

Bronx CB8 Environment & Sanitation Committee Meeting

Minutes Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Start Time: 7:00 PM

[Meeting Recording](#)

1. Welcome & Roll Call

- Present: D. Rowen, L. Spalter, R. Spalter
- Zoom: S. Froot, K. Argenti, J. Reyes
- Absent: E. Hausman, O. Murray, R. Fanuzzi

2. Approval of Committee Minutes – September 18, 2024

- Without a quorum present, minutes could not be approved yet.

3. Chairperson's Report

- Both DEP and DSNY were present at the start of the meeting, first up, DEP:

4. NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Guest Speaker (Effie Ardizzone):

➤ Flood Preparedness

- Effie gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached slides) discussing how prepared NYC is for strong storms despite being in a drought at the time of the meeting.
- NYC is considered in a sub-tropical climate now and we have been experiencing stronger, more intense storms recently.
- NYC sewer system is designed to handle an influx of 1.5-1.75 inches/hour of rainfall. When it rains more than that, it can trigger a combined stormwater overflow event, which we would prefer to avoid.
- Always keep catch basins clean and call 311 if you see one clogged/blocked.
- DEP has FloodNet sensors for real-time flood monitoring, but none in our district yet. (<https://www.floodnet.nyc/>)
- Questions were asked about Tide Gates, which are hinged doors that control the flow of water between tidewater areas and a drained, upland area. They are used to protect property and infrastructure from flooding when the sea tides become elevated.
- Another question was asked regarding how the hydraulic assessments are calculated using Manning's Equation to find the theoretical capacity of the pipes based on the inside diameter as they were installed. If pipes have build-up causing reduced capacity, they may need to be cleaned or have the lining replaced.
- Another question regarded how porous pavement areas are maintained and seemingly DEP has a specialized machine that sprays jets of high-pressure water

through several spray nozzles directed at the pavement to remove water and then loosened sediment is immediately sucked up by a vacuum. This cleaning process should occur at least twice a year, ideally after pollen drop in the spring and after leaf drop in the fall.

- A question was asked by a community member about the state of a catch basin on W. 259th and Spencer and we were told the catch basin was repaired and they did a dye test of the cave-in for sewer analysis.
- A question was also asked if coops can request flood barriers from DEP, but was told their focus was to distribute those to homeowners in both 4' and 6' models.
- Lastly, if anyone sees evidence of concrete being washed into the sewer, please immediately report it to 311 and forward the service number to the CB8 office for follow-up!

➤ Lead Service Line Replacements

- Presentation given on DEP's Lead Service Line Replacement Program, (see attached) which offers no cost service line replacements to eligible homeowners, who would receive letters notifying them if they are in a targeted area and qualify.
- Water Service lines are the property of homeowners and it is otherwise the responsibility of the property owner to replace if necessary.
- A question was asked about homeowners' insurance covering replacement, but that would only be in the case of a break, not to replace lead pipes for drinking water. However, it was noted that if there is infrastructure work being done in an area, they *might* replace lead pipes while they are at it.
- For more information, see:
<http://nyc.gov/leadpipe>
- To check if you have lead service line pipes, see this map:
<https://nylcvedfund.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/342497b697cf4994ab64652e4dbdc4fc>
- To order a Lead Test Kit from DEP, call 311 or fill out the form here:
<https://portal.311.nyc.gov/servicerequest-create/What?caid=bb2a456d-e9e8-e811-a972-000d3a1c5096>

5. NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) Guest Speaker:

➤ Snow Removal

- Unfortunately the representative from DSNY could not stick around and will hopefully join us at the next meeting.

6. Old Business

➤ Follow Up on Status at 306 West 232nd Street

- There is a partial stop-work order on this site, report any violations to 311 and notify the CB8 office.

➤ Update regarding Van Cortlandt Village Development Concerns Raised by Residents

- Land Use created a sub-committee to oversee this and has asked the Parks Dept to confirm/verify street trees for protection.
- State of Summit Place (Litter and Lack of Lighting)
 - DOT has been asked to better-maintain the many step streets in our district.
- State of West 246th Street and Post Road (Sinkhole)
 - Also a DOT issue, if you see sinkholes or other potholes, report them via 311 or directly with DOT:
<https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/contact/customer-service.shtml>

7. New Business

- None at this time, but if anyone has issues, please contact the CB8 office or attend our next meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

8. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned around 8:30pm

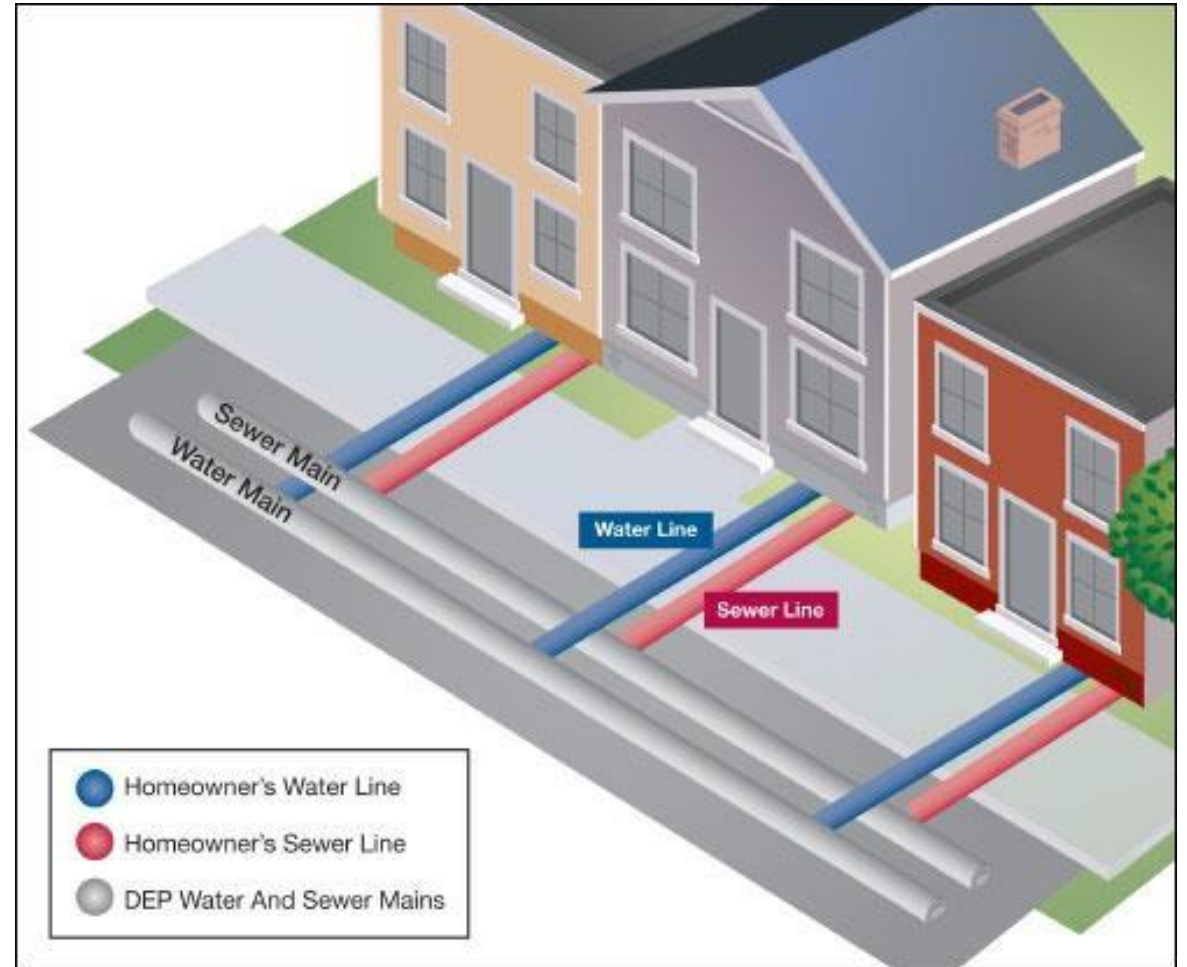
Minutes submitted by Daniel Rowen, Environment & Sanitation Committee Chair

Lead Service Line Replacement Program



What is a water service line?

- The pipe that brings water from the city's water main in the street, to your home.
- Homeowners own the pipe in its entirety, from their house to the water main in the street.
- Homeowners are also responsible for maintaining, repairing, or replacing their water service lines.



Lead Water Service Lines

- New York City's water is delivered lead-free and meets or exceeds federal and state health standards.
- We also treat our water with orthophosphate (a food-grade additive similar to baking soda) which coats pipes to prevent metals from getting into drinking water from household plumbing.
- However, if your private service line and/or household plumbing contain lead, it could increase your risk of exposure to lead through your drinking water.
- Lead can cause serious health problems, particularly for young children and pregnant women.



If you have a lead service line, it is at least 60 years old and should be replaced.

Lead Service Line Replacement Program

- DEP is offering to replace service lines made of lead or galvanized steel at **NO COST** to eligible homeowners.
- Thanks to **\$24M** in funding provided by NYS through the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- Again, this is a **FREE** program, and **homeowners will not be charged** on their water bills or on their property taxes.

How much do water service line replacements cost?

\$10,000+

Eligibility Requirements

(Based on 2020 Census data)

Environmental Justice: to focus our program on historically disadvantaged communities, DEP included only census tracts in environmental justice neighborhoods.

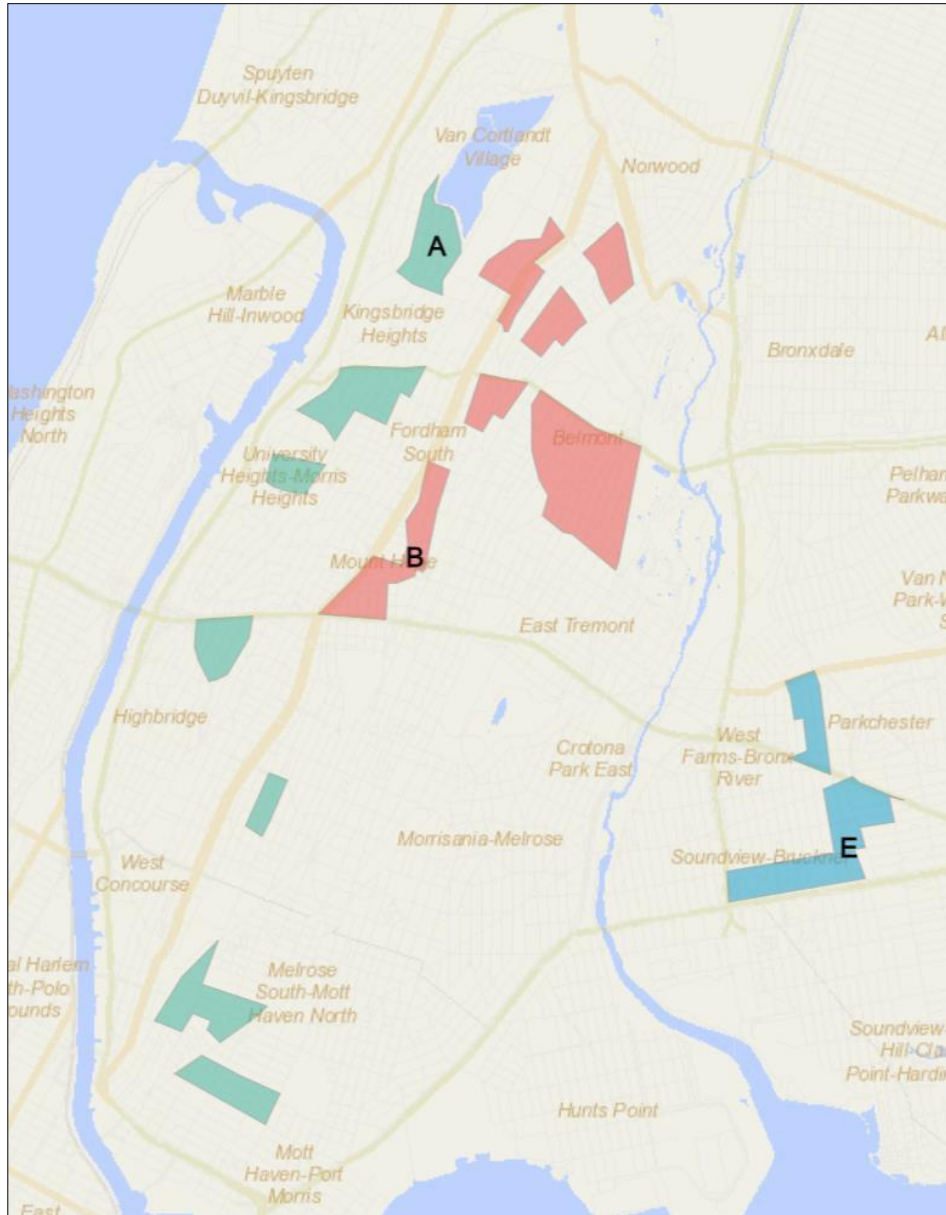
Medium Household Income: to focus on those least likely to be able to afford to replace their lead service line independently, DEP included only census tracts with median household incomes less than \$47,600.

