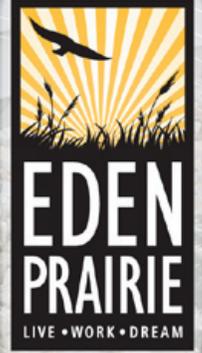


# INFLOW AND INFILTRATION



*Addressing the proper disposal of storm water and ground water in Eden Prairie*

[edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org)

If you have more questions about I & I or would like to provide feedback about how the City of Eden Prairie is addressing the issue, please contact the City's Public Works Department.

952-949-8330

[!!@edenprairie.org](mailto:!!@edenprairie.org)

## Questions and Feedback

## POSTAL CUSTOMER



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## Understanding Eden Prairie's Wastewater Collection System

Along with more than 40 other metro-area communities, the City of Eden Prairie is working on a plan to reduce its flow of clean water and storm water – referred to as Inflow and Infiltration or I & I – into the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' (MCES) overburdened sanitary sewer collection system.

I & I is a problem because it takes up fixed capacity in large regional sewer pipes (interceptors) and treatment plants owned by MCES that will be needed to convey and treat wastewater from future households in the region. During major rain events, this additional surge of water can consume the capacity of sewer pipes, resulting in home backups and overflows into creeks and wetlands, in addition to the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers.

### What is I & I

**Inflow: a direct connection of clear water into the wastewater collection system.**

*Inflow* is by far the larger problem, and occurs in direct proportion to rainfall. Inflow is usually traced to sump pumps (used by many homeowners to keep groundwater out of basements), roof downspouts and foundation drains that are connected to the City's sanitary sewer system. Sump pumps are often connected to the sanitary sewer system via a hose leading from the sump to a laundry tub or a floor drain.

State law requires sump pumps, foundation drains and roof down spouts to be connected directly to a storm sewer or onto the ground, not to the sanitary sewer system.

**Infiltration: an indirect connection of clear water to the wastewater system.**

*Infiltration* occurs when groundwater seeps into sewer pipes through cracks, leaky joints or deteriorated manholes.



## Why Are Cities Being Asked to Reduce I & I?

**Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES)** estimates it would cost the region a minimum of \$900 million to build the infrastructure just to convey the excess flows to wastewater treatment plants. Costs to expand treatment plants are also prohibitive due to the lack of available building space.

For more information on the regional impacts of inflow and infiltration, visit the MCES Web site at [metro council.org/environment](http://metro council.org/environment).

### Can Eden Prairie Ignore the I & I Issue?

No. To address the problem and encourage communities to reduce their share of I & I, the MCES introduced a program in 2006 asking cities to submit plans to reduce the problem and implemented a surcharge program for cities with excess I & I. Under the currently proposed surcharge program, Eden Prairie would be charged more than \$550,000 annually as a direct result of its excess I & I contributions.

To put the numbers in perspective, if Eden Prairie does not establish a plan to reduce I & I, over the next five years the City would pay \$8 million in disposal fees, plus an additional \$2.5 million in surcharges – a 30-percent increase in fees to the MCES. This increase would ultimately be passed on to Eden Prairie utility customers in the form of higher sewer rates.

## What's Being Done About I & I?

The City of Eden Prairie is addressing the problem and will be working on putting the money it would have paid in surcharges to **Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES)** toward the implementation of an education, inspection and repair program designed to reduce I & I.

This program will include home inspections to identify sump pumps, damaged service lines, and foundation drains that might be incorrectly connected to the sanitary sewer system. During the initial home inspections, the scope and cost of correcting any problems will be further evaluated. This could also lead to the consideration of a grant program to assist Eden Prairie homeowners with repairs.

In addition, the City will continue to thoroughly inspect and repair manholes and sewer lines in the streets to minimize I & I in the public portion of the sewer system.

Through this plan, the City of Eden Prairie, in partnership with residents and businesses, will be able to meet the I & I requirements set by MCES.

## A Message From Your City Manager

The City needs your help to reduce the amount of Eden Prairie's I & I. City government can't fix this problem alone. We need the support and assistance of Eden Prairie residents to address this challenge. It's going to take time, cost money and be inconvenient. But, in the end, reducing the amount of I & I in our sanitary sewer system will be beneficial for both the environment and the long-term financial interests of every household, business and industry in the City. Thank you for your support as we work to reduce I & I in Eden Prairie.



Scott H. Neal  
City Manager