



# 54<sup>th</sup> Street/Riverview Drive

Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP)

Project Public Information

2023

# Presentation Overview

- Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP) Overview
  - Program Background
  - Program History
  - Current Installation Program
- Enrollment/Payment Options
  - Enrolling vs. Not Enrolling
- Project Specific Information
- Additional Resources



# Why STEP?

- The Solution:
  - STEP is intended to improve water quality by connecting neighborhoods currently served by septic systems to the sewer system
  - This program helps support achievement of Citizens' federally mandated [Consent Decree](#)



# STEP Project Identification

- How was your neighborhood selected for a STEP project?
  - To identify STEP areas, Citizens uses a project prioritization methodology that involves three criteria outlined below:
    - Housing density
    - Proximity to a floodplain
    - Presence of residential drinking water wells
  - This neighborhood scored very high on the priority list

# History of STEP

- Old STEP (Pre-2016)
  - Format no longer used
  - Gravity sewers were installed
    - Large open trenches, very messy and disruptive, extremely expensive
  - Property owner responsible for hiring a contractor to construct their lateral, obtain proper permits, connect to sewer, and abandon the septic tank
  - Total property owner cost: **\$3,000 – \$10,000+**
    - Financial Assistance Plan (FAP) based on need



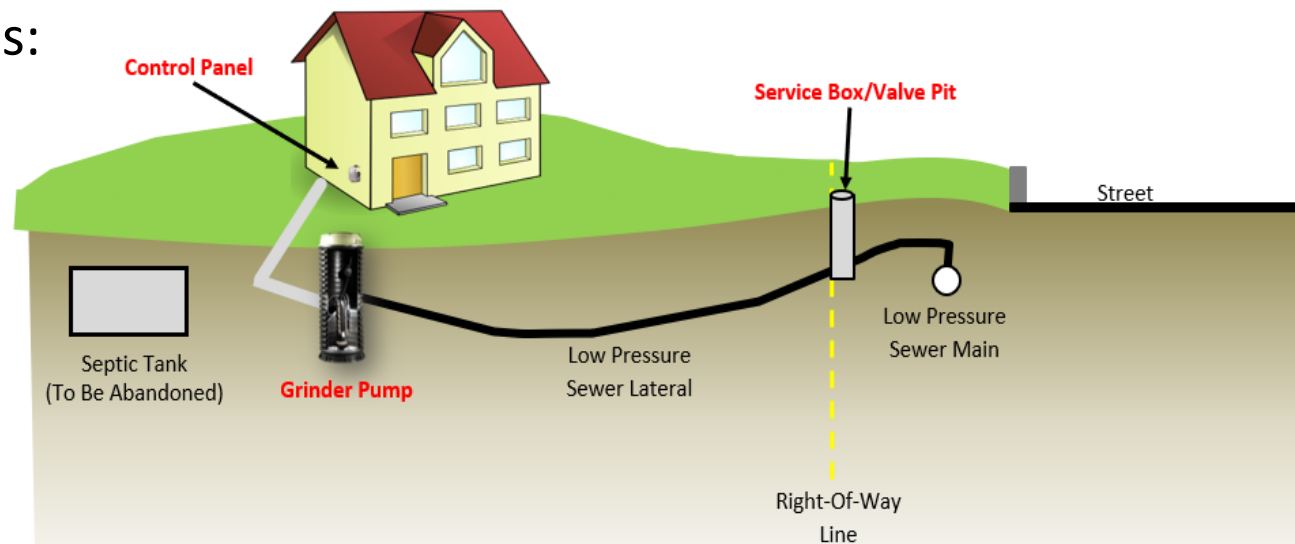
# History of STEP

- STEP Today (2016-Today)
  - Format currently used
  - Low Pressure Sewers are installed
    - Horizontal directional drill installation, minimally intrusive, cost effective
  - Citizens connects each property owner who enrolls in project by deadline
    - Installs all components of a low-pressure system in the public right-of-way, perform all work on property and connect to the sewer system, abandon septic tank, and restore yard
  - Total property owner cost: **\$2,739**
    - Connection and permit fees
    - Plus any applicable plumbing or electrical modifications

