling the public improvement will require concrete and asphalt to complete the work.
- Availability of city crews and/or contractors – It is not clear whether public bidding will be required if an outside contractor is used. If work is performed by city employees, it will be subject to their other duties.

Representatives of the Department of Public Service are available by appointment to assist property owners and their contractors.

CITY FUNDING

This program is subject to an annual appropriation by City Council.

In 2022, the Administration committed \$250,000 to spend for sewer improvements in Ward 1. While these funds may be used for other Ward 1 sewer improvements, they may also be used for the Common Trench Lateral Sewer Improvement Partnership Program. In 2022, the City's priority will be to make improvements to the public side of those private properties served by a common trench sewer that have already been replaced and/or relined. However, all eligible properties are encouraged to participate as soon as possible.

Permit fees will be waived for private property owners.

It is the intent of this Council and Administration to offer the program during calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024, and may be renewed by Council.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS

At this time, the City is aware of two programs that may assist private property owners.

(1) Heritage Home Program – (216) 426-3116 or at hhp@heritagehomeprogram.org

(2) Housing Enhancement Loan Program – (216) 443-2149 or at

<https://www.cuyahogacounty.us/development/residents/home-repair-and-remodeling/housing-enhancement-loan-program>

Check the Department of Public Service's webpage for updates: <http://www.cityofberea.org/270/Service>