

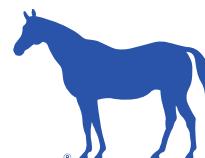
PILOT PROGRAM

SEWER CLEANOUT INSTALLATION COST SHARE

Charles H. Martin, P.E.

Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

February 3, 2026



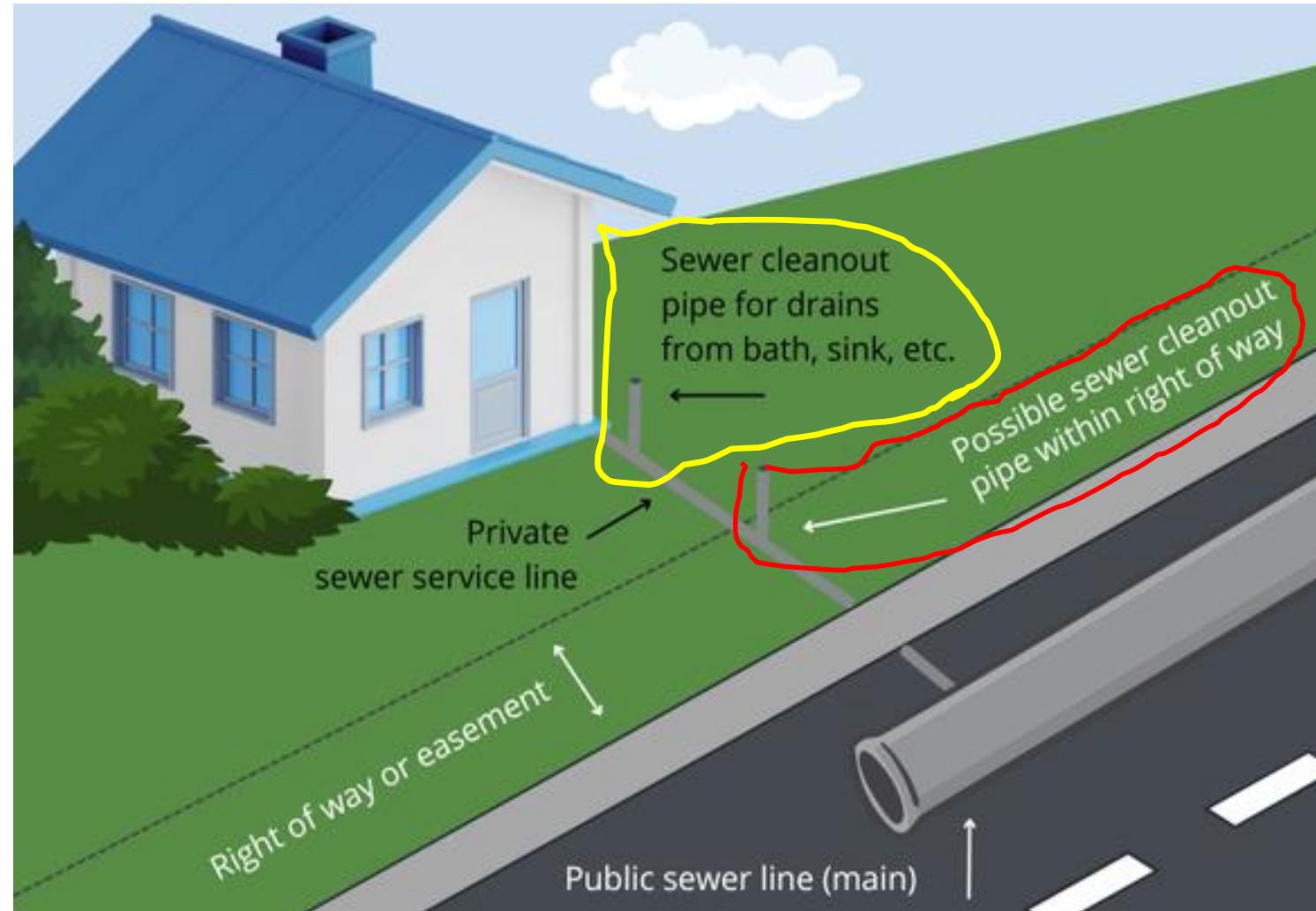
LEXINGTON

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The lack of properly located two-way cleanouts at many of Lexington's private residences leads to delays in diagnosing sewer stoppages and repairing failed sewer laterals

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

- Sewer pipe failures cause backups and overflows.
- Sewer pipe failures occur in both publicly owned and privately owned sewer pipes.
- Older parts of the sewer system were built in a way that makes it very difficult to determine if the failure is in the public part or the private part of the sewer pipes serving a property.
- The installation of a two-way clean out assembly is the first step in diagnosing the problem.



