

Inspection: To determine if there are any signs of debris or blockage, root intrusion, low spots, cracked or deteriorating piping or separated pipe joints within your house sewer service line, a thorough video inspection of the sewer line piping would be necessary. If the house sewer service line is draining slowly or you had a plumber rod your sewer to remove some type of blockage, these are a couple typical signs that problems are starting to occur due to aging sewer piping. The average cost for video inspection is between \$500 and \$1,000.

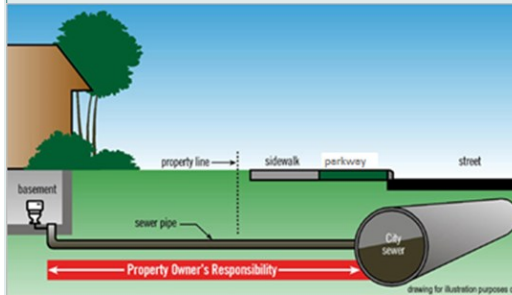
Sewer Maintenance: Depending on the age and type of the house sewer service line piping, a maintenance program may work for a period of time. Typically, this type of program consists of having a plumber rod the house sewer service line on average once a year.

Sewer Repair: Depending on the age and type of the house sewer service line piping, certain types of repairs to sewer piping could be made, with the understanding that other portions of sewer piping may fail at a later date.

Sewer Replacement: Sewer replacement is done when it has been determined that the house sewer service piping is in such disrepair that the only solution to resolve the problems is to replace the sewer piping.

Sewer repair/replacement costs on average between \$2,000 and \$10,000.

Parkway: The portion of the City's road right of way that extends past the edge of the road or curb is considered the parkway. The parkway area is a portion of land that is typically fifteen feet in width and is located between private property and the street. Parkway areas were established to provide for public and private utilities, sidewalks, signage, trees, mailboxes, private carriage walks, driveway approaches, and drainage ditches for those streets that do not have curbs. The care that goes into maintaining parkways is a shared responsibility between the City and abutting property owners.



This image displays the connection of the owner's sewer pipe that connects to the City sewer pipe.

Visit www.genoa-il.com or Contact City Hall at (815) 784-2327 for information regarding the City's finance assistance program for sewer pipe inspection, repair or replacement.

UPDATED 2/2016

Public Information Pertaining to House Sewer Service Lines



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City of Genoa

Private House Sewer Service Line:

To build a house on a parcel of land within the City limits, the City requires that the house waste plumbing be connected to the City's sewer system. Through the approval process, the City grants the homeowner the right to extend their private house sewer service line through the parkway/right of way to the City's sewer system, which is typically beneath the street. To carry the sewage from the house to the City's main sewer line, the builder installs a private house sewer service line that is owned and operated by the property owner for the parcel of land that it serves. The most common types of house sewer lines in the U.S. prior to the 1980's are Cast Iron, Orangeburg, Asbestos Cement, and Clay. PVC sewer piping became popular in the 1980's and is still the preferred choice in today's new construction. The life span for these pipes range from 30 to 50 plus years.

Aging House Sewer Service Lines:

The illustration to the right shows a few pictures taken from different house sewer service lines. The pictures represent aging sewer pipes that are not properly maintained, with the exception to the clean pipe. When a sewer line becomes compromised by any type of restriction or if any portion of the pipe is

broken, it is just a matter of time before sewage backs up into the house and creates a stressful and emotional situation for the homeowner. More often than not, when a sewer backs up, it is a strong indicator that the house sewer service line has issues and an inspection of the sewer line piping would be necessary.

Actual Camera Images From Sewer Pipes



Clean Pipe



Grease Covered Root Mass



Grease Coated Pipe With Restricted Flow



Broken Pipe With Soil Infiltration

Tree Roots: It is a common misconception that tree roots break house sewer service lines. Tree roots require oxygen, water, and nutrients to grow. Tree roots grow best when favorable conditions of soil moisture, texture and oxygen are present. Under these conditions, most roots are found in the top 3 feet of soil, well above most house sewer service lines. House sewer service lines are usually a minimum

of 5-6 feet deep at the property line (right of way), and slope upward toward your residence. Even though some tree roots may grow deep enough to reach the sewer line, the roots could not penetrate an intact sewer pipe. The leading tip of the tree roots can detect the differences in moisture and nutrient levels and tend to grow in the direction where these can be found. If the pipe is structurally sound and does not leak, roots will not pose a problem. However, if the pipe is defective or there are cracks or leaks, roots will enter the compromised joint or crack and grow into the pipe. Once roots enter into the defective pipe, they begin to thrive and grow rapidly. If roots continue to grow undetected, they could completely fill the pipe with multiple hair-like root masses at each point of entry. The root mass inside the pipe becomes matted with grease, and other debris discharged from the residence and potentially creating a blockage causing a sewer backup into the home.