Density of lead service lines: to maximize contractor efficiency, DEP identified areas with high densities of lead service lines.

Eligible homeowners will be contacted by DEP by mail and by phone.

Only homeowners who have been contacted by DEP may participate in this program.

Bronx Program Areas



Community Boards Impacted:

BX CB 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 6, and 9

Neighborhoods:

Area A

Concourse-Concourse Village
Kingsbridge Heights-Van Cortlandt Village
Melrose
Mott Haven-Port Morris
Mount Eden-Clermont (West)
University Heights (North)-Fordham
University Heights (South)-Morris Heights

Area B:

Bedford Park
Belmont
Fordham Heights
Mount Hope

Area E:

Castle Hill-Unionport
Soundview-Bruckner-Bronx River

Contractors:

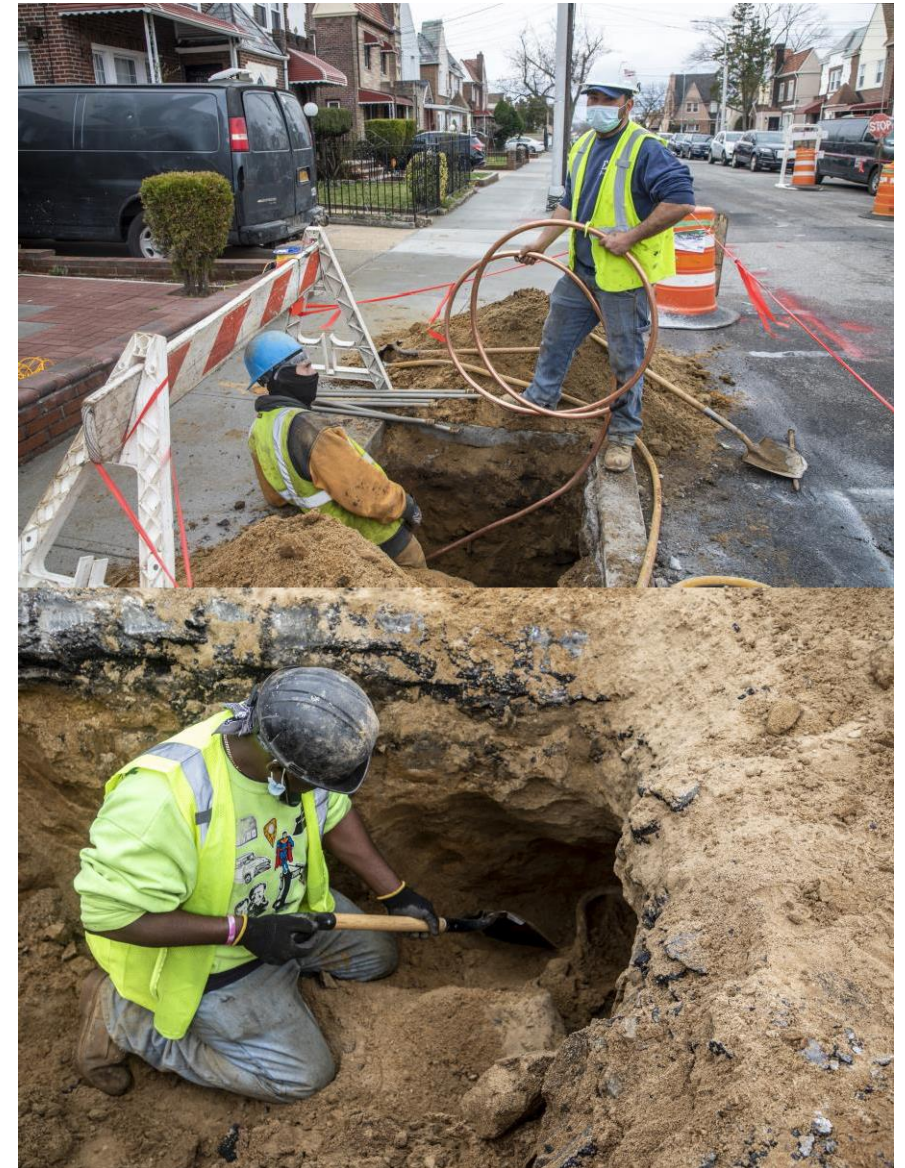
Area A:
JR Cruz Corp

Area B:
Deboe Contracting

Area E:
P & T Contracting Corp.

Replacement Program Steps

1. Our contractor will contact homeowners to schedule an inspection of the service line to confirm that the line is made of lead and needs to be replaced.
2. If the service line needs to be replaced, the contractor will schedule a replacement date, and homeowner will sign a waiver.
3. The next step of the process is to replace the lead service line with a new, safe copper line. Replacement work takes approximately 1-2 days, and we will try to minimize any water service disruptions while we work. We will provide a lead pitcher filter and cartridges, as well as flushing instructions, after replacement.
4. The final step of the project is restoration of streets and sidewalks. You can expect a brief delay between the completion of the service line replacement and restoration activities (typically between 2-4 weeks).



Timeframe

May: Homeowners receive letters

June: Replacements begin

Program Duration: On-going

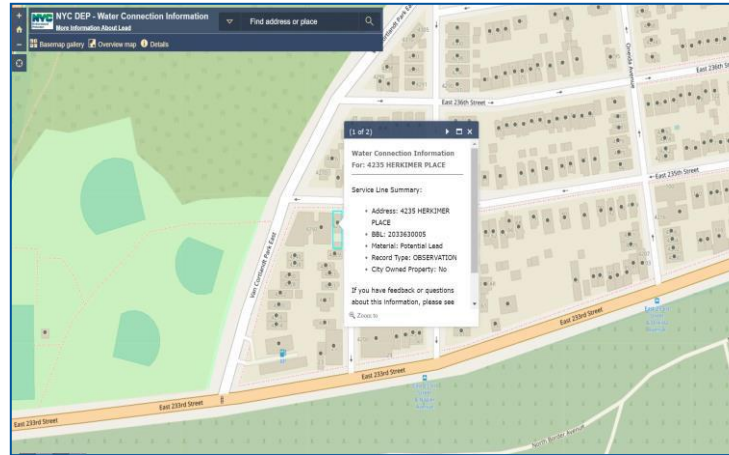
What if a homeowner is not eligible?

Search your address in **NYC's Service Line Map** to see what your service line is made of

Flush your plumbing

Enroll in the American Water Resource (AWR) **Service Line Protection Program**

Request a free residential Lead Test Kit by calling 311



The screenshot shows the NYC Environmental Protection website for the Service Line Protection Program. The page includes a navigation bar with "Pay My Bills", "About", "Water", "Environment", "Recreation", and "What's New". Below the navigation is a section titled "Resources for Homeowners" and "Service Line Protection Program".

Service Line Diagram

Property owners are responsible for maintaining all of the plumbing inside and outside of their property, including their water and sanitary sewer service lines that extend from the property to the city's water and sewer mains in the street.

Repairs to water and sewer service lines can cost thousands of dollars and are not covered by most home insurance policies. Through American Water Resources (AWR), we offer a voluntary water and sewer service line protection program to protect our customers from unexpected service line repair costs. To confirm eligibility and enroll, call AWR toll-free at (888) 300-3570 or visit the [American Water Resources](#) website.

Eligibility and Cost

Most residential and mixed-use properties with a single 2-inch or smaller service line are eligible. Properties must be equipped with wireless meter reading devices and be current on DEP charges or payment agreements. Once enrolled, the following charges will be included in your water and wastewater bill and must be paid to remain eligible:

- Water Line: \$84.84/year
- Sewer Line: \$143.04/year

Water Service Line Replacement at your Home: Flushing Directions

Your new copper water service line has been installed, replacing your old lead water service line. Please follow the instructions below to minimize your risk of lead exposure through your plumbing.

- 1** Flush all plumbing in your house beginning TODAY before using your water. Beginning TODAY (continue once every 2 weeks for 3 months):
 - Remove faucet screens (aerators)
 - Run all faucets including sinks, showers, bathtubs, and laundry tubs.
 - Start by running COLD water from all of the faucets in the lowest floor of your house (such as the basement) and then open the faucets on the next highest floor of the house. Continue until faucets are open on all floors.
 - After all of the faucets are opened, leave the COLD water running for at least 30 minutes.
 - After 30 minutes, turn off the first faucet you opened and continue to turn off the other faucets in the same order you turned them on.
 - Replace faucet screens after flushing.**Recommended daily mini flush for the next 6 months or when testing results are below regulatory guidelines (15ppb):**
 - Run faucet each morning or after 6 hours of non-use for 5 min.**After 6 months:**
 - Clear debris from faucet screens 2 times per year
- 2** How can I test my water?
Wait at least 30 days after your service line has been replaced and then contact 311 or nyc.gov/dep to request a lead test kit. The kits come with easy-to-follow instructions and a pre-paid label to send it to a laboratory for lead analysis. Results will be mailed to you within 30 days of the sample being received by the lab.
- 3** What should I continue to do to reduce my risk of lead exposure through my plumbing?
 - Run your water for at least 30 seconds or until it gets cold. Once the water is cold, run it for 15 seconds more.
 - Use COLD water for cooking, drinking, or preparing infant formula. Hot tap water is more likely to contain lead and other metals.
 - Remove and clean the faucet screens regularly, where small particles can get trapped.

Questions about testing your water?

Call DEP's Lead Unit (718) 595-5364

Email: DEPLeadUnit@dep.nyc.gov

Visit DEP's website: nyc.gov/dep/lead/drinkingwater or call 311 for more information.

