

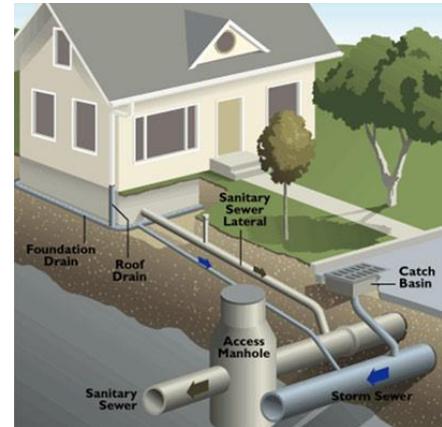
## STORM WATER 101

### CHAPTER 1: HOW DO STORM WATER SYSTEMS DIFFER FROM SANITARY SEWERS?

By Terry Williams, New Haven Avenue

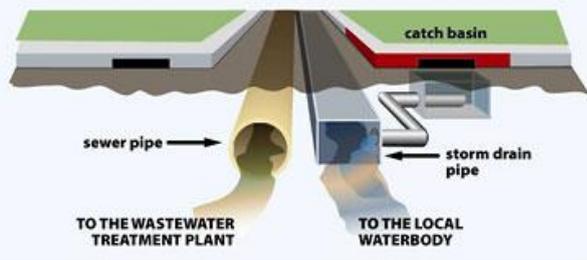
Both Storm Water Sewers and Sanitary Sewers are systems of pipes that carry water. Both systems at some point in their flow, run under some of the streets and alleys of Dormont. The flow through both systems eventually empties into the Ohio River.

The water in the sanitary sewer system originates mainly from tap water and flows through the plumbing in our residential and commercial buildings and into the sanitary sewer system beneath the streets. This flow comes from bathtubs and showers, sinks and toilets, dishwashers, garbage disposals, and clothes washers, as well as from the floor drains in our basements. Every building has a direct pipe connection (called a lateral) to the sanitary sewer system beneath the street, and the raw sewage flows downhill through the sanitary system until it eventually enters the ALCOSAN sewage treatment plant. After treatment it empties into the river.



This system is designed to carry only sanitary sewage, not storm water. If runoff water during storms enters the sanitary sewer system, the sanitary sewer system is not designed for the extra water and can cause raw sewage to back up through basement floor drains and cause other problems as well.

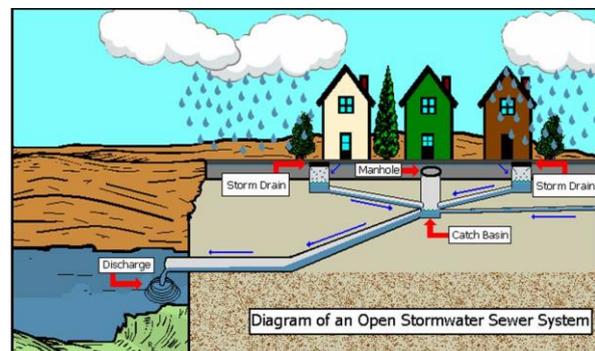
#### **Storm Drain Systems are Separate from Wastewater Systems**



Because of this, the storm water sewer system must be a completely separate system, designed to carry all water from rainstorms and snow melt from every outdoor surface that does not allow the water to be absorbed into the ground. This would include water collected on streets, alleys, parking pads, driveways, patios, concrete steps and sidewalks, and water collected by the roof gutter systems of every residential and commercial building in the Borough. It then makes its way into the street via downspouts

and underground pipes which run through the sidewalks and curbs emptying directly into the streets or alleys. As the water flows over all of the surfaces mentioned above, it picks up many harmful pollutants including pet waste, grass clippings and pesticides.

In order to minimize major flooding of our streets and alleys this water must be routed underground through a network of catch basins and large pipes. Our next Chapter will talk about our storm sewer system.





**INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW  
FROM THE BOROUGH OF DORMONT:**

**STORM WATER 101 – A MULTI-PART  
SERIES ON WHAT STORM WATER IS,  
HOW IT IMPACTS YOU AND WHY IT IS  
IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE THIS  
INFORMATION.**

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MEMBERS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF DORMONT  
STORM WATER COMMITTEE AND THE  
DORMONT COUNCIL.**