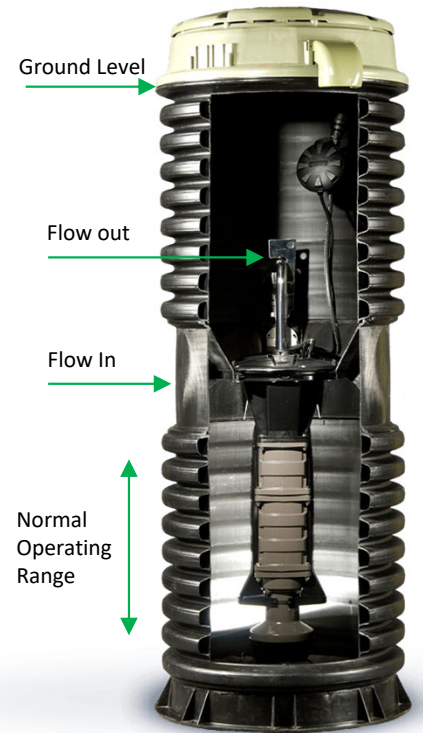


# What is a Low Pressure Sewer?

- Sewer that uses a pump at each connection to force wastewater through small diameter pipes
- Three major components:
  - Grinder Pump
  - Control Panel
  - Service Box/Valve Pit



# Grinder Pump



Pictured above: E/One Grinder Pump Section View

- Pump provides the pressure needed for the low-pressure sewer to function
- Pump is housed inside a large basin with 70 gallons of storage capacity
  - E/One grinder pumps will be used
  - Pump is similar to an industrial garbage disposal in that you should not flush or put anything down the drain that you would not normally put down a garbage disposal
- Pump is controlled by the Control Panel
- Sump pumps cannot be connected, per Section 201.03 of the [Sanitary Sewer Standards](#), and must be separated by property owner prior to grinder pump installation



# Control Panel



Pictured above: Control Panel with Generator Receptacle

Pictured below: Installed Control Panel



- Tells the pump when to turn on, turn off, and if there are problems
  - Visual and Audio alarm if pump issue occurs
- Runs on electricity
  - Grinder pump will not run during power outage without secondary power
    - Generator receptacle included on each control panel
    - Most water-producing appliances will not be powered, thus not producing additional water. Used water will be stored in the tank until power is restored.
  - Requires property to have a minimum 100-amp main electrical panel with room for a 30-amp double breaker
  - 240-volt wire is included with grinder pump