NYC Environmental Protection

Information and Contacts

Webpage:

nyc.gov/leadpipe

Lead Service Line Replacement Program Contacts:

718-595-5810 // leadservices@dep.nyc.gov



The screenshot shows the NYC Environmental Protection website page for the Lead Service Line Replacement Program. The page features a navigation bar with links for Home, Pay My Bills, About, Water (selected), Environment, Recreation, and What's New, along with a search bar. The main heading is "Lead Service Line Replacement Program". Below the heading are social media sharing options (Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Email) and a Print button. The main content area includes a paragraph explaining the program: "DEP is offering to replace private water service lines that are made of lead or galvanized steel at eligible properties at **no cost to homeowners**. Service lines will be replaced with a new, safe copper line. If your property is eligible, this program can save you thousands of dollars!". This is followed by an "Eligibility" section stating that homeowners who receive a letter from DEP or the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) are eligible. A "NYC Service Line Map" section provides instructions on how to use the map and links to "Water Service Line Map FAQs" and "Monitoring for Lead". To the right of the text is a "Service Line Diagram" showing a cross-section of a building with underground pipes labeled "Water Line" and "Sewer Line", and a legend identifying "Homeowner's Water Line", "Homeowner's Sewer Line", and "DEP Water And Sewer Mains". At the bottom right of the content area are "Expand All" and "Collapse All" buttons. Below the content area is a section for "Lead Service Line Replacement FAQs".

NY is in a Drought!

NYC and our upstate water supply system are among the driest parts of the state!

Forecasts show unusually dry conditions will continue through the end of the year.

Conserving water now means we may be able to avoid more severe drought in warmer months when water use increases.

Go to nyc.gov/savewater for water saving tips.



NYC IS IN A DROUGHT. EVERY DROP COUNTS!

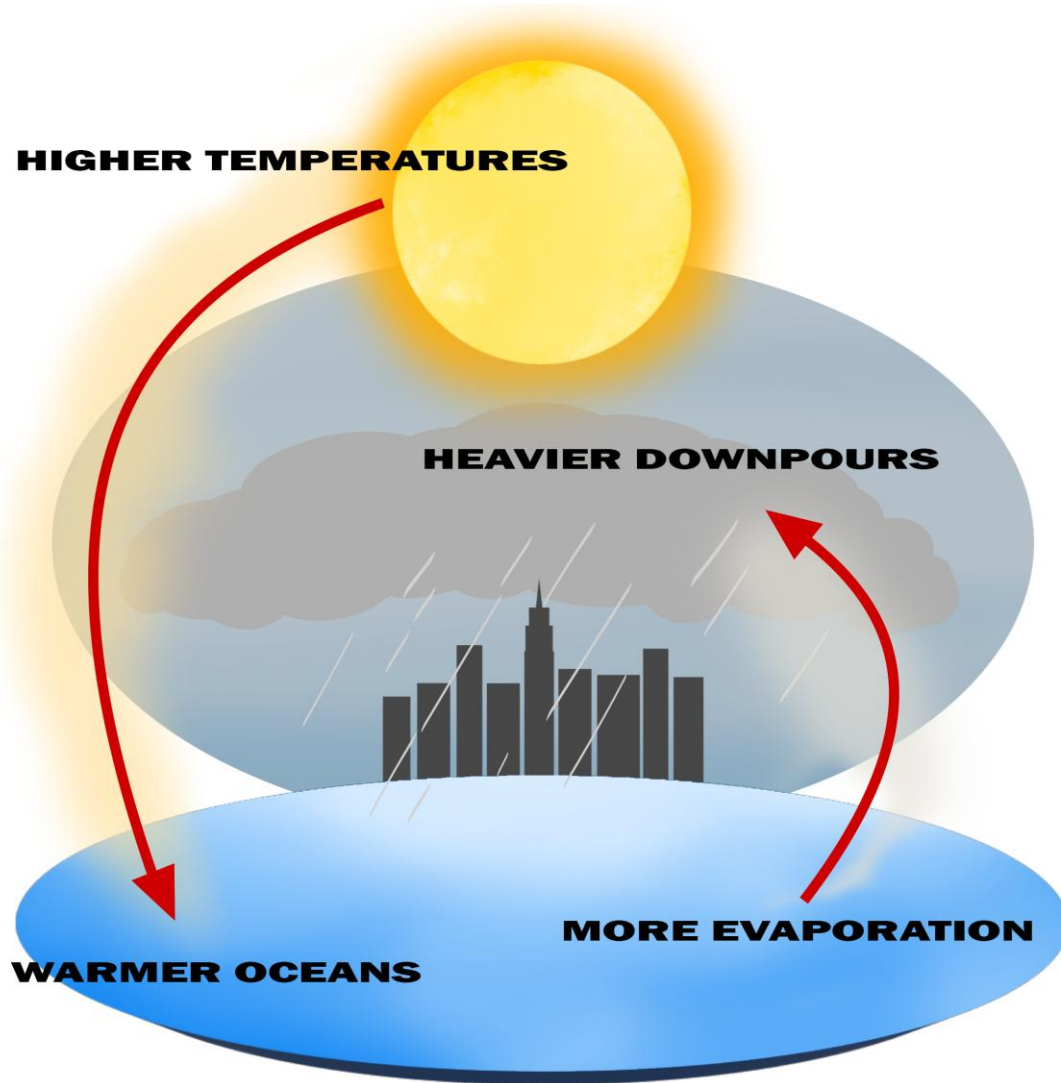
We need you to conserve water immediately.

- ◆ *How much water is used in a 5 min shower vs. 10 min?*
Showers use 5-7 gallons of water a minute.
Taking 5 minutes off your shower saves 25-35 gallons.
- ◆ *How much water is used if a hydrant is open?*
1 million gallons of drinking water each day.
- ◆ *How do I report an open or leaking hydrant?*
Call 311.

Scan the code or visit nyc.gov/savewater for more information on water conservation.



Our Changing Climate



NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) has **reclassified NYC** a “**humid subtropical**” climate.

Sudden, powerful storms are bringing more **intense rainfall** to New York City.

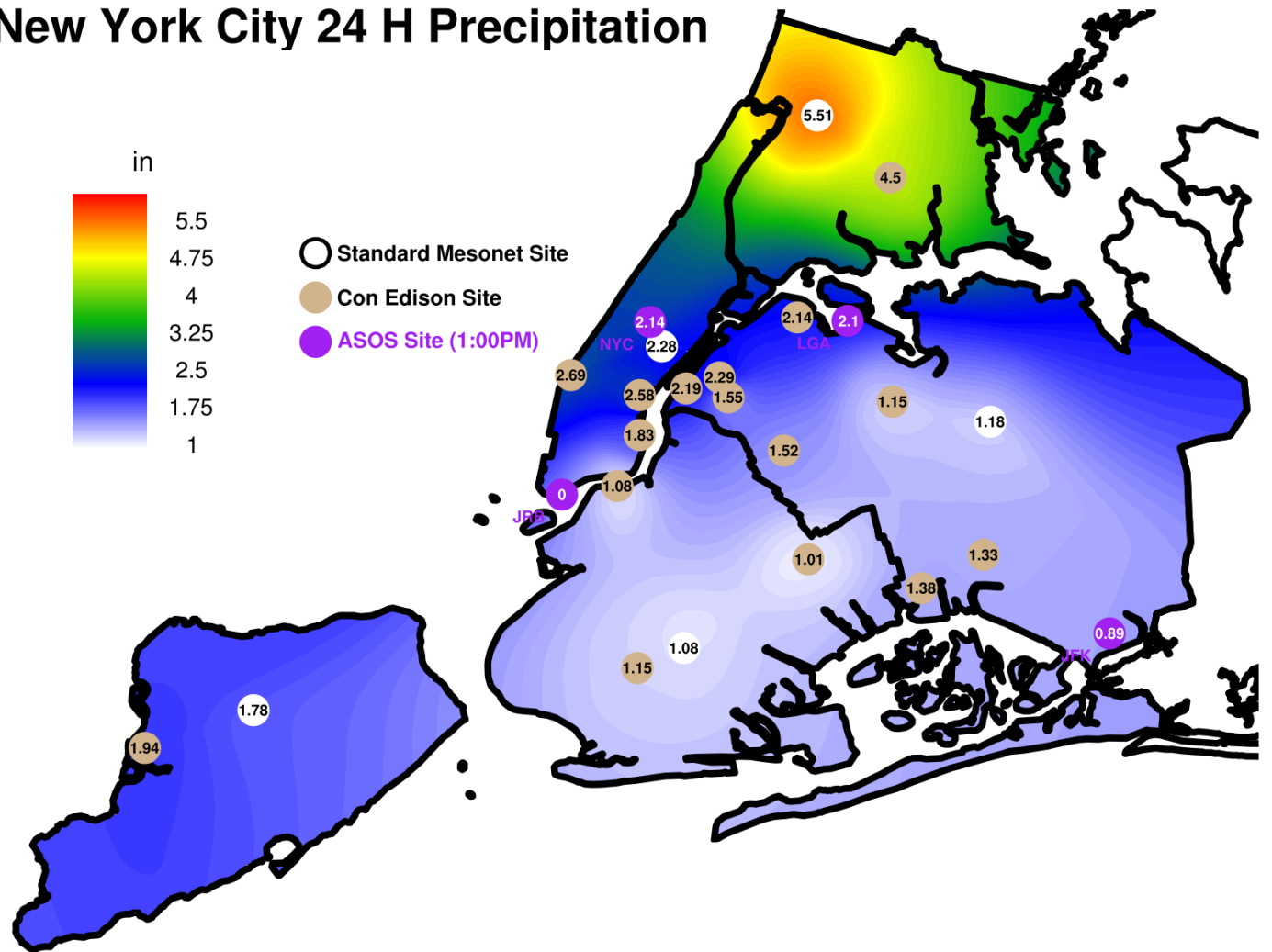
- August 2021 (Henri): 1.94 inches in an hour
- September 2021 (Ida): 3.15 inches in an hour
- September 29, 2023: 2.5 inches in an hour

Effects of these storms can be made worse in coastal areas by **sea level rise** and **tidal cycles**.

August 6, 2024

- The City activated the Flash Flood Plan and issued a flash flood warning and a travel advisory.
- The Bronx was particularly hard hit by Tuesday night's storm, with rainfall amounts **between 4 and 5.4 inches in 24 hours**.
- This rainfall far exceeded the amounts over the rest of the city.

New York City 24 H Precipitation



Sewers

- **Sewers** work in every rainstorm and protect fully against 98% of rain events.
- The sewer network is generally built to handle 1.5 to 1.75 inches of rain per hour.
- During rainstorms, the system can get overwhelmed when the amount of water produced by the storm is greater than the capacity of the pipes.
- Due to climate change, NYC is experiencing more frequent heavy downpours that our sewers were not designed to handle.



