



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM CLEAR PATH: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION FOR PROPERTY OWNERS ABOUT EASEMENTS

How can I tell where my easement is?

Residents have a variety of ways to find out if an easement is located on their property.

- 1) Visit the website (www.ewsu.com/clearpath) for an interactive map of Evansville that shows where sewer lines and manholes exist within our system. You can type in your address or scroll to your neighborhood's location to see if sewer lines or manholes are close to your property.
- 2) Reference your property deed or visit the Vanderburgh County Recorder's or Assessor's office to identify exact easement locations.
- 3) You may also call EWSU's customer service office (812-436-7846).

Will the city provide help to customers who must remove obstacles crews encounter?

The Utility will work with the homeowner to assess if there is a work-around solution to the obstruction. Public funds cannot be used for private use, so the Utility cannot pay a contractor to do work on private property.

Residents should look into various nonprofit organizations, such as United Way, for additional assistance.

If I live in a rental, are easement obstructions my problem?

No, it is the property owner's responsibility to remove obstacles/obstructions.

I live a half block away from Columbia and Baker Avenue. Every time it rains, the whole intersection floods. Will you eventually address this issue? I'm amazed the Utility hasn't done anything yet.

The Utility is aware of areas where heavy flooding occurs and where pipes are at maximum capacity to hold storm water. Those pipes are inadequate, and there will be future capital projects to address the issue. Our plan also aligns with the Board of Public Works' master plan to reduce the amount of flooding in those areas.

Neighbors can also take responsibility to help clear visible backup like leaves. Every little bit of homeowners' assistance helps free up resources to address issues.

What if EWSU doesn't meet the Nov. 1 deadline?

Under the federal mandate, if EWSU misses the Nov. 1, 2017, inspection deadline, EPA imposes a \$1,000/day fine. The City will be fined daily until the requirement is met.

Many aspects of the federal mandate carry hefty fines. For instance, any sanitary sewer overflow carries a \$1,000 – \$8,000 fine per event (an event is defined as any time the sanitary sewer overflows into a waterway, basement or a manhole).

How long do residents have to move an obstacle when they know they have one on an easement? This year?

Once the obstacle is identified, the goal is to address it within 120 days. We hope residents self-address the issue before the Utility comes to their neighborhood.

Are any federal funds available for this mandated project?

No, but there are low-cost interest loans through the State Revolving Fund, which we have been able to access. Those loans are federal funds with lower interest rates.

Will you tell me the time and day the Utility comes to my home? I have a fence and a dog.

When we enter the neighborhood, the manhole inspector will assess the points of entry to the easement. He will knock on a homeowner's door and let them know to take their dog inside or that they will need to remove an obstruction.

In the event a homeowner is not home during the inspection, a door hanger will be left for the homeowner with the inspector's contact information and return date. The Utility will coordinate with the homeowner to find a solution that will help crews complete their work in a timely fashion.

Can I put a shed back on an easement after inspection?

No, once the obstruction has been identified, homeowners should not put the obstacle back on the easement. If there is a future emergency situation like a sewer back-up, the Utility still needs a clear path to an easement.

Are sewer fees going up because of inspections?

No, fees are already underwriting operating expenses that are occurring. They are currently funded through the rates we charge.

Has the drainage problem improved since residents have begun to remove downspouts?

Removing downspouts is a huge help to the Utility and the sewer system. By allowing water to travel across residents' yards instead of directly into the combined sewers, it will reduce the volume of water that enters the system. Ultimately, this will help improve water quality.