TYPICAL SANITARY SEWER LAYOUT

- Public sewer main collects waste from multiple properties.
- Private sewer service lateral serves individual properties.
- Manholes are used to clean and access the sewer main.
- Clean outs can be used to clean and access the lateral.
- Key Points

Original:

Lateral lines come from homes and connect to the main sewer line at or near the street. Mains in the back or side yards are located in easements. These lateral lines are often damaged by tree roots and cause sewer backups.

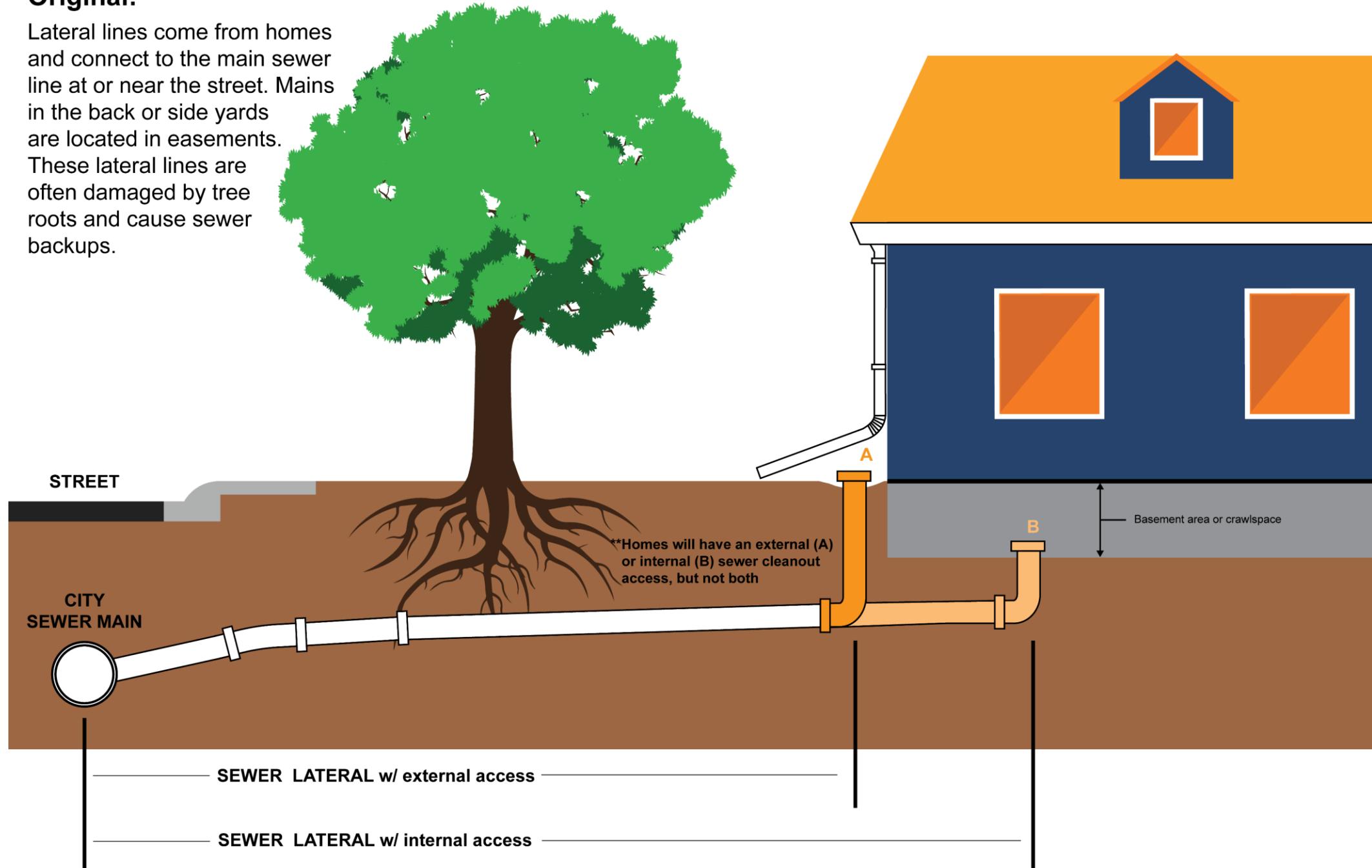


Diagram A:

Damaged sewer lateral from tree intrusion. Sewer cleanout access is **inside** the property line.

City crews can't access cleanouts inside the property line or outside the easement. A new cleanout will need to be installed at the property or easement line.