# Service Box/Valve Pit



Pictured above: Service Box/Valve Pit Lid

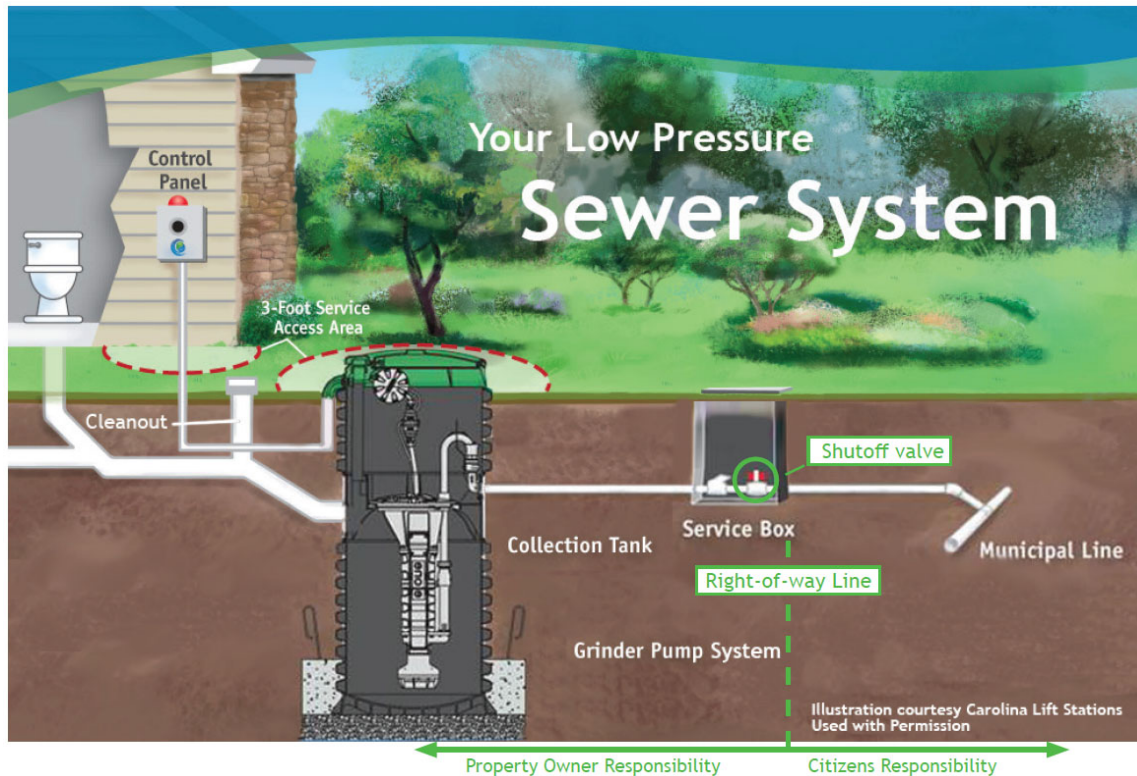
Pictured below: Inside of Service Box/Valve Pit



Ball valve and check valve

- Installed on the right-of-way line
- Houses a shut off valve and check valve
- Looks very similar to a water meter pit
- Provides a visual marker for the separation line for ownership and responsibility once the system is installed
  - Property Ownership and Responsibility: Service Box to the house
  - Citizens Energy Group Ownership and Responsibility: Service Box to the sewer main

# Low Pressure Sewer Overview



- Property owners are responsible for operating and maintaining all components from the service box to the house once installed
- Grinder pump is equivalent to a major appliance, like an air conditioner or furnace
  - Will require service calls over time and eventual replacement
  - Comes with a three-year warranty
- Answers to frequently asked questions can be found in the [STEP Program Guide](#) and the [Owners Guide](#)

# Am I Required to Connect?

- Homeowners are not required to connect if septic tanks are in healthy and functional condition. However, if a septic tank fails and a permit cannot be obtained for a replacement, homeowners will then be required to connect.
- The benefit of connecting now is cost sharing with Citizens – it will cost more to connect later if not included during STEP.

# How to Enroll

- Sign STEP Enrollment Agreement\*
  - **All deeded owners must sign**
  - Allows access to property/house for defined scope of work with a right-of-entry
  - Payment option selection (next slide)
  - Commits property owner to connect to the sewer system
- Fill out the property questionnaire to the best of your ability
- Return using the Business Reply envelope provided in your packet OR email the forms to the project manager (email listed on last slide)

\* **Must enroll by dates listed in the STEP Enrollment Agreement. Additional charges and ineligibility may apply after that date.**

# Payment Summary

- STEP Enrollment Cost: \$2,739.00
  1. Lump sum, or
  2. Pay over 60 months (5 years) with no interest
    - \$45.65/month
    - All property owners are eligible
    - Will be included on monthly Citizens bill
- Any plumbing or electrical modification is the responsibility of the property owner (costs vary)

# Important Information About the Loan Option

- If you choose the loan option in section C of the Enrollment Agreement, please note the following:
  - 1) The STEP Enrollment Agreement is a binding contract between you and Citizens.**
  - 2) You are responsible for repayment of the loan even if you sell the home (see Assignment Section of Agreement).**
  - 3) Failure to repay the loan can result in disconnection of your sewer and/or water service.**

