

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Utilities"

Policy Letter 505: Home Storm Water Crossover

BACKGROUND:

Recent storm water runoff flooding throughout Fargo has raised the level of concern in citizens over current floodplain management policy. Development regulations require Fargo residents to ensure that sump pumps discharge storm water into the yard, and not into the sanitary sewer. The discharge of water from the home sump pumps may appear insignificant to residents, but the sanitary sewers are not designed to receive that storm water flow.

Complicating the issue of floodplain management is the possibility that future federal regulations may require storm water runoff to be treated similar to sanitary sewer discharge. The storm sewers and the sanitary sewers are designed to accommodate the transport of storm water runoff and sanitary waste respectively, but not safely when the two are combined in the sanitary sewer.

Residents of Fargo can assist the City in the overall floodplain management process by being in compliance with the home storm water crossover regulations. Loss or damage of public and private property may not be totally avoidable, but much can be accomplished through simple compliance with regulations intended to support storm water design features.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should establish a process to ensure 100% compliance with home storm water crossover regulations, especially new construction and renovation.

CONCLUSIONS:

The future of how storm water runoff may be treated or handled is unknown, but current regulations must be followed. A storm water utility fee may be necessary to offset the cost of changes required by federal regulations in the future.

The City of Fargo manages the 100-year floodplain, but each resident plays a role in the responsibility. No management plan can succeed when involved parties abuse the process rather than support the plan.