

**City of Belton**  
**Building Inspections for Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study- May 2009**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Why are these inspections being conducted?**

The City is investigating the sanitary sewer system in an older neighborhood in an attempt to identify issues and evaluate needed improvements. The inspections will include an area generally bounded by Second Street on the east, Scott Avenue on the west, and to just south of South Avenue.

**What does the building inspection entail?**

The crews conducting the inspections will need to look at all basement or crawl space plumbing, walk around the outside of the property, and ask questions regarding any problems associated with the sewer system or drainage in and around the house.

**Who will be conducting the inspections?**

The City has contracted with TREKK Design Group who will be conducting the building inspections. TREKK inspectors will be dressed in blaze orange shirts with TREKK labeled on them and carry identification.

**How much is this going to cost me?**

There is no cost to property owners for this inspection.

**How long do the inspections take?**

Most inspections will take approximately 30 minutes.

**Who do I call if I have additional questions or to schedule an inspection?**

Contact James Fisher with TREKK Design Group at 816.874.4655 ext. 212

**What are you looking for?**

Crews are looking for connections of rain water or ground water to the sanitary sewer system. They are also identifying property owners who are experiencing problems with the sanitary sewers. Sewerage backups generally occur due to the accumulation of grease, roots in the line, hair accumulation, or other solid materials which are too large for service lines to handle. Main line blockages can also cause sewerage backups in basements.

**What if I miss my appointment?**

Contact James Fisher with TREKK Design Group at 816.874.4655 ext. 212 and inform him that you would like to reschedule your appointment.

**Who pays for the repair if a defect is located?**

At this point in time we are merely conducting a study to identify sources of storm water flow (rain water and groundwater) into the sanitary sewer on private property. It will be determined at a later

date what course of action the City will need to pursue to have the defect repaired or the illicit connections removed.

**Can the City force residents to fix a defect?**

Currently there are no ordinances in place for the City to force residents to fix the problem, but it would be in residents' best interest to fix the defect because, 1) a plumbing defect can allow poisonous sewer gas into homes, 2) a minor defect now can turn into a major defect over time causing basement backups, 3) residents are paying for the treatment of storm water through increased flows at the treatment plant and the design and installation of larger capacity sewer lines in the collection system to handle stormwater flow.

**Do I have to be home for the inspection?**

Yes.

**I don't have time to be home for an inspection during the week. I work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday. Are you available on the nights or weekends?**

TREKK can work with residents on scheduling an appointment outside of work hours. TREKK will be working one night a week to accommodate those who are unavailable during the day. One Saturday out of each month TREKK will be available to perform inspections. Please call as soon as possible to ensure that you get scheduled for the weekend that crews are available.

**Can I get a copy of the televised footage?**

The City will have a request form you can fill out. The City will notify TREKK when the request is approved and TREKK can provide you with a copy on a DVD disk.

**What if the inspector damages my service line?**

Should this unlikely event occur, TREKK will be liable for fixing the damages as a result of the inspection. Every measure will be taken by TREKK to ensure that they do not damage your service line.

**Can I refuse an inspection?**

This inspection is strictly voluntary at this point in time. There are several benefits to having the inspection because: 1) the City is paying for the inspection, which would typically cost you hundreds of dollars from a licensed plumber to perform the televised inspection, 2) you can receive a DVD copy of the televised footage, 3) an inspection will locate any possible defects in your plumbing that allow poisonous sewer gases into home, 4) if you do have a defective service or illicit connection your sewer fees are paying to treat that stormwater and you are also paying for the design and construction of sewer mains and a new treatment facility because of it.

**Why was my neighborhood selected for the inspections?**

Your neighborhood was selected for this pilot building inspection program due the age of the collection system in this area and because a study has already been conducted, in 2006, on the publicly owned portion of the collection system. A quantification of storm water flows from identified defects on the public system has already been conducted and we believe that additional storm water is entering the collection system through the privately owned sewers.