



**CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

ENGINEERING DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin and Members of the City Council
FROM: William R. Gray, Public Works Director
Bradley M. Bennett, Assistant City Engineer
Justin Swinford, Civil Engineer II
DATE: May 24, 2018
RE: Sewer Mapping

Background

The Engineering Division of the Public Works Department maintains storm and sanitary sewer maps through Geographic Information System (GIS) software in cooperation with other units of local government. This data is stored at the Champaign County GIS Consortium, which was formed in 2002 to manage data collection and analysis at the county-wide scale and share the cost of implementation, maintenance, and data acquisition.

The City is also part of an Intergovernmental Joint Sanitary Sewer Technical Committee, which develops shared technical standards for sewer construction, coordinates on new development and the impacts to the shared sewer system, and jointly models the sanitary sewer systems tributary to the Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District treatment facilities.

The Engineering Division currently provides storm or sanitary sewer maps upon request for any resident or contractor that plans to do sewer work or has a complaint regarding the sewers near their property. In some cases, the City is able to provide the location of a service connection along the sewer main for a property; however, there are also often cases where very little is known about the location or condition of a service connection. City staff are also available to field verify which sewer main serves a given property by way of closed-circuit television inspection, dye testing, or by referencing record drawings.

At the February 26, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting, City Council requested that the Engineering Division consider publishing the sewer maps on the City website to allow residents to easily find the location of the sanitary sewers.

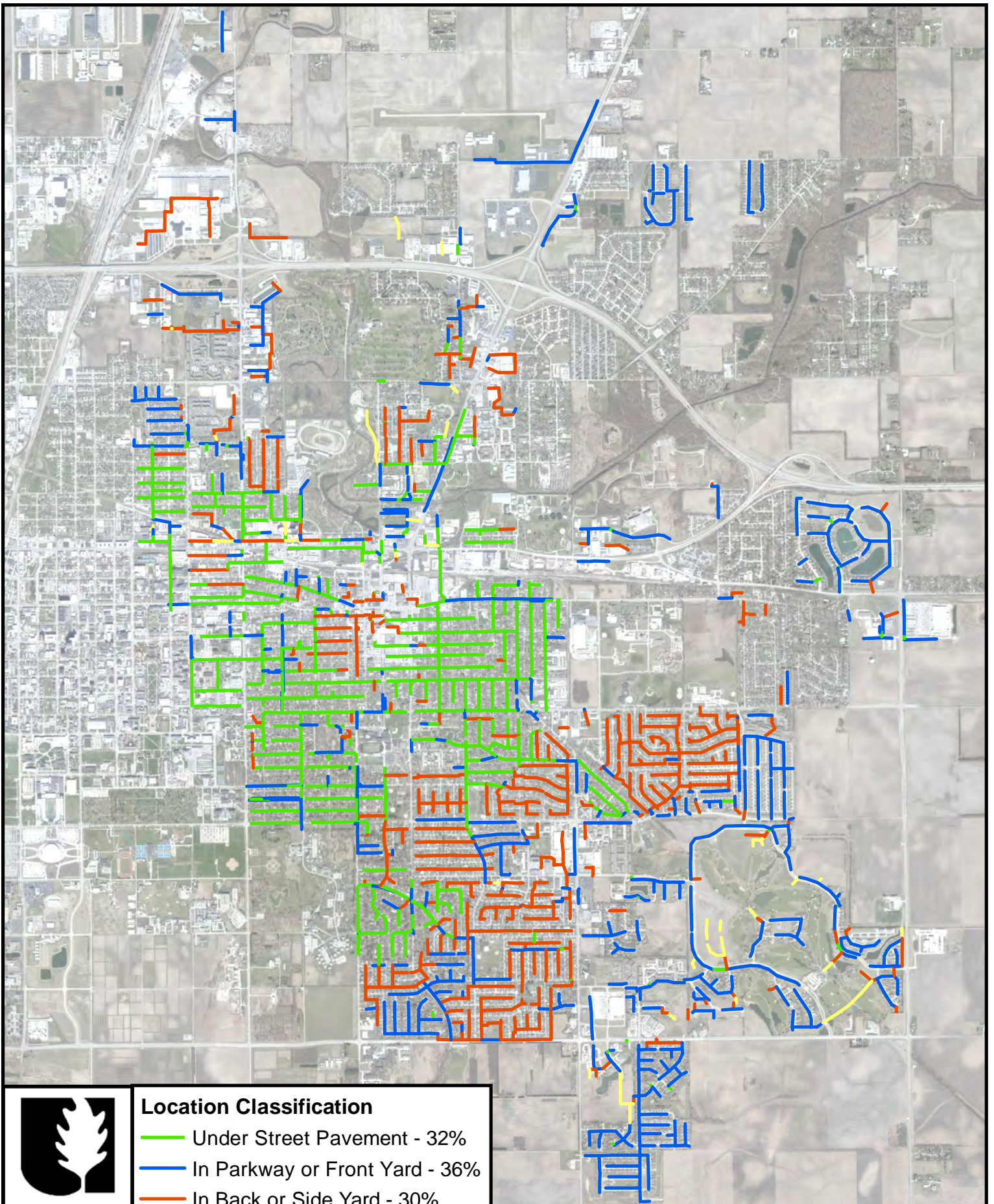
City Staff was also asked to provide a map showing the locations of sanitary sewers relative to the roads and determine the percentage of sanitary sewers, by length, that are located in the parkway or front yards of the adjacent properties. That information is included in Attachment A of this memorandum.

Recommendations

The Engineering Division does not recommend publication of the City's sewer GIS data for the following reasons:

1. The City would have very little control over who could access the sewer information. This data would not be limited to only Urbana residents, but available to anyone with an internet connection.
2. The Public Works and Community Development Departments regulate the work that is done on the City's sewer infrastructure through the Right of Way (ROW) Permit and Plumbing Permit programs. The need for sewer location information often initiates the interaction with sewer and plumbing contractors, which allows City staff to ensure that the proper permit is obtained and that work is done according to specifications.
3. This issue has been discussed at multiple meetings of the Intergovernmental Joint Sanitary Sewer Technical Committee since 2016. All members of the Committee were opposed to publishing sewer location data on the internet for public access. As this data is in a shared database, it would be difficult to share this information without the permission of other government agencies.
4. The data is only accurate to a certain degree and City staff are constantly updating the maps to reflect changes found in the field through various activities. To assume that the information provided in the maps is highly accurate could lead users to make poor construction decisions without contacting City staff first.

Attachment A – Sanitary Sewers by Location



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Location Classification

- Under Street Pavement - 32%
- In Parkway or Front Yard - 36%
- In Back or Side Yard - 30%
- Other - 2%

SANITARY SEWERS BY LOCATION