

Downspout Disconnection Program

✓ Background

- ✓ Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) revised Chapter 3 of their rules and regulations
 - ✓ Residential parcels that contain up to four units must disconnect their downspouts from the combined sewer system by January 1, 2025
- ✓ In 2015, the City of Milwaukee updated the code of ordinances chapter 225-4 to include:
 - ✓ New construction of residential properties are prohibited from connecting beginning January 1, 2016
 - ✓ The code will be updated to require the entire combined sewer area to disconnect before the end of 2024



Downspout Disconnection Program

- ✓ Phase I – From January 2019 to December 2020
 - ✓ Computer desktop surveys were conducted on the 53,000 homes in the Combined Sewer Area to determine eligibility based on property constraints
 - ✓ Based on the desktop surveys approximately 26,000 homes were determined to not be able to be safely disconnected
 - ✓ The City initially funded all aspects of the program including the physical downspout disconnection work for a two-year incentive period – program is entirely voluntary
 - ✓ In Spring 2019 & 2020:
 - ✓ Letters and sign up forms were sent to the homes that could disconnect
 - ✓ Letters were sent to the homes that could not disconnect with MMSD rain barrel information (In 2019 only)
- ✓ At the end of Phase I:
 - ✓ 11,386 homes responded and have been inspected
 - ✓ 9,265 homes could not be disconnected based on Plumbing Code
 - ✓ 1,569 homes disconnected by City Contractor (749 remain)
 - ✓ 552 homes disconnected by home owner (229 remain)



Downspout Disconnection Program

- ✓ Next Steps:
 - ✓ An update to Milwaukee code of ordinances (MCO) chapter 225-4 will follow in an upcoming Public Works meeting
 - ✓ DNS and DPW are working with LRB and CA office on ordinance language to make disconnecting a requirement in combined sewer area
 - ✓ Phase 2 – From January 2021 to December 2024
 - ✓ Properties that did not participate in Phase I will be inspected and required to disconnect
 - ✓ Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) will send notices and perform inspections according to DNS protocols
 - ✓ City to fund contractor option only
 - ✓ Approximately 16,000 home will be included in Phase 2:
 - ✓ Inspections will begin once MCO changes are implemented
 - ✓ Required DNS Staffing: 1 program supervisor, 1 Office Assistant, 4-5 Inspectors/Interns. Staffing paid for by Sewer Maintenance Fund
 - ✓ 18-24 months to complete inspections
 - ✓ Based on Phase I investigations, roughly 15% of homes can disconnect based on the plumbing code

