



Office of the Mayor
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To: Urbana City Council

From: Laurel Prussing

Re: Review of Sewer Repair Policy.

A City-wide Problem

In reviewing the concerns brought to us by the residents of Ellis subdivision, we learned that this is a city wide problem. Tree roots clog sewers and most homeowners encounter this problem at some point. We also have learned that Urbana's reimbursement system is one used by most cities. Ideally we would like a solution that does not cost more than our current sewer revenues. We also want to find the best way to help people who cannot afford the up-front costs and for whom a reimbursement is not practical. We are working on ways to improve public awareness of what financial help is available when reimbursement is not practical.

Proposed solutions:

1. Immediately: In order to even out the reimbursements for street repair so that one person further from the main sewer pays no more than one closer we could raise the current reimbursement from 50% of costs not to exceed \$3,000 to 75% of costs not to exceed \$4,500. (Champaign currently pays \$1,500 or in the case of a brick street, \$2,500.)
2. Additional study needed: We are examining other methods used by cities. We would have to do cost studies to see if alternatives are affordable within our current sewer tax. We will present alternatives and the costs for each.
3. If there is a better plan out there for Urbana residents, we will bring it up for discussion and public input.

