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# Sewer Update

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July 31, 2011

## **Next steps for Village of Downs**

- Complete sewer construction
  - Finalize and approve ordinances governing sewer use
    - Rules for connections
    - Fee schedule
    - Should be completed at August, September and October meetings
- Finalize agreement with Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District (BNWRD) for pre-annexation
- System go-live and residents notified to connect

## **Next steps for village residents**

(Following notification to connect)

- Apply for permit
  - BNWRD connection fee paid
  - Permit granted
- Hire contractor to make sewer connection
- Notify village that connection is ready
  - Connection inspected by village for illegal in-flow
  - Permission given to connect
- Village begins billing for sewer service



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## **Why the sewer system is good for Downs**

- Environmental Protection Agency was threatening the village with fines over sewer discharge
  - Threatened fines as much as \$10,000 per day
- Sewer system will make Downs and Downs Crossing more attractive to future development
  - New business will increase tax revenue
  - Tax revenue can be used to improve roads and water
- Existing storm water tile system is contaminated with sewage, causing sewage backup into some homes when flooding occurs
- Better for the local environment
  - Currently raw waste is discharged into Kickapoo Creek and watershed, raising health concerns

## **Why the sewer is good for residents**

- Connecting to the sewer will provide safe waste disposal and eliminate septic tank backups
- Sewer eliminates the need for septic tank maintenance, such as pumping
- Cost of septic tank repair and replacement can be much higher than cost of connecting to sewer
- Lack of septic tank can make home more attractive to potential buyers