

City of Grosse Pointe Park

15115 EAST JEFFERSON AVENUE □ GROSSE-POINTE PARK, MICHIGAN 48230 □ PHONE (313) 822-6200

PUBLIC NOTICE

Downspout Disconnection

Please be advised The City of Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Works requests your assistance in disconnecting illicit downspouts on homes within the City. Downspout disconnection is the process of separating roof downspouts from the sanitary sewer system and redirecting roof runoff onto pervious surfaces, most commonly a lawn or to the storm sewers in the streets.

After Fog/Smoke testing by the City and Stantec Engineering, the City has discovered that many downspouts are still connected to the sanitary sewer system. Downspout connections are significant contributors to basement flooding and are a tremendous expense for the treatment of storm water. Yellow door hangars will be posted on homes with illicit connections.

Diverting storm water to the storm drains has the following advantages:

- Takes rainwater out of the sanitary system, reducing sewer flows and unnecessary transportation eliminating treatment costs for the rainwater.
- Provides the lowest cost impact of all the possible solutions, for reducing sewer flows.
- Reduce sewage overflows Into Lake St. Clair.
- Reduce basement flooding.
- Reduce water use for landscaping saving you money.
- Protects homeowners who have had sanitary backups during adverse weather events.
- A 1,500 sq. ft. home can redirect 25,000 gallons of water each year away from the sewer system by disconnecting downspouts. A neighborhood of 100 homes can redirect 2.5 million gallons of water each year away from the sewer system by disconnecting downspouts and redirecting storm water to vegetated areas.
- Redirecting storm water could save a community \$25 per year per house by not sending it to GLWA.

Where Can I find the City Ordinance?

Under City Code it is [Chapter 7-14. Gutter and Downspout Disconnection.](#)

What are the effects of improper and proper roof drainage?

Improper Roof Drainage

Examples of improper methods for handling roof drainage are as follows:

- Downspouts that drain directly into the sanitary sewer line
- Downspouts that drain straight down and do not direct water away from the house
- Grading in the yard that directs water toward the house



Proper Roof Drainage

Examples of proper methods for handling roof drainage are as follows:

- A plug in the sanitary sewer line where the down spout had been connected
- Downspout extensions that drain roof water away from your house
- Grading that provides gradual slope away from the house

Do I need a City permit to disconnect my downspout?

No, a permit is not required to have your downspouts disconnected.

How does downspout disconnection relieve pressure from the pump station?

Downspout disconnection decreases the peak discharge by reducing the volume of runoff that enters the sewer and by increasing the discharge time over which it enters. Also, roofs are inherently distributed over a drainage area. Connected downspouts concentrate and centralize roof runoff, causing peak discharges from individual roofs to accumulate in a relatively small number of manmade conveyances. By contrast, downspout disconnection helps to separate the peak discharge from each individual roof.

Can I do this myself or will I need to hire a contractor?

This is something that can be completed by a homeowner as the process is fairly simple. The City has made available an easy guide that takes you step by step on how to disconnect illicit downspouts. Copies will be available at City Hall or on the City website.

Where should I divert my downspout?

For disconnection to be safe and effective, each downspout must discharge into a suitable receiving area. Runoff must not flow toward building foundation or onto adjacent property. Typical receiving areas for disconnected roof runoff include lawns, gardens, and other existing landscaping such as shrubbery. The runoff can be directed to the street where the storm sewers system is designed to handle it.

Proper



Improper



If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact the Department of Public Works at 313-822-5100.

