

# Sump Pumps Connected to the City of Gladstone's Sewer System

The Gladstone Code of Ordinances, Article IV Division 3 – Discharge Restrictions states: *“ It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge, or cause to be discharged, stormwater, surface water, groundwater, water from footing drains or roof water to any sanitary sewer or sewer connection, except as otherwise provided in this article. Stormwater, groundwater, water from footing drains and all other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged into sewers specifically designated as storm sewers, or to a natural outlet, except as otherwise provided in this article.”*

The City of Gladstone's Wastewater Treatment plant is operating at maximum capacity. We need your help to eliminate sump pump water from being discharged into the City's sewer system in order to prevent sewage back-up into your home and homes around you. If you have questions or concerns about your sump pump or a neighbor draining into the City's sewer system, please contact the Wastewater Plant at 906-428-1757.

**What is the Reason for this Ordinance?** Sewage is the discharge from toilets, sinks, showers, bathtubs, dishwashers and washing machines. People produce sewage and it must be treated at our Wastewater Treatment Plant. Groundwater or storm water is water from rain or snow. When soil becomes saturated ground water seeps into basements. **Sump pumps are commonly used to remove this water. Sump pumps must not be connected to the City's Sewer System. Sump pump water must be discharged onto your lawn, garden area, or into the street but NEVER into the City's Sewer System.**

**Why?** When sump pumps discharge into the sewer system flooding can result. The City's sewer system is not designed to handle the extra volume. Increased flows overload the design capacity of the system and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This causes sewer lines to back up and the Wastewater Plant to discharge water which may be only partially treated. This is a violation of our discharge permit and can be environmentally detrimental to the receiving waters of Little Bay de Noc. Also, wastewater needs to be treated - groundwater from sump pumps does not. When the volume of sewage is increased by the addition of groundwater the City's treatment costs increases significantly. This will mandate sewer rate increases to residents and business owners of Gladstone.

**What should you do if your sump pump is connected to the Wastewater/Sewer System?** Reroute the pipe so that it discharges onto your lawn, garden, into the City Street, or nearby stormwater retention basin. If you have questions or need advice on how to bring your sump pump into compliance, please contact the Wastewater Plant at 906-428-1757. The City will not disconnect your sump pump, you as the property owner are responsible for either hiring a professional to help you or do the work yourself.

**If I ask for help will I be subject to a fine?** At this point no fines will be issued as long as you take immediate steps to disconnect your sump pump from the sewer system. This may change in the future with new State and Federal requirements for Wastewater Treatment.