Sewer Construction

Catch Basin Cleaning

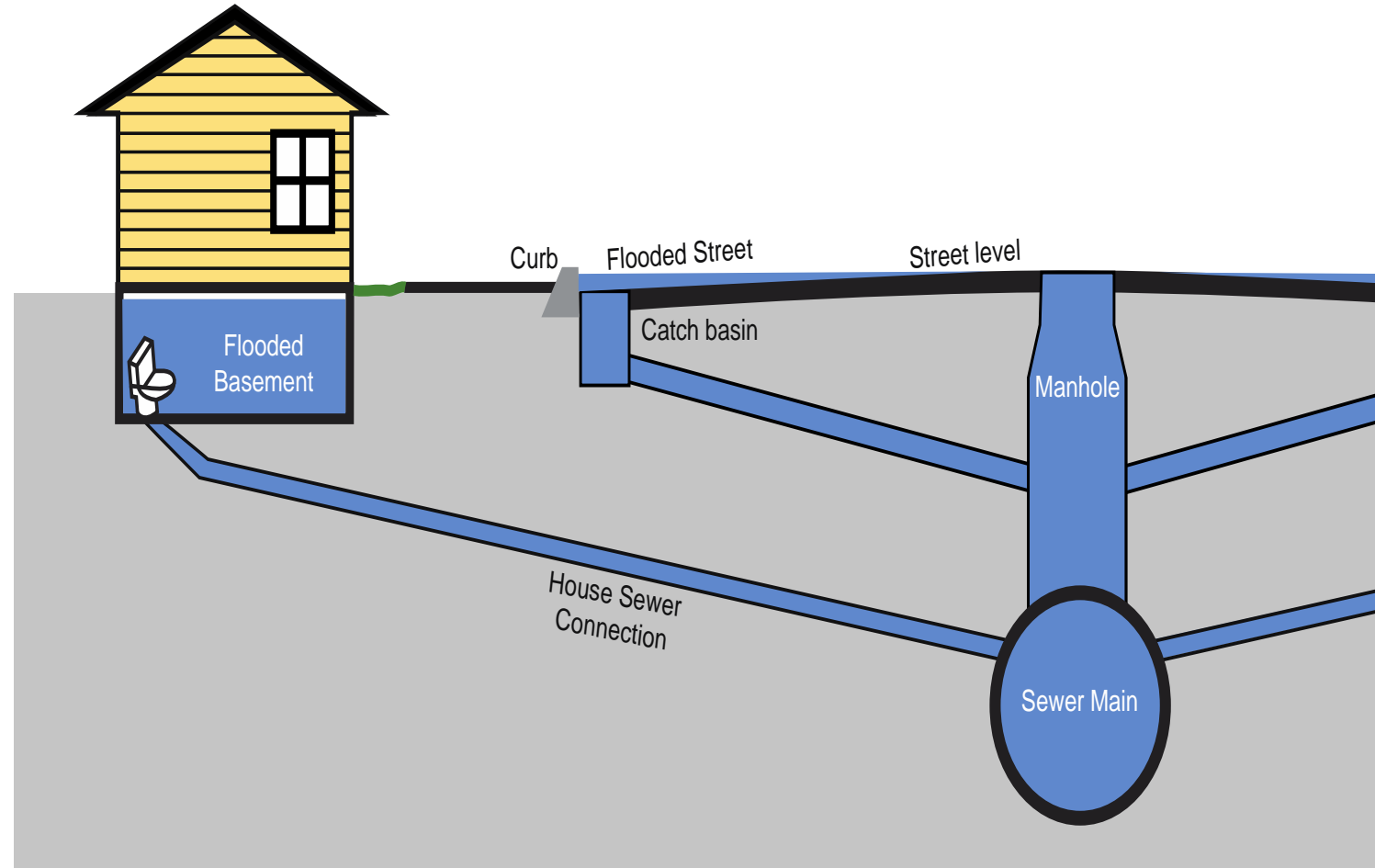
How does DEP clean catch basins?

- **We use data:** NYC's **150,000** catch basins are inspected based on an historical analysis of cleaning and 311 complaints, but at minimum once every 3 years. Catch basins in commercial areas are inspected twice a year. Some are inspected every 6 months. DEP also inspects in response to 311 complaints.
- **Before major storms,** DEP proactively sends staff to inspect catch basins in flood-prone areas to make sure they are clean and working properly when heavy rain is forecasted.

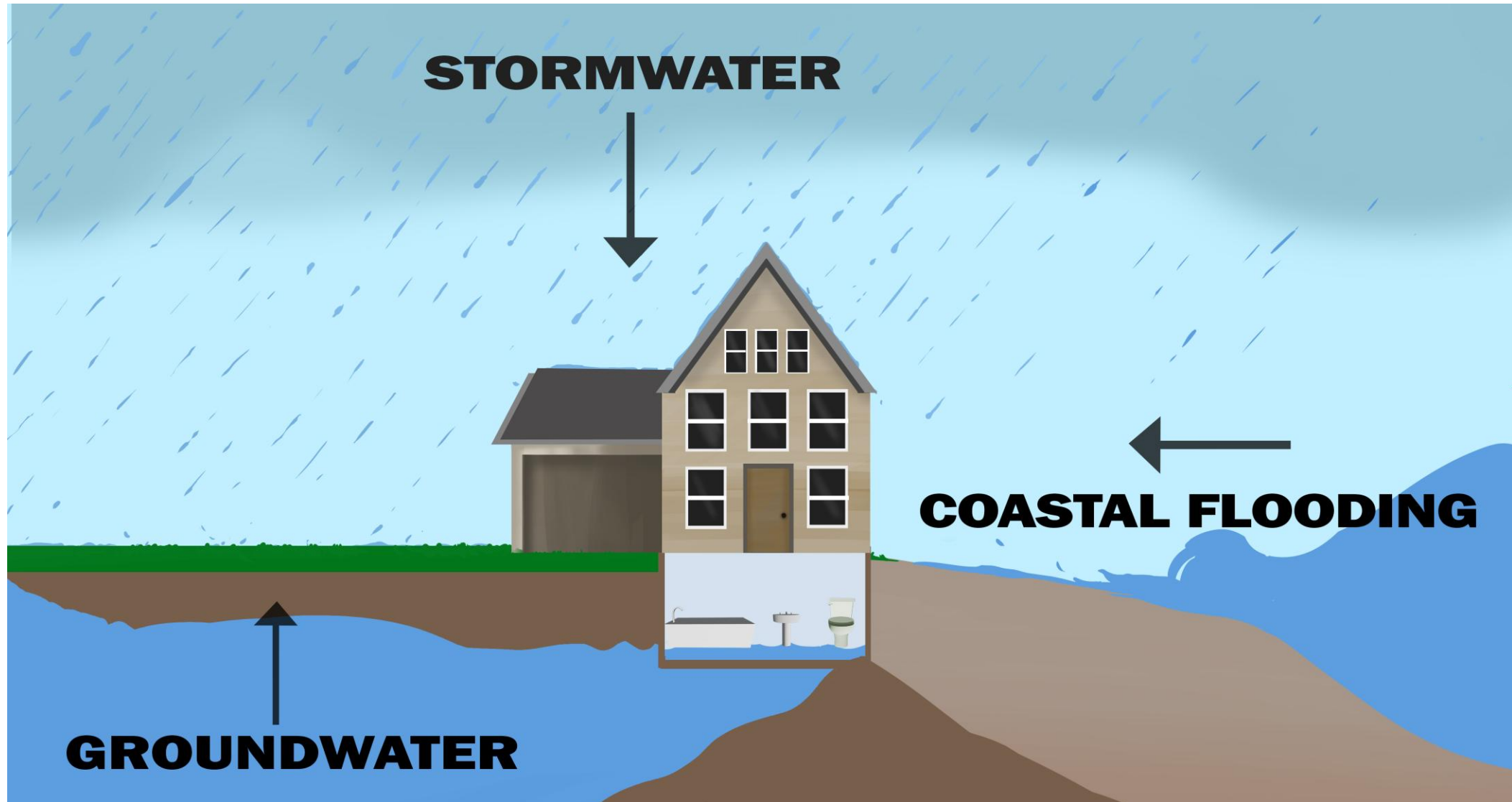


Sewer Back-Ups & Overflows

- 60% of New York City has combined sewers that carry wastewater from your home and stormwater from rains.
- During rainstorms, the sewer system can get overwhelmed when the amount of water produced by the storm is greater than the capacity of the pipes.
- This can result in back-ups from manholes, catch basins and basement sewer connections or overflows into local waterways.



Types of Flooding



Street Flooding

- Catch basins are located on street and highway curbs to collect rainwater.
- Leaves and trash can accumulate on top of the basin grate and block drainage, causing rainwater to flood the street.
- Blocked catch basins are not broken catch basins.



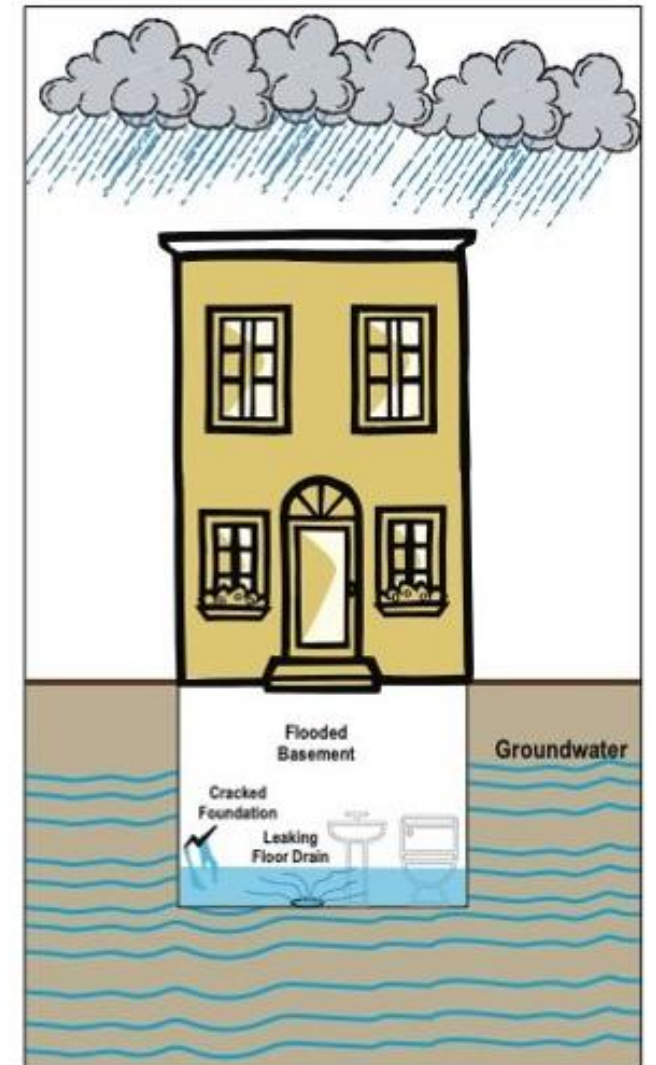
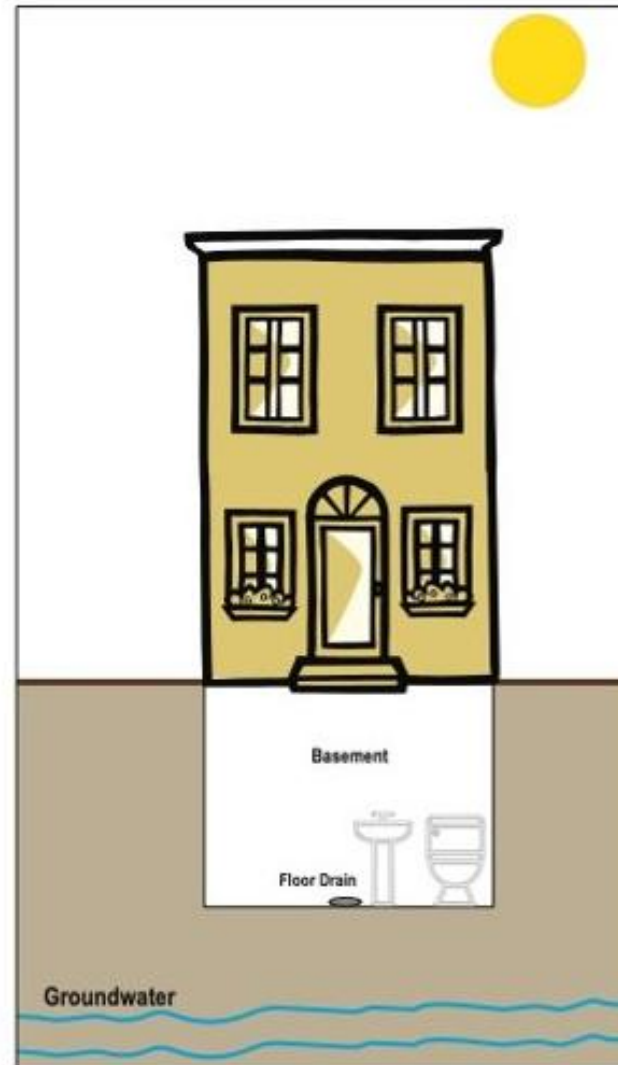
Cleared Catch Basin



