

## Special Assessments Guide

### Private Sewer Lateral Repairs & Replacement

#### Homeownership costs beyond property taxes

Homeownership in Minneapolis comes with a few responsibilities you might not expect beyond property taxes. Two important ones are:

- Taking care of your private sewer line.
- Paying the stormwater utility fee (and learning how you can save money on it).

#### Private sewer lines

The Surface Water & Sewers Division takes care of the City's large sewer pipes under the street. Homeowners are responsible for the smaller private line (called a lateral) that connects the house to the main pipe, even the part that runs under the street.

#### Why this matters

- If your line cracks, collapses, or gets blocked by tree roots, sewage can back up into your basement.
- If problems are found, you may need to repair or replace the line.
- Some insurance plans can help cover these costs.

#### Typical costs for homeowners

- Average replacement: **\$13,000**
- Range: **\$2,150 – \$62,000** (based on recent projects)

#### Tips for sewer line care

- **Inspect before you buy.** Ask for a sewer inspection when purchasing a home.
- **Scope your line.** A camera check shows if it's in good condition.
- **Know the lifespan.** A healthy line can last up to 100 years.
- **Understand your responsibility.** You own the line all the way to the City's main sewer, including the 'wye' (Y-shaped joint) where your line connects to the main pipe under the street. Even though it's under the right-of-way, it's still yours to maintain.