

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SAGAMORE AVENUE AREA SEWER EXTENSION

Will I be required to pay anything initially?

No. You will not be required to pay anything until you tie into the public system or sell your property.

Will I be required to tie into the public sewer main if my septic system is functioning?

No. It has long been City practice to waive the requirement to tie-in if the septic system is functioning. This practice will be captured by ordinance when the City updates its sewer use ordinance.

Will I have to tie in once my septic system fails?

Yes. Given the proximity of many of the properties to Sagamore Creek, tying in to the system delivers an environmental benefit.

Will the cost to tie-in be less expensive than replacing a failed septic system?

In all likelihood yes. As seen in the recent news article, one resident of the neighborhood spent \$37,000 for a new septic system; the proposed 80/20 split of the capital costs with a \$10,000 cap for single family residence should help achieve that result along with the availability of a no-interest 10-year loan.

Is the proposed 80%(sewer fund)/20%(benefitting property owner) split with a \$10,000 cap for single-family residential consistent with what other communities have done in similar situations?

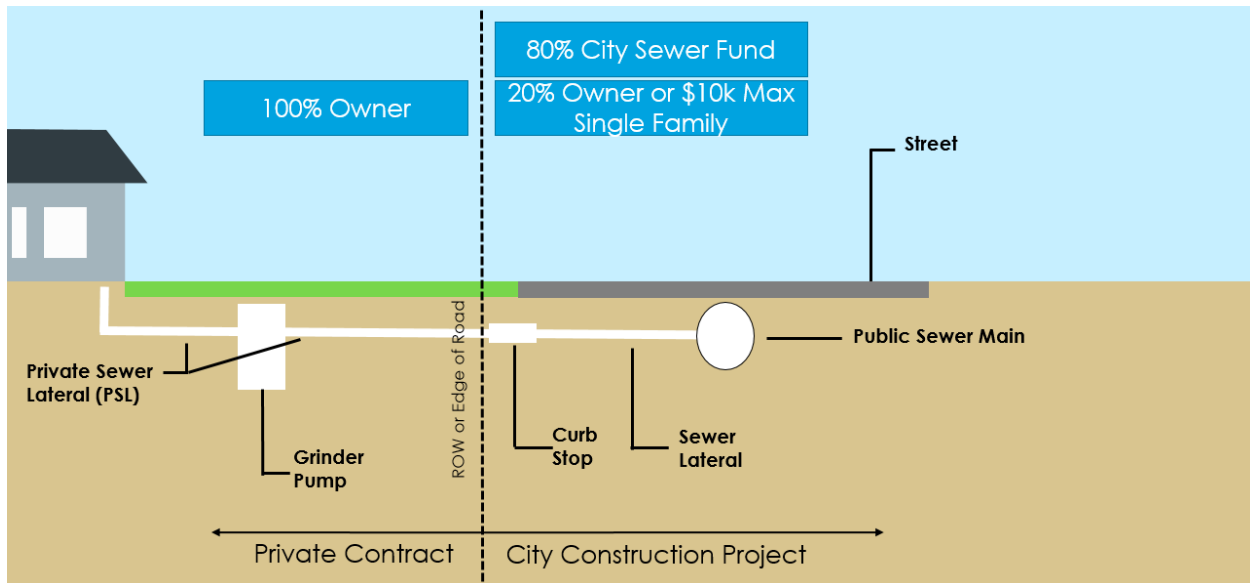
Yes. Gloucester MA, Essex MA and other communities subject to a consent decree in the region have apportioned sewer extension costs between their sewer funds and individual property owners. The apportionment of contribution in both Gloucester and Essex was 25% sewer fund/75% owner and 28% sewer fund/72% owner, respectively, with various adjustments/caps.

Is the proposed 80/20 split, which caps the capital contribution at \$10,000, consistent with the amount other property owners in the City have had to pay as a result of sewer extensions?

Yes. The City has extended public sewer to the following areas that were served historically by septic systems: Brackett Road, Oxford Road, Pleasant Point, portion of Islington Street. The tie-in costs have generally been in the \$10,000 range.

Are there costs other than the capital cost tie-in contribution?

Yes. Property owners are responsible for the installation of their individual private service and pump to connect to the new public main. See schematic below. Thus the total cost to the private property owner would be: the tie-in contribution (not to exceed the maximum of \$10,000 for a single family household) plus the costs for the pump and service to the road and any costs for plumbing and electrical.



Does access to a public sewer provide opportunities not available with a septic system?

Yes. Most property owners prefer the aesthetic of a buried sewer lateral to a potentially large mound and vent necessary to accommodate a new septic system. In addition, having access to a public sewer allows property owners to make investments in their property that a septic system typically does not allow.

When will the project be completed?

June 30, 2022.