City Drainage

Catch basins collect rain water and transport it to local waterways like the Charles River. This water can carry contaminants from the streets and surrounding areas.

Always use a pooper-scooper when walking your dog.

Never dump pet waste, litter, paint, plastic, used motor oil or antifreeze into catch basins.

Understanding Newton’s Sewer & Drain Collection Systems

This pamphlet is published by the Newton Department of Public Works. Its purpose is to increase public knowledge, understanding, appreciation and care of our water resources.
In Newton, there are two pipes that collect water underground. **Drain Pipes** carry rain water to local streams and ponds, and **Sewer Pipes** carry dirty water (wastewater) from homes to the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Infiltration** is clean water from below the ground (known as groundwater) that enters sewer pipes through cracks in manholes and defective sewer structures.

**Inflow** is rain water that enters sewer pipes through a mistake in the piping which directs rain water to the sewer pipe instead of the drain pipe.

Basement sump pumps are a source of Inflow and should NOT discharge into Newton’s sewer system.

64% of Newton’s sewer flow is **infiltration** and **inflow**, does not need to be treated, and costs rate payers over $10 million per year!

36% of Newton’s sewer flow is **dirty water** and does need to be treated.

Your behavior impacts our environment! Please do your part to help keep Newton’s waters clean.