



POLICY NAME:
**Sewer Cleaning & Tree Root
Management**

POLICY AREA: Utilities

POLICY NO: UT26-001
APPROVAL DATE: February 23, 2026

LAST UPDATED:

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this policy is to:
 - a. Clarify responsibilities between the Town and property owners.
 - b. Establish limits for Town-funded cleaning and reimbursement.

SCOPE

2. This policy applies to all properties connected to the municipal sewer system.

DEFINITIONS

3. **Service Connection (Lateral):** The pipe connecting a property to the sewer main.
 - a. Town responsibility: sewer main to property line
 - b. Property owner responsibility: property line to building
4. **Root Intrusion:** Tree roots entering a sewer line.

PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

5. Property owners are responsible for:
 - a. Maintaining the sewer line from the house all the way out to its connection.
 - b. Managing vegetation and avoiding planting high-risk tree species near sewer lines.
 - c. Hiring contractors for sewer cleaning.
 - d. Maintaining backwater valves, if installed.
 - e. Submitting reimbursement request to the town.
 - f. 100% of the amount of the bill if the blockage was caused by other things aside from tree roots.

TOWN'S RESPONSIBILITIES

6. If tree roots caused the sewer blockage outside the building foundation, the Town will reimburse a portion of the sewer cleaning.
7. The Town will reimburse property owners the amount of the bill per sewer cleaning per year up to a maximum of \$250 and up to a maximum of five payments per property owner.

POLICY REVIEW

8. This policy shall be reviewed every five years or as needed to ensure consistency and relevance.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer