

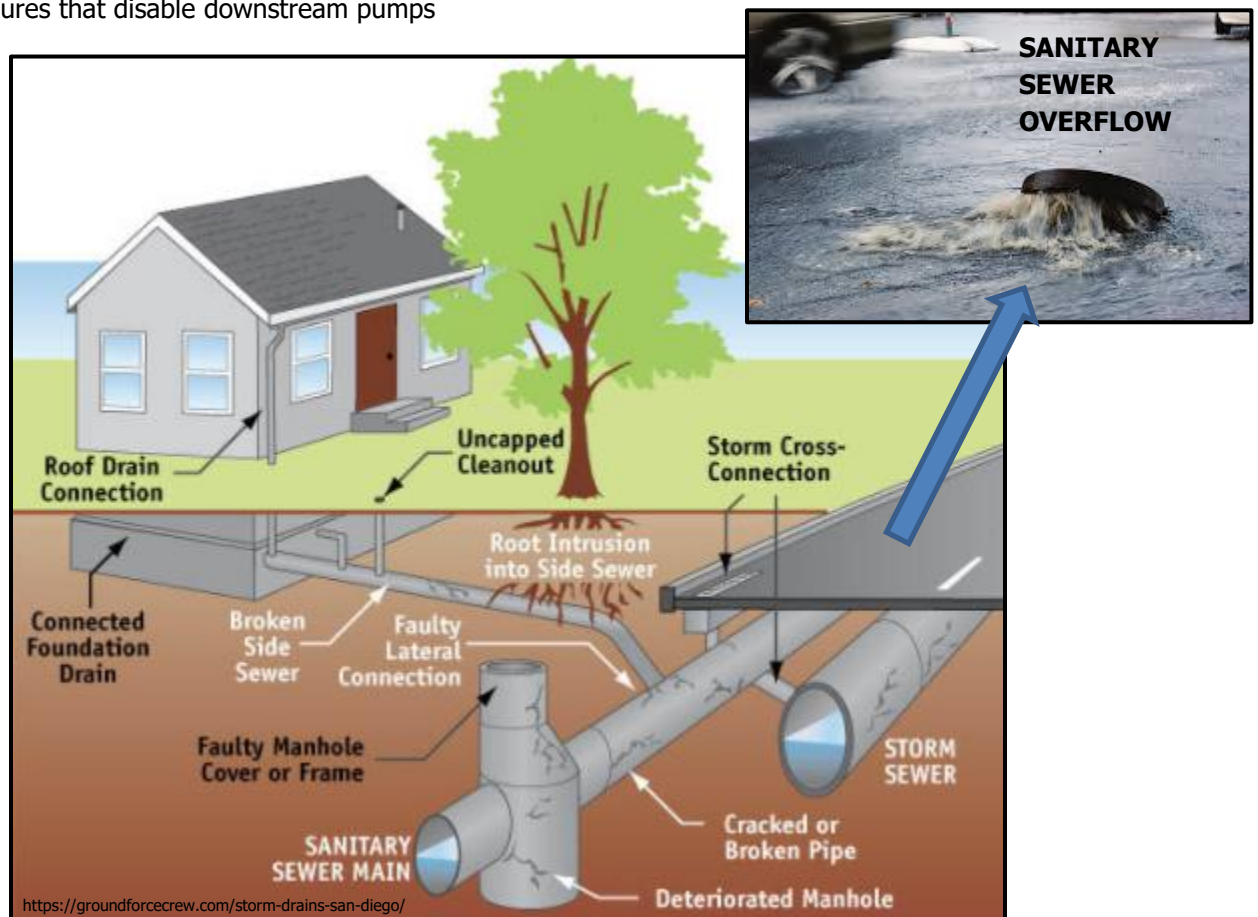
## What are sanitary sewer overflows?

Sanitary sewers carry wastewater from your home or business to a wastewater treatment facility. In some cases, wastewater can back up into people's homes or overflow into nearby ditches and creeks. These overflow events are known as **Sanitary Sewer Overflows**, or **SSOs**.

Unpermitted sanitary sewer overflows are prohibited by the EPA because they can cause serious water quality problems and threaten public health.

## What are the main causes of sanitary sewer overflows?

- ▷ Defects in the sewer that allow stormwater (rain, snow melt, runoff) and groundwater to enter the system
- ▷ Illegal cross connections (sump pumps, roof drains, etc.) that allow stormwater to enter the system
- ▷ Blockages and/or breaks in the sewer
- ▷ System is inadequately sized (not enough sewer or pumping capacity)
- ▷ Power failures that disable downstream pumps



**Did you know?** The City of Bloomfield is currently under a Consent Order with the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce the occurrence of their SSOs. The City is proactively evaluating their sewer system and identifying projects to address the EPA's concerns. These improvements should prevent future sewer backups into people's homes and overflows out of the sewers, while also improving local water quality and reducing the amount of wastewater that needs to be treated at the wastewater treatment facility.

**Get Involved!** The City of Bloomfield will be hosting several public meetings to discuss SSO reduction projects. Your attendance is much appreciated! Look for public meeting announcements on the City's website and the local newspaper.