

Downspout Disconnections

Every time Elkhart experiences heavy rains or a great snow melt, the City's sewer system is put to the test. As downspouts and road gutters flood the sewer with water, overflow is routed into the Elkhart and St. Joseph River so it does not exceed wastewater treatment capacity. These combined sewer overflows (CSOs) can contaminate our waterways and threaten the health of both human and aquatic life with raw sewage. Local ordinance therefore requires the disconnection of all downspouts from Elkhart's sewer system. If the waterspouts on your house go directly into the ground, they are allowing water to flow into the sewer system, and need to be re-routed to your lawn. A substantial fine can be yielded for those who fail to comply. A downspout disconnection can cost as much as \$150 but is now being offered

free of charge through Elkhart EnviroCorps.



In order to avoid harsh fines and service fees while keeping sewage out of the river, contact Sherry Bowen at 293- 2572 for your free disconnection.