Blocked Catch Basin

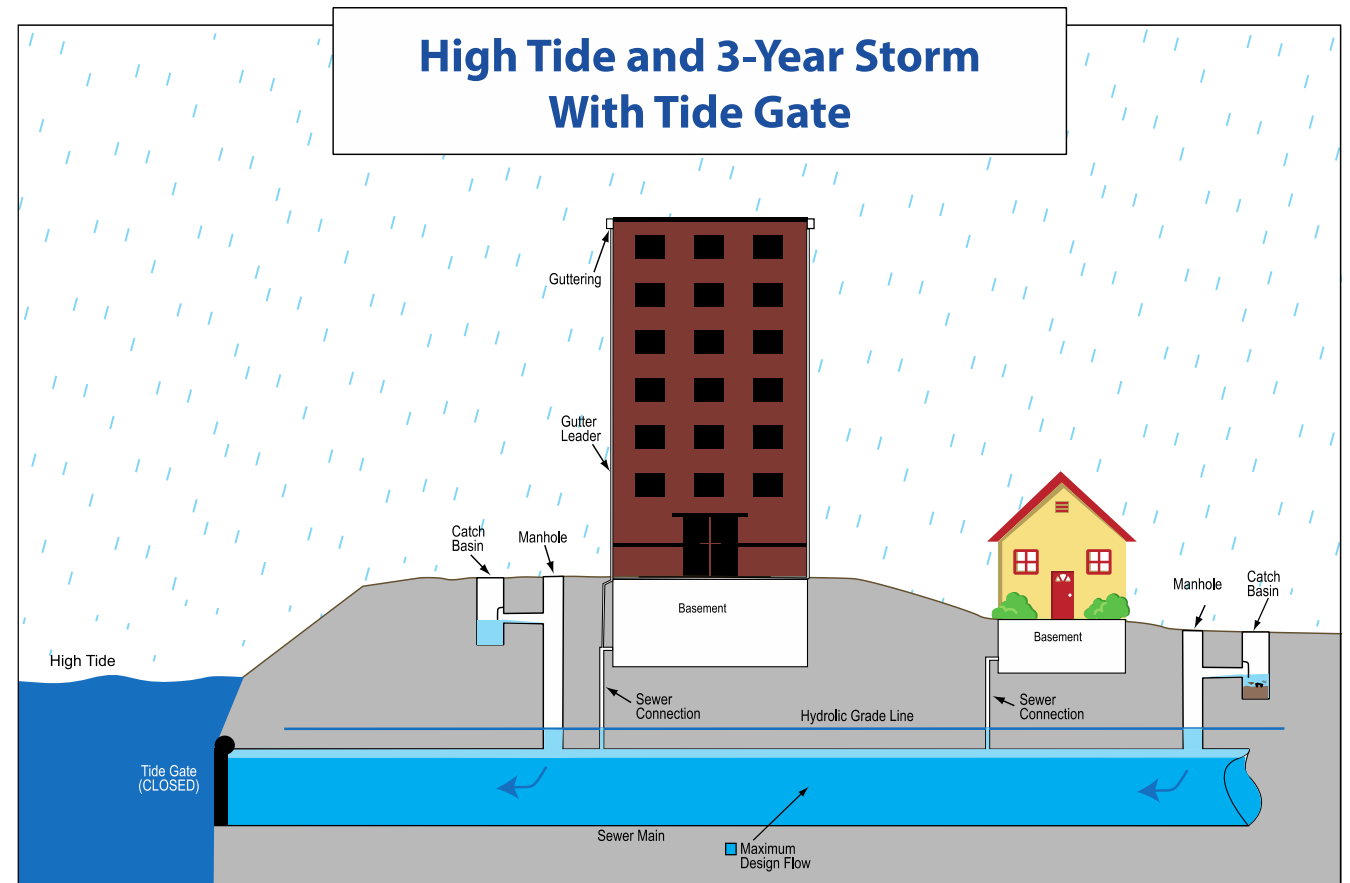
Groundwater Flooding

- Some areas of the city have naturally high ground water.
- After a heavy rain or **back-to-back rainstorms**, the ground can become saturated.
- Water seeks its own level. It will find and travel through cracks in a basement foundation or floor drains.



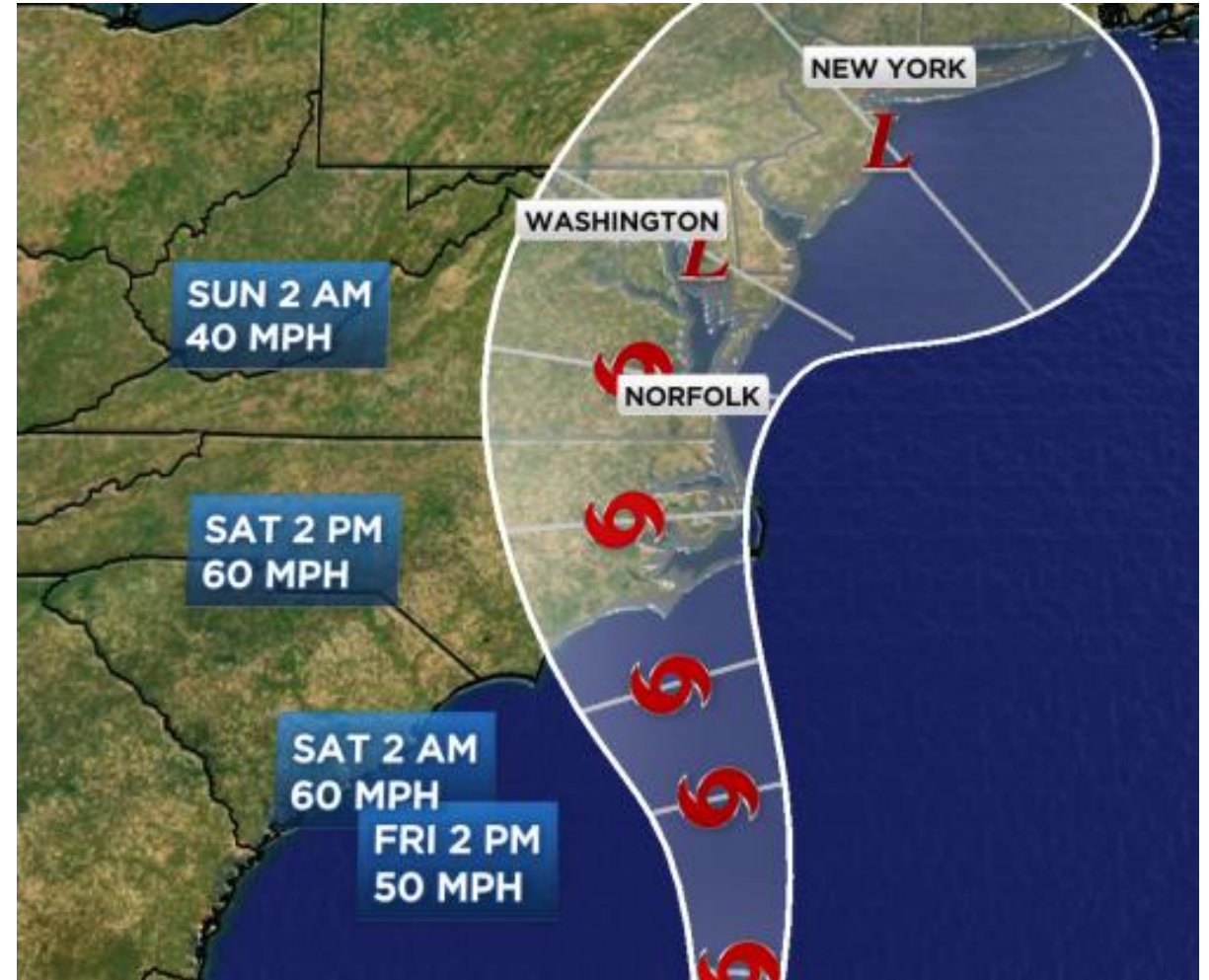
Coastal Flooding

- In waterfront areas, high tide combined with storm surge can make local flooding conditions worse.
- Coastal flooding can send tidal water back up into the sewer system, resulting in overflows from manholes, catch basins, and basement connections.
- Tide gates keep ocean water out of the system during high tides or storm surge.



Hurricane Season

- Hurricanes are powerful storms that draw their energy from warm tropical waters in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Hurricanes bring high winds that can create a storm surge – when the winds push sea level higher and over the coastline, causing flooding.
- Hurricane Season is June through November but typically begins in August in NYC.
- 2024 Hurricane Season is expected to bring a high number of powerful storms to the Atlantic coastline because of higher ocean temperatures caused by climate change.



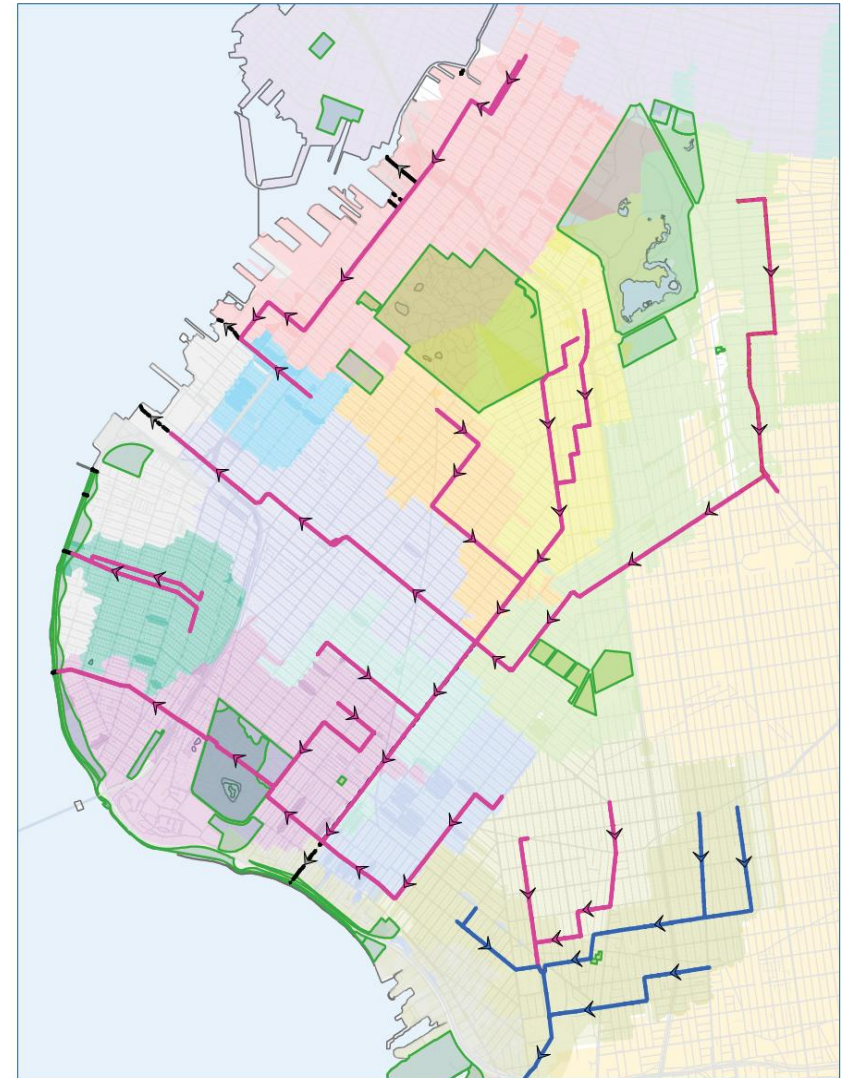
The City has a **toolkit** to combat flooding

DEP is using a multi-layered approach that strategically uses grey infrastructure, green infrastructure, and other flooding solutions.

