The Inflow and Infiltration Program I/I:

A program to disconnect footing drains from the sanitary sewer system.

Duluth has two sewer systems. The **Sanitary Sewer System** takes water to the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) where it is **treated** prior to discharge.

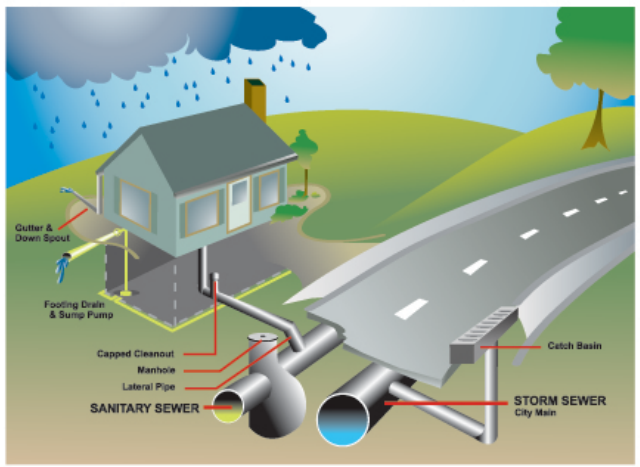
The **Storm Sewer System** collects rain and snowmelt from the streets and adjoining properties and carries it to streams, St. Louis River and Lake Superior **without treatment**.

Clear water from the rain and snowmelt seeps through the ground along the sides of houses and enters footing drains. In older homes these footing drains direct the clear water to the sanitary sewer. As users of the sanitary sewer, residents pay the cost of treating this clean water which is unnecessary and expensive. In addition the excess water can overload the sanitary sewer and result in sewage overflows, and basement backups, both environmental and health risks.

The City has committed to eliminating these overflows. If the City is not successful, it will face U.S. EPA fines or potential limits on new development within City limits.

Since the 1970s connecting footing drains to the sanitary sewer has been illegal. Houses built after this period should have sump pumps installed that pump water to the yard or footing drains that can discharge water by gravity to the yard or street.

Houses built prior to this period often had footing drains and even roof drains connected directly to the sanitary sewer through the manhole in the basement. To comply with federal and state mandates, homes with working footing drains connected to the sanitary sewer must disconnect.



Proper clean water drainage.

The City of Duluth has designed an I/I Program to inspect homes to determine whether or not they are contributing water from footing drains to the sanitary sewer.

- Each year the City Council will designate areas of the City for mandatory inspections. (Priority areas are neighborhoods of the City experiencing overflows.)
- Following the inspection, homes found not to be contributing will qualify for a Certificate of Non-Contribution.
- Homeowners found to be contributing will be required to correct the problem. (disconnect footing drains).
- In the designated areas, grant funding is available to the homeowner to help complete the project.
- Failure to allow an inspection or failure to disconnect the footing drains in a designated area may result in a $50 surcharge on the homeowner's utility bill.