

City of Fargo

Sanitary Sewer Service Repair Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the respective responsibilities of property owners and the City, and to outline available options for financing sewer service line repairs and replacements. Upon adoption, this policy supersedes and replaces all previous policies, practices, or cost participation programs related to the repair or replacement of private sanitary sewer services.

Property Owner Responsibility:

Under the Fargo Municipal Code, property owners are responsible for maintaining, repairing, and replacing the sanitary sewer service line from their home or building to the connection with the public sanitary sewer main, including the wye connection. This responsibility includes all cleaning, maintenance, and repairs, as well as all associated costs resulting from work on the service line, including pavement restoration.

City Responsibility:

The City is responsible for maintaining and replacing public sanitary sewer mains.

The City will not participate in the cost of repairs, replacements, or emergency work associated with private sanitary sewer services, except when such work is performed as part of an Engineering Department–led capital improvement project.

For Engineering-led projects involving street reconstruction and major utility improvements, the City will replace sanitary sewer service lines from the public main to the boulevard at the City's expense, unless a property owner notifies the City that they do not wish to have their service replaced.

Financing Options for Property Owners:

Property owners may elect to finance the cost of sewer service line repairs or replacements through assessment against their property. This financing allows the cost to be spread over a 15-year period. The following conditions apply:

- Only owner-occupied residential properties are eligible.
- Commercial, industrial, and income (rental) properties are not eligible.
- Financing may be applied to repairs or replacements of the entire sewer service line from the home to the connection with the main.
- A petition to assess against the property must be signed prior to the repair being made.
- Property owners must complete all required documentation and comply with any applicable requirements of the Auditor's Office to participate in the program.
- Work must be performed by a licensed plumber or contractor and completed in accordance with applicable plumbing codes and the City's Standard Specifications.