# Monthly Sewer Bill

## Citizens Water

| Metered Monthly Rates               | Phase 3<br>Eff. 1/1/23 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Monthly Minimum Charge              | \$47.14                |
| Monthly Base Charge                 | \$21.25                |
| Treatment Charges:                  |                        |
| First 7,500 gallons (\$/1,000 gal.) | \$8.6310               |
| First 10 CCF (\$/CCF)               | \$6.4733               |
| Over 7,500 gallons (\$/1,000 gal.)  | \$9.3432               |
| Over 10 CCF (\$/CCF)                | \$7.0074               |

## Private Well

| Unmetered Monthly Rates             | Phase 3<br>Eff. 1/1/23 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 occupant (Monthly Minimum Charge) | \$47.14                |
| 2 occupants (3,600 gallons)         | \$52.32                |
| 3 occupants (5,400 gallons)         | \$67.86                |
| 4 or more occupants (7,200 gallons) | \$83.39                |

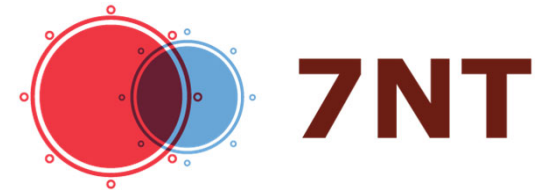
(Rates can be found at: [www.CitizensEnergyGroup.com/My-Home/Rates-Regulatory-Notices](http://www.CitizensEnergyGroup.com/My-Home/Rates-Regulatory-Notices) and are subject to change)



# 54<sup>th</sup> Street/Riverview Drive STEP

## Project Information

- Citizens Energy Group's STEP Team:
  - TSW Utility Solutions, Inc. (Contractor)
  - 7NT Engineering, Inc. (Designer/Quality Control)
  - Covalen (Pump Sales/Service Representative)
- Anticipated Schedule
  - Phase 1: Spring 2023
- Estimated Total Project Cost
  - \$7,000,000



# Pre-Construction

- Project team will meet with property owner to go over grinder pump placement and determine if plumbing or electrical modifications are needed
- Any needed plumbing or electrical modifications are completed by property owner

# Construction

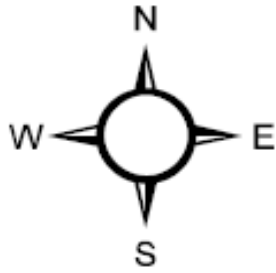


- During construction
  - Contractor will notify property owners in advance of any work taking place on private property
  - Roads will be open and passable
    - Property owners will be notified of any road closures by signage
  - This will be an active construction site, so please keep safety in mind