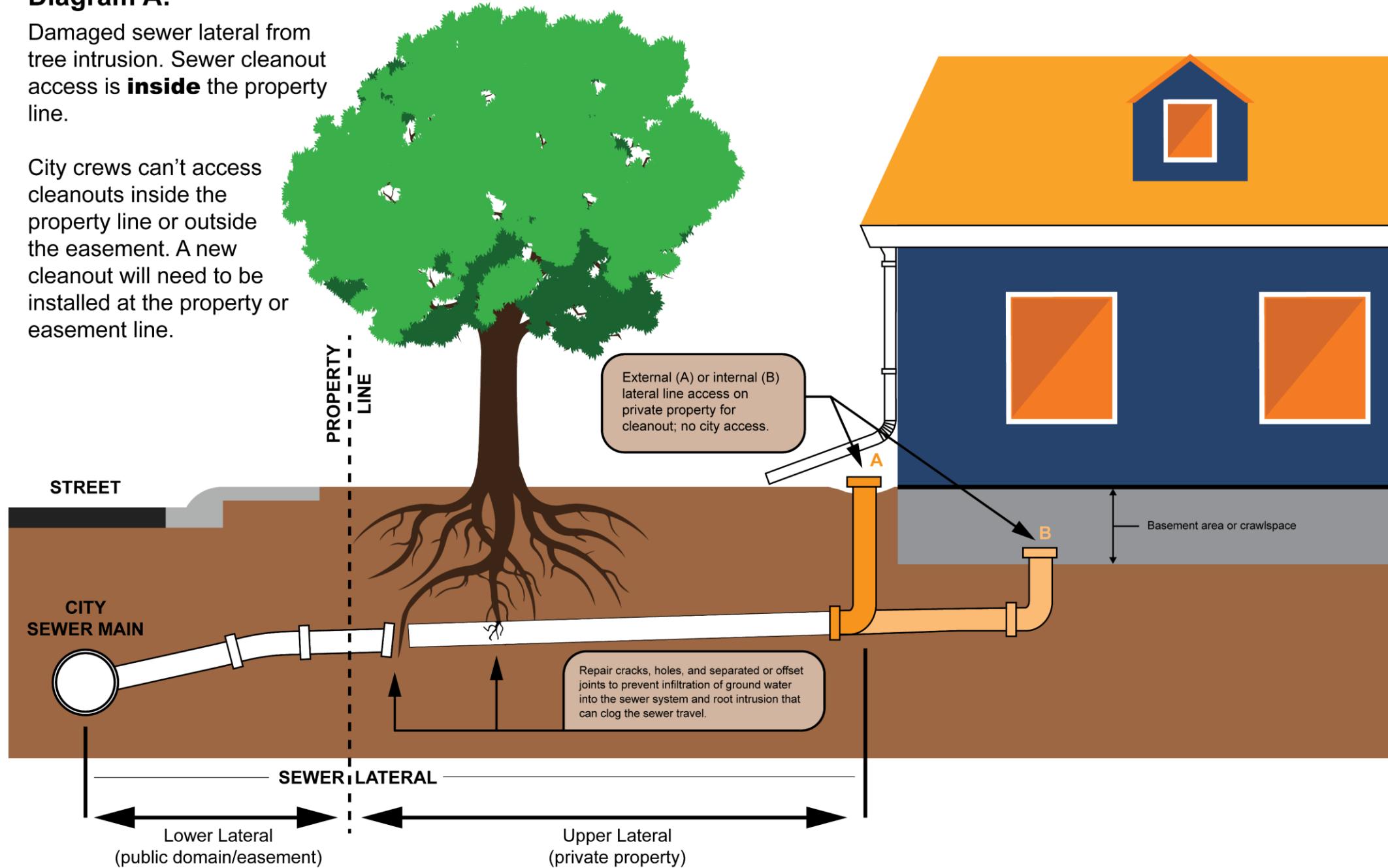
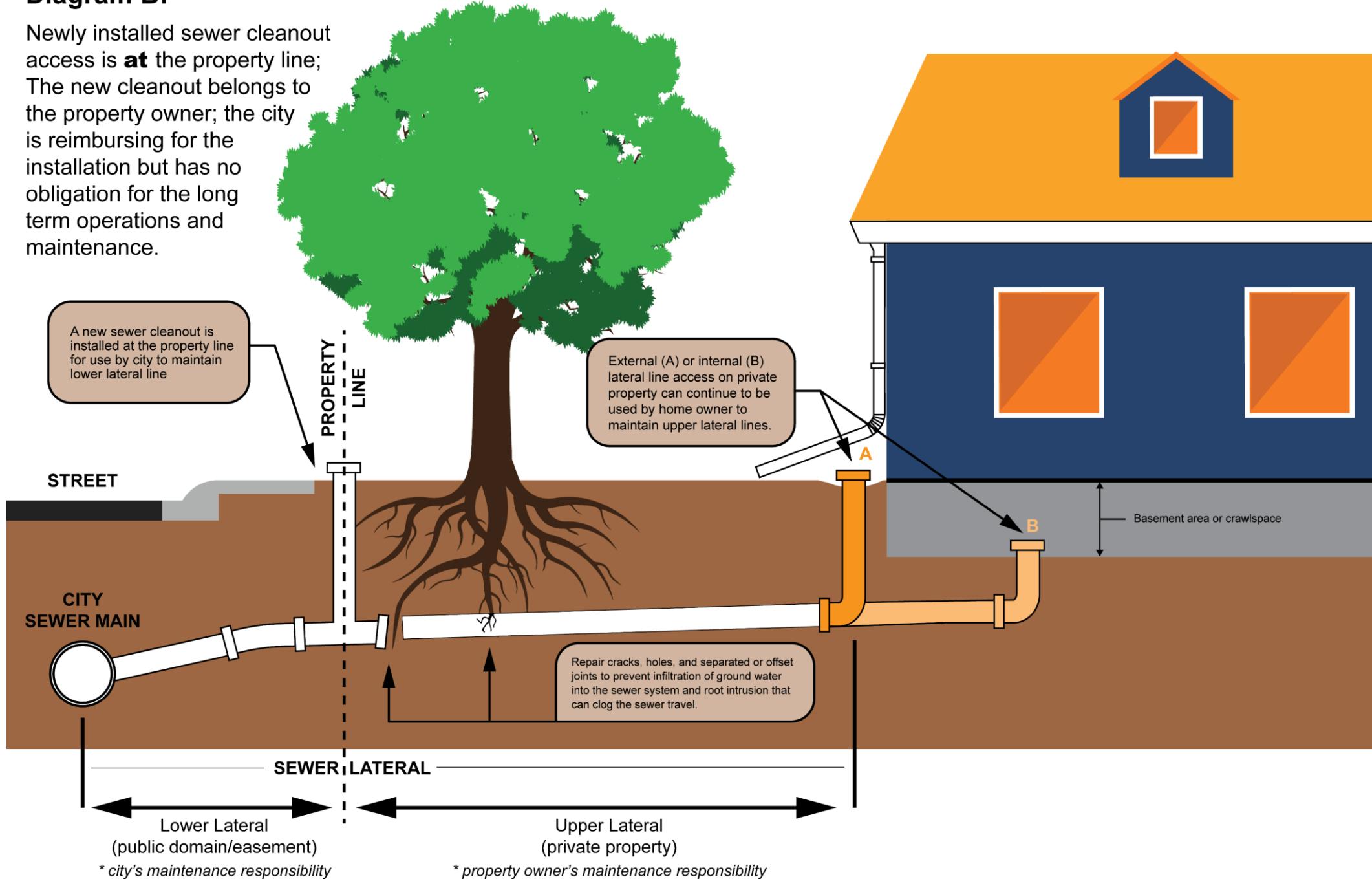