- ✓ Grey Infrastructure
- ✓ Green Infrastructure
- ✓ Blue Infrastructure
- ✓ Regulation
- ✓ Real-time Monitoring

New NYC Hydraulic Model

- DEP recently completed a citywide hydraulic model of all 7,500 miles of sewers in New York City.
- Sewer upsizing is expensive and slow. This model will allow us to maximize the potential of the existing system.
- For example, DEP can shift stormwater from pipes that are over capacity to pipes with free space.
- We will be able to do smarter, faster and cost-effective work to benefit communities.



Trunk Main Capacity Analysis

Green Infrastructure: Natural Storage

- **Green infrastructure (GI)** absorbs water into the ground in areas with good soil. It also greens neighborhoods, reducing urban heat island effect.
- These projects reduce street flooding by catching stormwater before it enters the sewer system, freeing up drainage capacity and reducing sewer overflows into local waterways.



Typical Raingarden



Typical GI Median

Bluebelts: Natural Storage

- **Bluebelts** divert rainfall away from sewers, provide retention and create rich ecological areas.
- The program preserves natural drainage corridors like streams, ponds and wetlands and enhances them to convey, store and filter stormwater.
- DEP manages 545 acres of bluebelts and natural areas in Staten Island, Queens and the Bronx, including at the **New York Botanical Garden**.



Staten Island Bluebelt

Porous Pavement

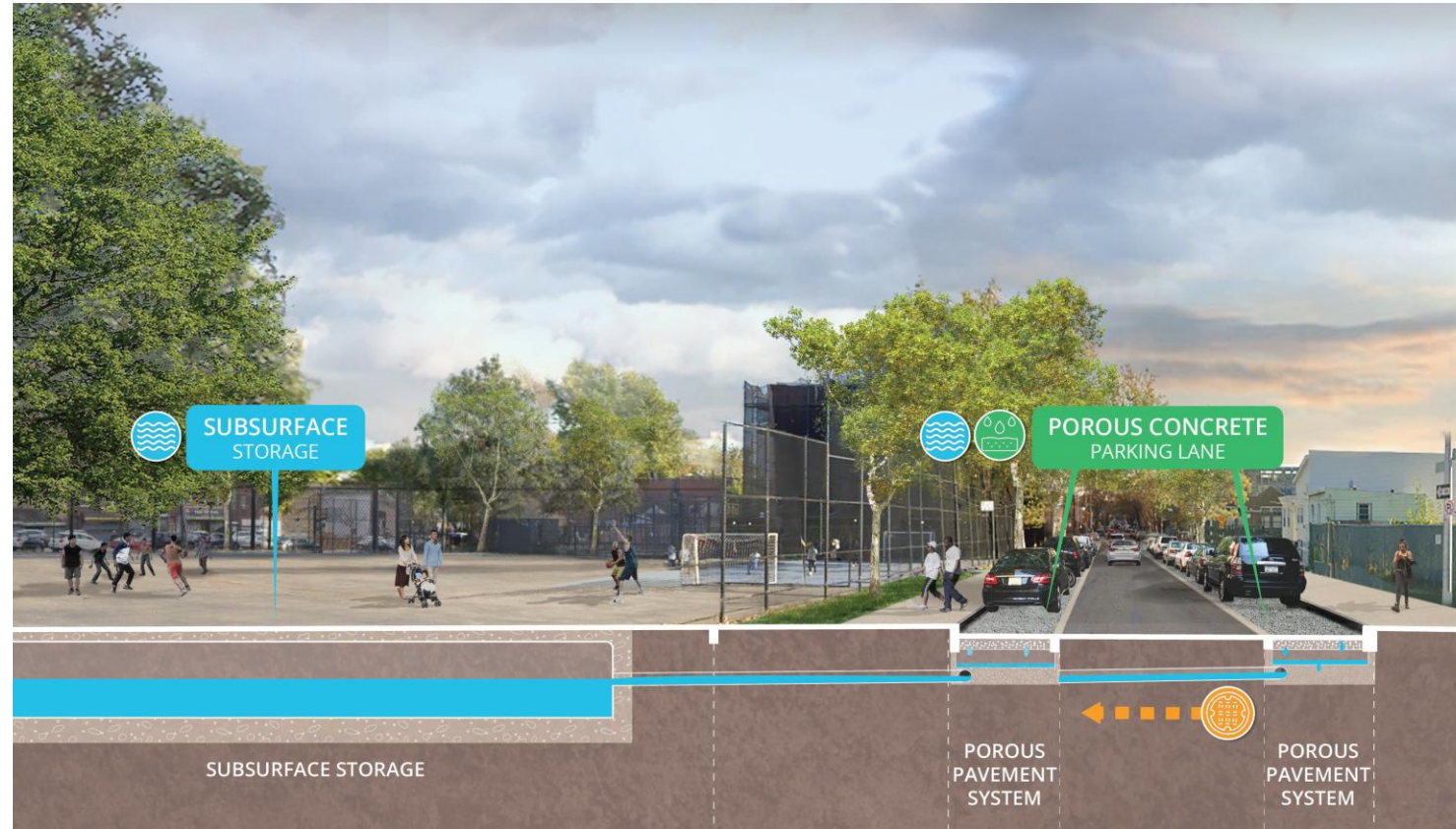
- **Porous pavement** is a special roadway paving designed to absorb and drain rainwater.
- “The Concrete Jungle” is limited in areas that naturally soak up rainwater because most paving materials are impermeable or non-porous.
- DEP uses this tool in primarily residential areas. Over 3 miles of porous pavement installed as of 2023. We are adding **10 more miles in the Bronx.**



Porous Pavement in Action

Cloudburst: Built-in Storage

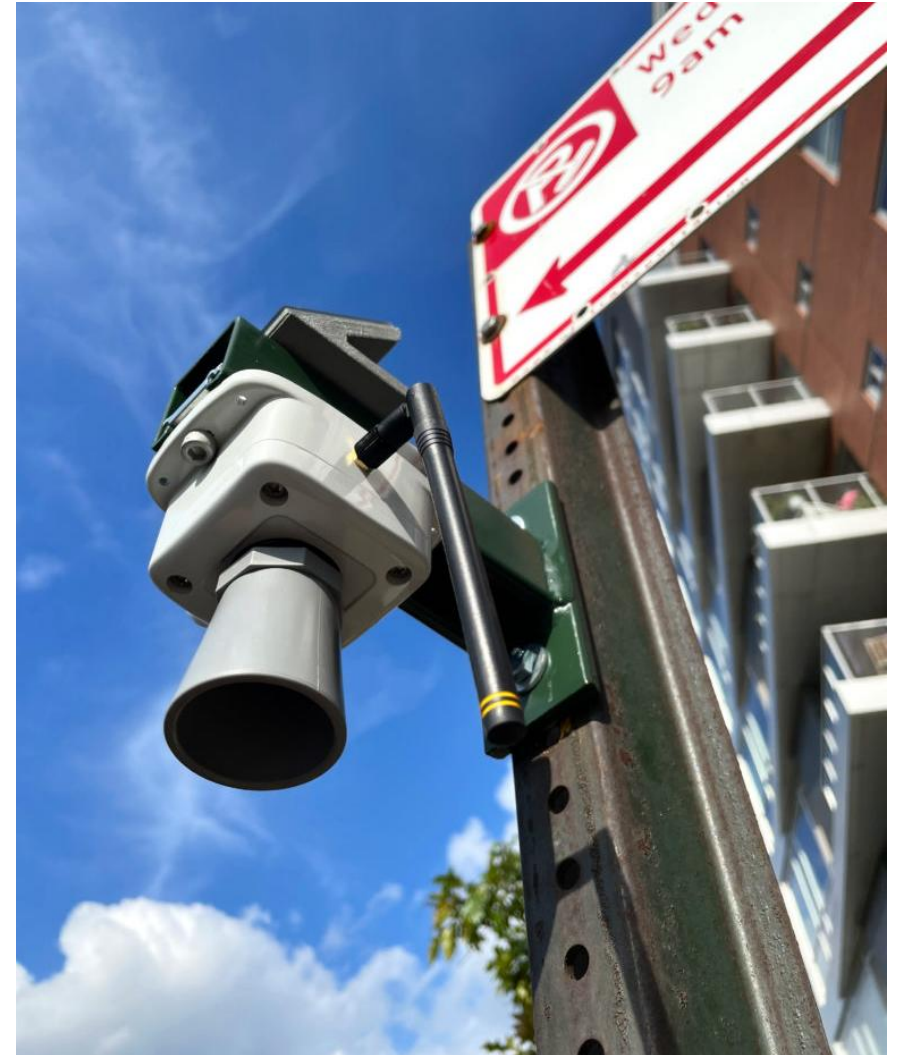
- **Cloudburst infrastructure** capture and hold rainwater from heavy downpours that drops a lot of rain in a short amount of time.
- Cloudburst management projects can use contained spaces normally used for other purposes, like a sunken basketball court, to hold stormwater. They can also use sewer pipes, underground storage tanks and green infrastructure.



Typical Cloudburst Strategies

FloodNet Sensors

- Sensors detect and monitor street flooding in real-time and relay life-saving information to City agencies.
- Installed in neighborhoods that are vulnerable to high tides, storm surge, and stormwater runoff.
- NYC first flood-monitoring network is set to expand — DEP is spending \$7.2 million to install 500 across all five boroughs.
- DEP has flood sensors in Throgs Neck, Morris Park, Hunts Point, Castle Hill and City Island.
- www.floodnet.nyc



Unified Stormwater Rule

- In 2022, DEP increased the amount of stormwater new and redeveloped properties must manage on-site.
- Rezoning and/or development present a **huge opportunity** to manage stormwater on-site and reduce demand on the city's drainage system.
- The rule prioritizes the use of green infrastructure, which has the added benefits of reducing heat island effect and supporting wildlife habitat.



