



CITY OF FORT WAYNE CITY UTILITIES

(SEP) Septic Elimination Program

Hundreds of homes in the City are served by private septic systems. Septic systems have a limited life and eventually fail, leaching human waste into groundwater, backyards and neighborhood ditches and streams. Septic systems are linked to high E. coli bacteria counts in many small neighborhood streams and ditches during dry weather when children are most likely to play in them.

The Solution

To address health hazards in our neighborhoods, City Utilities is continuing the city's efforts to convert many neighborhoods on septic systems to public sanitary sewer service. Neighborhoods with higher septic system failure rates are the priority of our program.

Between 2009 and 2015, approximately 1,958 homes in Fort Wayne/Allen County have been or are planned to be taken off septic systems as part of SEP (Septic Elimination Program). There have been 82 projects.

The Benefits

The benefits of SEP are far-reaching:

- Improved quality of life; worry free use of home facilities
- Reduced maintenance worries
- Reduced health hazards from dangerous bacteria exposure due to septic system failures in yards and ditches
- Cleaner area streams and neighborhood drainage ditches
- Greater protection for well water, streams and drainage ditches
- Possibly improved property values when homes with failing septic systems are connected to the public sewer system

City of Fort Wayne City Utilities continues its decades-old Septic Elimination Program and continues the approach through its 2009 modified program. The following information outlines City financial partnering with property owners involved in City-approved septic elimination projects:

1. **Area Connection Fee:** This is a one-time fee applied toward costs associated with maintaining and generating capacity in the downstream sanitary sewer system to allow for new connections which varies depending on the area in which your property are located. Per the revised septic elimination program this fee will be waived by City Utilities in its entirety – you will not have to pay any portion of this fee.
2. **City Contribution (Cost Share):** City Utilities will contribute \$3,200 per property towards the cost of the septic elimination project. You have the option to apply the \$3,200 toward the overall sanitary sewer main line assessment thereby reducing that cost or you may direct the City to apply the contribution toward the cost of the sewer lateral installation to your home. With this latter option, City Utilities will reimburse your tap contractor directly for their cost (up to \$3,200). If the cost for the lateral installation is less than \$3,200, the remaining City contribution balance will be applied as a reduction to the main line assessment.
3. **Income Based Assistance:** Property owners in the project area who meet certain household income levels will receive additional financial assistance from the City. The additional assistance would be in the form of reducing the assessment on the property. The level of assistance will be based on the relationship of the household income to Fort Wayne's area-wide median household size that will be used to determine if and how much additional assistance for which you may be eligible. Household size includes everyone, adults and children, living in the home; likewise, household income includes the total income of all wage earners in the household.