Diagram B:

Newly installed sewer cleanout access is **at** the property line; The new cleanout belongs to the property owner; the city is reimbursing for the installation but has no obligation for the long term operations and maintenance.



What's the Benefit and Downside to Having a New Two-Way Cleanout Installed at the Property Line?

Downside

1. Intrusive excavation in the yard or driveway to dig up the pipe and install the cleanout.
2. Cost of having the work completed.

Benefit

1. Entire service lateral can be cleaned from outside your house.
2. No disagreements on who has responsibility for correcting the defect causing the backup or overflow.
3. Reduces operating costs associated with repeat service calls.

Why aren't we already installing two-way cleanouts at the property line?

1. Homes built in the last 15 years were required to have them.
2. Older homes would need to install them in their yards – on private property.

What is Water Quality Proposing as a Solution to the Problem?

Consider starting a pilot program modeled after the sidewalk replacement program. Steps would include:

1. Verify the need and provide guidance materials to the property owner (list of qualified contractors and cost reimbursement information).
2. Property owner contracts for completing the work and restoration.
3. DWQ issues the reimbursement based on program criteria.

Next Steps?

1. Obtain guidance from EQPW committee.
2. Engage stakeholders (internal DWQ staff, CAO's office, plumbing contactors, etc.).
3. Compile feedback and guidance and develop the framework for how a pilot program might work and get FY27 funding guidance from the Department of Finance.
4. Report back thru this committee or via the Mayor's proposed FY27 budget.



Questions?