# Restoration

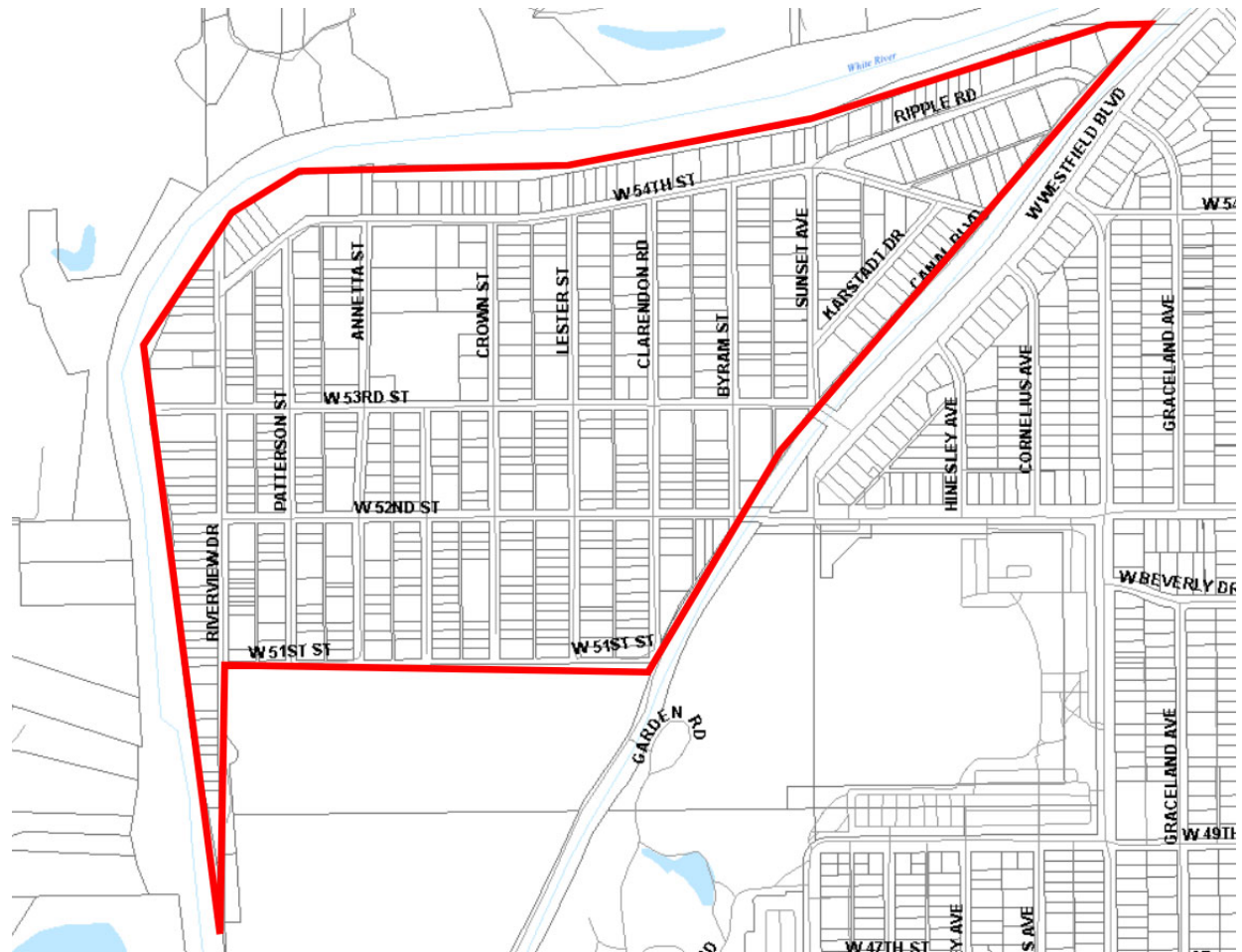
- During Restoration
  - Dirt, seed, and straw will be applied
  - Please water the restored area (if rain is not in the forecast) to encourage seed germination
  - The three-year warranty applies to restoration
    - If settlement occurs, please contact Citizens Energy Group
  - Restoration is typically the longest lasting and most difficult phase of the project; please be patient with Mother Nature

