

October 20, 2025 Special Town Meeting
Article 3
Appropriate for Infiltration and Inflow
Frequently Asked Questions



What is infiltration and inflow?

Excess water that flows into sewer pipes from groundwater and stormwater is called infiltration and inflow or I/I. Groundwater infiltration seeps into sewer pipes through holes, cracks, joint failures, and faulty connections. Stormwater inflow rapidly flows into sewers via roof drain downspouts, foundation drains, storm drain cross-connections, and through holes in manhole covers. Most I/I is caused by aging infrastructure that needs maintenance or replacement.

The Town works to reduce additional water in the sewer system because:

- I/I takes up capacity in the sewer pipes and ends up at the wastewater treatment plant where it must be treated like sewage, resulting in higher treatment costs.
- More I/I requires larger wastewater facilities to convey and treat larger volumes of flow, resulting in higher capital expenditures.
- I/I flows contribute to sewer system overflows into local homes and the area waterways, negatively impacting public health and the environment.

Why is Children's Hospital providing funds to the Town for I&I?

The Planning Board issued a Major Project Special Permit to Children's Hospital for its development at 360 First Avenue, which included a condition requiring Children's Hospital to remove an amount of inflow and infiltration of wastewater into the Town's sewer system equal to four times the net increased sewage flow due to the development of the Pediatric Medical Facility. Children's opted to meet this requirement by paying a fee to the Town's Inflow and Infiltration Program at a rate of \$8.00 per gallon required to be removed.

How will the Town expend the funds?

This article applies the \$132,000 required payment from Children's Hospital to the Town's Inflow and Infiltration program, which funds investigation studies and subsequent sewer repairs at locations throughout town, including but not limited to the rehabilitation of the Town's interceptor sewer along Route 128.

Why is Town Meeting action required?

Town Meeting action is required to appropriate the funds for their intended purpose.