Green Roofs Absorb Stormwater

What *you* can do to protect your home from flooding



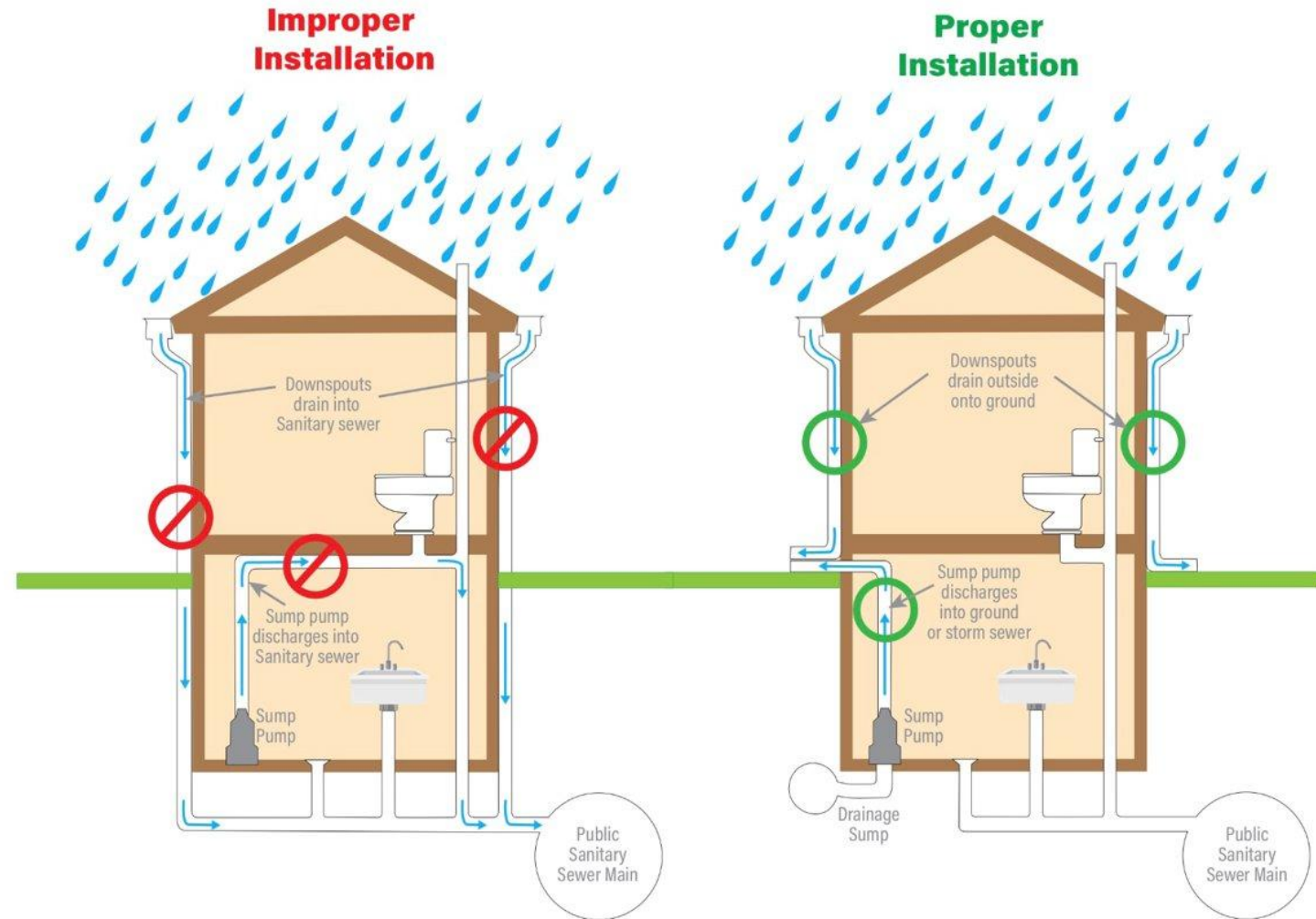
Converted Basements



- **Sewer Back-ups** – Bathroom fixtures shouldn't be located lower than the sewer connection. This can result in raw sewage backing up into basement apartments through drains.
- **Stormwater Flooding** – Basements located at the bottom of a driveway or below sidewalk level are prone to stormwater flooding and groundwater flooding.
- **Safety** – Exit routes are critical in the event of a flood. Bars on windows trap people in flooding basement apartments.

Reroute Downspouts

- Disconnecting downspouts from the sewer keeps rainwater out of the system and reduces the likelihood of back-ups.
- Direct downspouts away from your building.



Install a Rain Barrel

- Connecting your home's gutters to a rain barrel will keep water out of the sewer and reduce the demand on the system.
- You can reuse the collected rainwater to water plants.
- So far in 2024, DEP has given away nearly 5,500 free rain barrels to New Yorkers in partnership with local elected officials.



Use Flood Sensors & Elevate Belongings

- Place belongings and valuables on a shelf above where water may flow into your basement.
- Use flood sensors to alert you when water is entering your basement.
- **Pro tip:** Place the sensor on the floor, near the floor drain, or under the windows if you have outdoor window wells.



Use Flood Barriers

- Flood barriers can be filled with water or sand and reused in storms.
- Place flood barriers near doors, garages, and/or basement windows that may allow stormwater to enter your home.



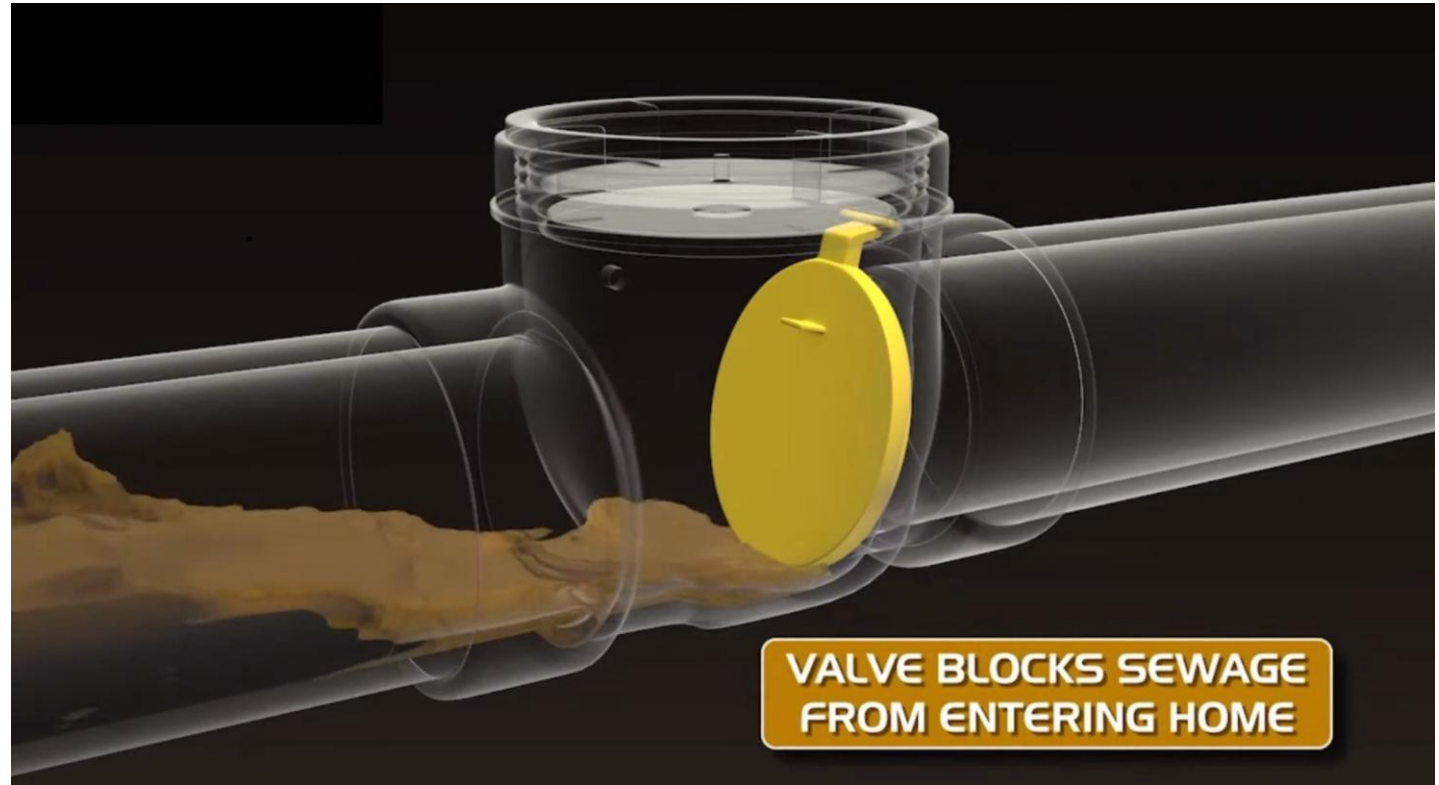
Use Sump Pumps

- Use a sump pump to remove flood water.
- A sump pump is a device that detects rising water, say in a basement pit or drain, and pushes it outdoors.
- **Pro tip:** Be sure to use pipes or hoses that extend 10-15 feet beyond your building.



Install a Sewer Check Valve

- Check valves stop sewage from flowing into your home, through toilets and bathtubs, during a storm.
- Use a licensed plumber to install.



Use a Drain or Toilet Plug

- Toilet plugs can stop sewage from backing up into your home through your toilet.
- Drain plugs (also called gripper plugs) can stop sewage from flowing into your home through tub or floor drains.
- These can be found at a hardware store or online.



Homeowner Insurance

- Most homeowner's insurance policies do not include coverage for a sewer back-up.
- You can add an optional rider to your insurance policy to cover any damages to your home from a sewer back-up.



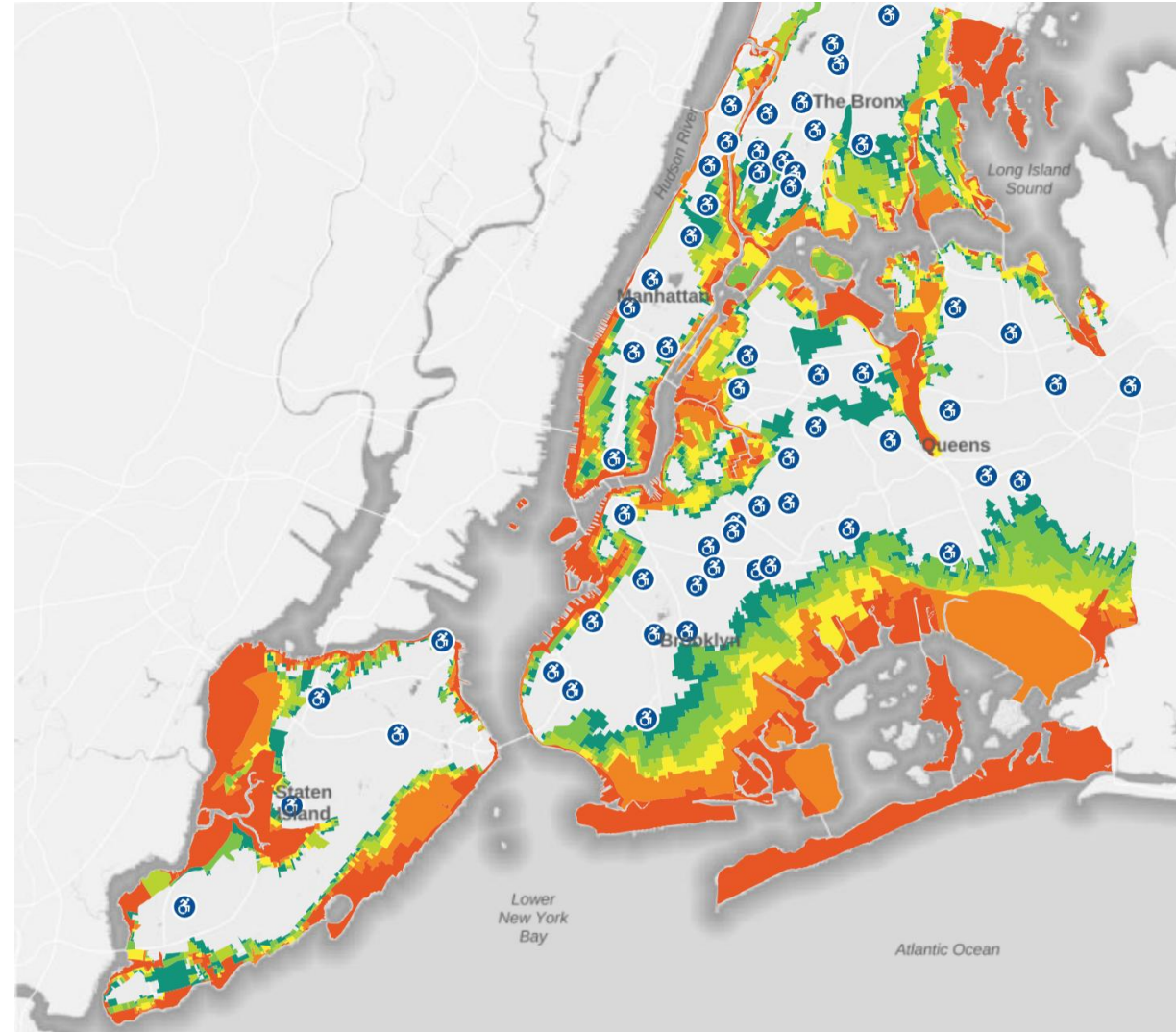
Wait to Use Water

- Wait to flush the toilet, take a shower or use appliances that use water (washing machine, dishwasher) during heavy rain.
- The extra water discharge puts unnecessary strain on an already taxed sewer system.



Know Your Evacuation Zone

- The best way to be prepared for the possibility of a hurricane evacuation is to know your evacuation zone and plan your destination and travel routes ahead of time.
- City officials will tell you when to evacuate through the media and direct warnings like Notify NYC.
- Evacuation is a last resort during a serious threat to public safety.



Sign Up for Notify NYC

Notify NYC is the City's official source for information about emergencies.

Scan the QR Code to sign up today!



The image shows a screenshot of the Twitter profile for NYCEM - Notify NYC. At the top, there is a banner with a smartphone displaying the Notify NYC app interface. The app screen shows options to 'VISIT' (nyc.gov/notifynyc), 'FOLLOW' (@NotifyNYC on Twitter), and 'CALL' (212-422-9675 for Vision-Ready Service or 311-212-504-4100). The banner also features the text 'EMERGENCY ALERTS' and 'BROUGHT TO YOU BY'. Below the banner is the profile header with the 'Notify NYC' logo, a verified badge, and a 'Following' button. The profile name is 'NYCEM - Notify NYC' and the handle is '@NotifyNYC'. The bio reads: 'NYC's official emergency notification system. Important information about emergency events and services. Customer Use Policy nyc.gov/socialmediapol...'. The location is 'New York City', the website is 'nyc.gov/notifynyc', and it was joined in 'September 2008'. At the bottom, it shows '103 Following' and '523.4K Followers'.



DEP is Here to Help

Call 311. All complaints go directly to DEP response teams on duty in your neighborhood.

Contact DEP Community Affairs with your 311 complaint number for follow-up.

DEP Community Affairs:
CommunityAffairs@dep.nyc.gov
718-595-3496

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NYC Water

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IMPORTANT TIPS FOR PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM FLOODS

Know Your Flood Risk

- Visit nyc.gov/stormwater-map to understand the level of risk you may face today during an intense storm and which areas in your neighborhood may experience flooded roadways.
- Learn more about flood insurance and flood retrofits at floodhelpny.org.

Stay Informed

Sign up for Notify NYC, the city's official source for information about emergency events and important services, by calling 311 or visiting nyc.gov/notifynyc.

Be Prepared

Listen to local weather forecasts and announcements from officials and prepare a Go Bag that you can grab in case you need to leave your home in a hurry. Always avoid driving or walking through flooded areas.

Call 311 to report roadway flooding or sewer backups not caused by conditions in your home.

For more information, visit rainfallready.nyc or scan this QR code:



Para una copia en español, visite rainfallready.nyc

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ד'י צו באקומען א קאפיע אויף יידיש גייט צו



Rainfall Ready NYC: A Homeowner's Guide

Tips to help you protect your home from flooding and sewer backups during rainfall events



TIP 1 HELP KEEP CATCH BASIN GRATES CLEAR

DEP cleans and maintains the city's 7,500 miles of sewer mains and 150,000 catch basins on a regular basis. Litter stuck on top of catch basin grates can prevent stormwater from entering the sewer system, which can cause street flooding. You can help by disposing of litter properly and by carefully removing leaves or trash from catch basin grates before or during a rain event.

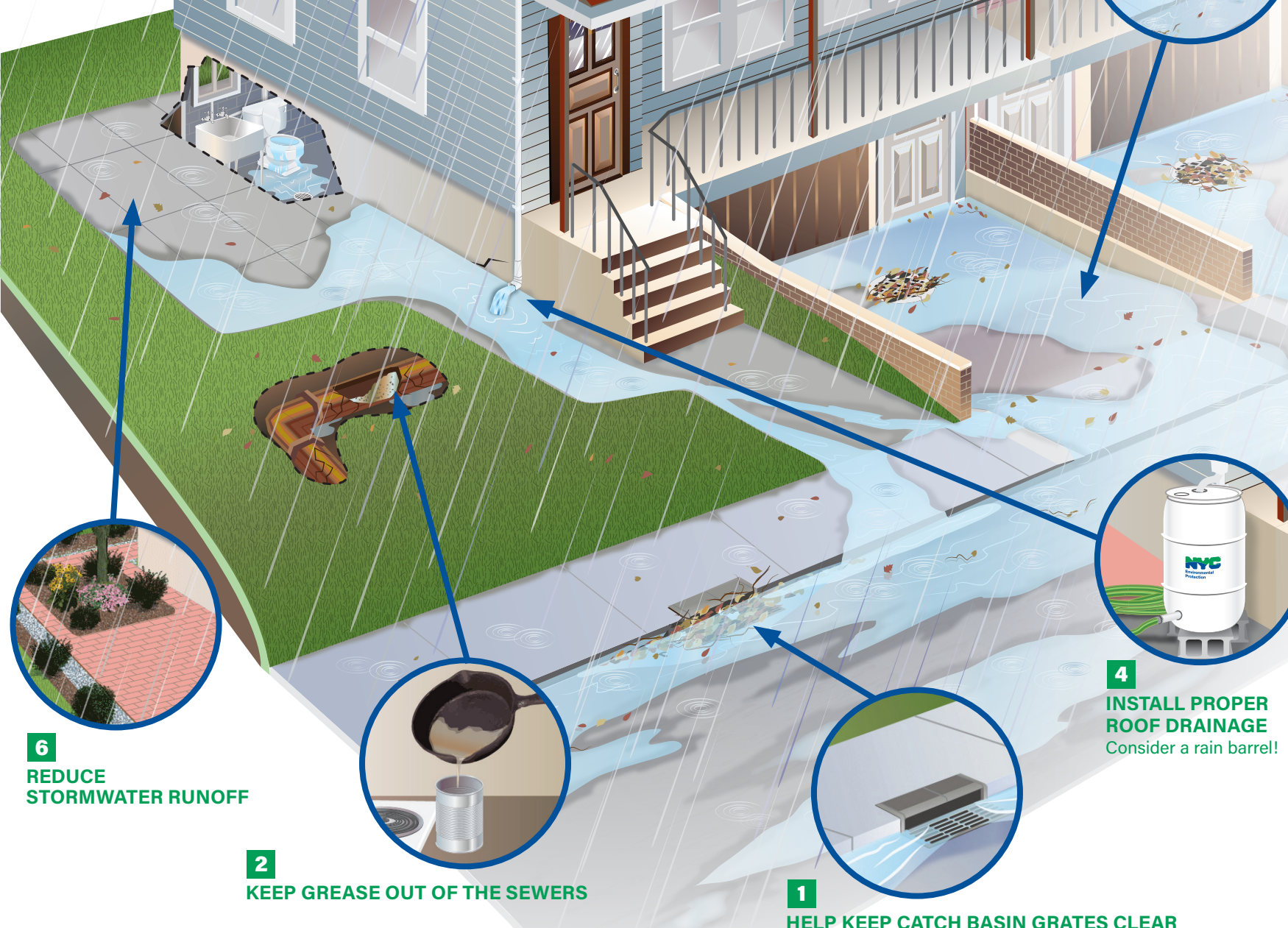
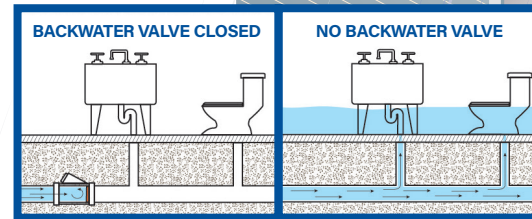
TIP 2 KEEP GREASE OUT OF THE SEWERS

Homeowners own and are responsible for maintaining the sewer service line that connects from the city's sewer main in the street to your home. Improper disposal of grease and cooking oil can clog both your home's internal pipes and city sewers and cause sewer backups. Place grease in a container labeled "Cooking Oil - Not for Recycling" and discard with regular garbage.

TIP 3 PROTECT AREAS BELOW STREET LEVEL

Below street level spaces, such as underground garages and basement doors, are the most vulnerable to flooding. Reduce the risk of flooding by sealing cracks in foundation walls. You can also purchase easy to set up flood barriers to keep water from entering below-or at-grade windows and doors. Sandbags can be a cost-effective barrier option. Other options include window wells, flood walls around doors, and flood gates at driveway entrances. Make sure that any barriers used do not block important exits from your home, in case you need to leave during an emergency.

5 CONSIDER BACKWATER VALVES



TIP 4 INSTALL PROPER ROOF DRAINAGE

Directing stormwater from your roof away from the foundation walls of your home is critical in keeping your basement dry. Clean your gutters regularly and connect downspouts to appropriate drains. Consider installing a rain barrel as an alternative method to capturing stormwater - you can then use the stored water to wash your car or water your lawn!

TIP 5 CONSIDER INSTALLING A BACKWATER VALVE

A backwater valve can prevent sewer water from backing up into your home through basement plumbing fixtures such as toilets, sinks, and drains. If you already have a backwater valve installed, you should not use basement plumbing fixtures while the valve is closed because you can risk flooding your property. In some cases, drain plugs can also be used to prevent sewer backups. Contact a plumber to help you decide if a backwater valve makes sense for your home

TIP 6 REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF

Preserving and creating green space around your home can help reduce stormwater runoff into the sewer, which can help prevent or lessen flooding. When installing a patio or walkway, consider using alternatives to concrete, such as porous paving stones, which allow water to be absorbed into the ground.

TIP 7 PROTECT CRITICAL EQUIPMENT

Elevate critical equipment (like boilers, electrical panels, heaters, generators, utilities, and meters) out of harm's way, if possible, either to a higher floor or off the ground above the level of flooding. Other options include protecting equipment by using barriers, dry flood proofing, or selecting submersible/waterproof equipment if the area often is exposed to water.

6 REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF

2 KEEP GREASE OUT OF THE SEWERS

1 HELP KEEP CATCH BASIN GRATES CLEAR

4 INSTALL PROPER ROOF DRAINAGE
Consider a rain barrel!