

## *Inflow and Infiltration Mitigation Efforts*

City of Golden Valley, MN

For the past several years, the Metropolitan Council has been working with local communities to reduce the amount of clear water flowing into the sanitary sewer system. This flow is known as Inflow and Infiltration, or I/I, and it is cause for concern because it consumes available reserve capacity in the wastewater system.

### What is I/I?

In many communities, a majority of the sewer system is private – the responsibility of private property owners. The City of Golden Valley instituted a point-of-sale inspection and repair program to stem the I/I problem in that community, and save money. Point-of-sale inspections occur when a property is sold.

### Golden Valley mitigation efforts

- Assessed locations to determine source of excessive flow
- Addressed city sources of I/I
- Created a point-of-sale inspection and repair program (inspections occur when property is sold)
- Used a comprehensive education effort to teach residents and property owners about the I/I problem – including community cable programs and home-improvement fairs
- Communicated with the community through the city's newsletter and website
- Hosted a special event, called "Sewerfest" to educate the community about I/I and the inspection and repair program

"The point-of-sale program was part of the right solution for the City of Golden Valley. Every community is different. ... We've potentially saved millions of dollars for the taxpayers in our community."

*Jeff Oliver, city engineer,  
City of Golden Valley*

According to Golden Valley city officials, initial skepticism of the program eventually gave way to understanding and participation. Excessive clear water flow into the sanitary sewer system is trending down, and officials attribute that to the efforts made through the program.

### Advice for other communities

- Assess sources of I/I and create a solution that works best for your community
- Communicate and educate residents of the community
- Use events and neighborhood meetings to illustrate and the problem