

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Temporary Discharges to Storm and Sanitary Systems Policy**  
**Adopted 6/1/2026**

**Background/Objective:**

This policy pertains to how the City of Saint Paul Department of Public Works responds to requests for temporary discharges to storm and sanitary sewer systems related to groundwater remediation, construction site dewatering, geothermal well development, etc.

**Policy:**

The City of Saint Paul Department of Public Works Sewer Utility will review requests for temporary discharges into storm or sanitary systems. Permission is subject to the requirements of this policy, partner agency requirements, available sewer capacity, and contents of the proposed discharge (e.g., no sediment load). Long-term or permanent connections must conform to the current version of the Standard Specifications for Constructing and Repairing Private Sewer Connections.

**Review Procedure:**

For all temporary discharges, the applicant must submit a written request to Public Works-Sewer Utility.

All requests need to include the following information:

- The purpose of the discharge.
- Intended sewer system (storm or sanitary) to receive this discharge.
- Expected volume.
- Method of connection.
- Underground discharges will require a sewer permit.
- Estimated duration of the discharge (including start and end dates). The applicant will need to contact Sewer Maintenance (651-266-9850) both one week before and on the date of discharge.
- Responsible party for 24-hr contact and for billing.
- Pumping plan/map showing discharge locations, property lines, sewers (both private and public), and locations of any wells. The city structure used for discharge must be shown.
- The discharge must employ sediment management to prohibit deposition of solids into downstream conveyance systems.
- A water use permit from the Minnesota DNR is required if discharge from a well is more than 10,000 gallons of water per day or 1,000,000 gallons per year.

Additional requirements will apply based on whether the discharge is to storm or sanitary sewer.

**Sanitary Discharges**

The applicant must submit a partially completed Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) Community Review form for Special Discharges to Sanitary Sewer. Upon City approval, the Sewer Utility will fill out its portion and send to MCES. Discharges to the sanitary sewer system must adhere to the following additional requirements:

- Final approval from MCES.
- Identify expected discharge volume, method of measurement, and interval for billing.

### **Storm Discharges**

Discharges to storm sewer must adhere to the following additional requirements:

- Must be free and clear of pollutants.
- Must not create nuisance conditions, such as localized flooding.
- Provide NPDES permit if related to construction activity requiring an NPDES permit from the MPCA.
- Legislative Code Chapter 51 - Allowable Discharges to the Storm Sewer System, which identifies allowable discharges and enforcement actions for illicit discharges.

### **Billing Procedure:**

Discharges to sanitary will be billed at the current flat rate per 100 cubic feet, as established annually. If no documentation on flow volumes is received from the applicant, the invoice will be based on the estimated gallons pumped provided in the initial MCES request form.

Discharges to the storm system will not be billed.

In emergency situations requiring City staff and equipment response, additional fees may be leveraged against the applicant.

### **Contact Information:**

Pat Murphy Public Works Sewer Utility  
651-266-6254  
patrick.g.murphy@ci.stpaul.mn.us

### **Website:**

City of Saint Paul Public Works - Sewer Utility Division:

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/sewer-utility-division>

City webpage containing Standard Specifications for Constructing and Repairing Private Sewer Connections, and Stormwater Management Design Standards documents:

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/sewer-utility-division/site-plan-review>

City webpage containing Saint Paul's Stormwater Management Program document:

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/sewer-utility-division/stormwater>

Approved:

Signature: Pat Murphy Date: 6/1/26