# Project Area Map

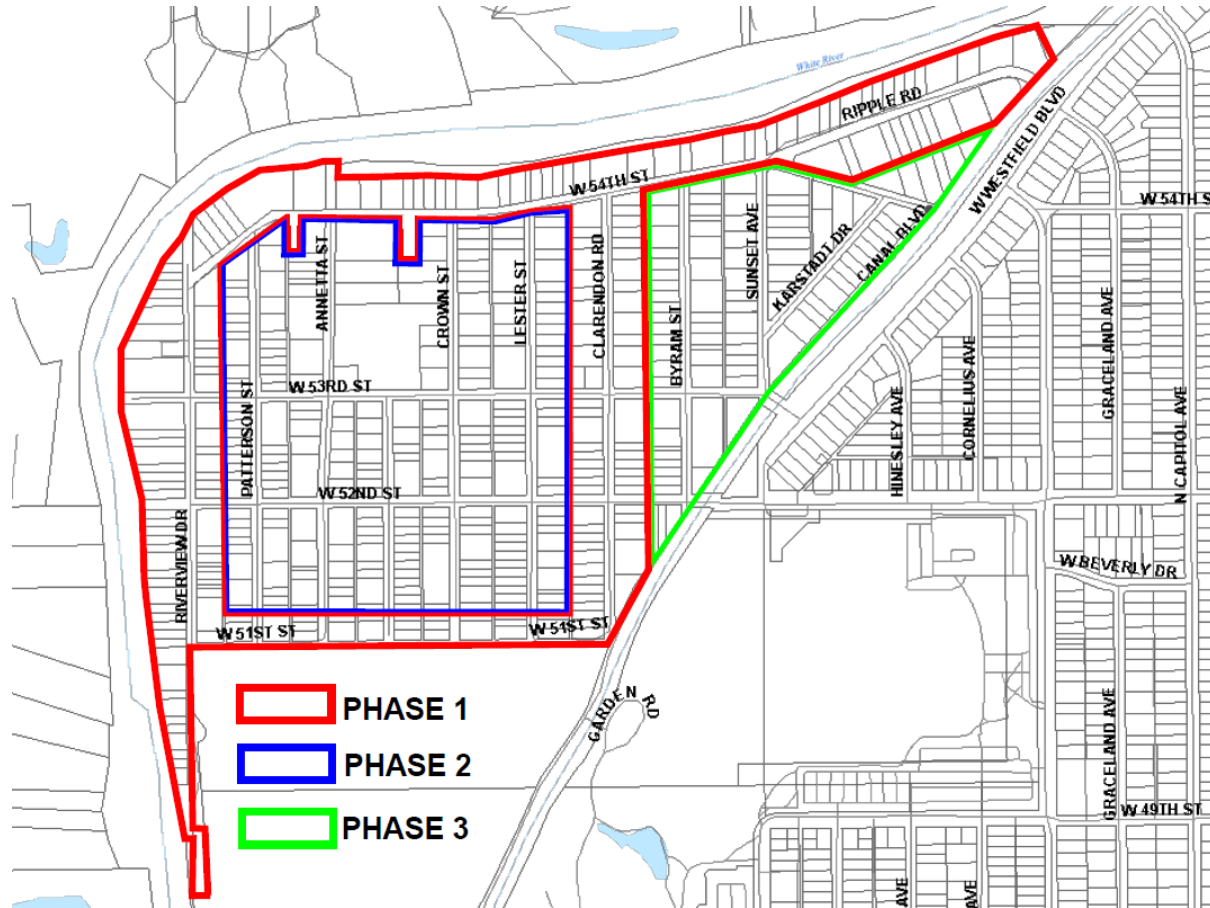


## Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Property Line



# Project Phasing



# Preliminary Project Schedule

| Project Location         | Number of Homes | Enrollment Agreements Sent | 60-Day Offer | Final Offer    | Construction Start | Construction Finish |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 54th/Riverview (Phase 1) | 129             | 1/27/2023                  | 3/31/2023    | 4/10/2023      | May 2023           | September 2023      |
| 54th/Riverview (Phase 2) | 132             | May 2023                   | June 2023    | July 2023      | July 2023          | November 2023       |
| 54th/Riverview (Phase 3) | 61              | July 2023                  | August 2023  | September 2023 | September 2023     | January 2024        |

Note: Schedule subject to change as permits and an easement are still needed before construction can start



# Next Steps

- Please review all documents provided within your packet
- Read and complete the STEP Enrollment Agreement and Questionnaire if you would like to enroll in the project
  - Return using the Business Reply envelope provided in your packet OR email the forms to the project manager (email listed on last slide)



# For additional questions, please reach out to:

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This presentation and other project documentation  
can be found online at:

[www.CitizensEnergyGroup.com/54th-Riverview](http://www.CitizensEnergyGroup.com/54th-Riverview)

