Approximately 1,200 Southfield properties remain on septic systems.

### Fast Facts
- **Reduced connection fee to tap-in to city sewer:** $5,000
- **3 years**
- **The average septic to sewer loan in Southfield is $9,448.57**
  - with an annual payment of $791.47

*In addition to tap in fee and other factors outlined in this brochure.*

The City offers homeowners a loan program with 3% interest and an 18-year amortization for sanitary sewer hook-up.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL IMPACT OF A FAILED SEPTIC SYSTEM

A properly maintained and functioning septic system is imperative to the health, safety and welfare of not only your family, but the entire community. When septic systems are properly inspected and maintained on a routine basis, they can serve as a safe waste management alternative. However, when not properly inspected or maintained, they can cause contamination of surface and groundwater resources, which leads to public health and pollution problems.

A septic system failure causes untreated sewage to be released and transported to where it shouldn’t be. This may cause sewage to come to the surface of the ground around the tank or the drainfield or to back up in pipes in the home.

The disadvantages of septic tanks stem from the fact that maintenance and repairs are solely the responsibility of homeowners. Also, the capacity of septic systems is more limited than that of city sewage lines as they need ongoing maintenance at the homeowner’s expense.

Septic tanks must be regularly pumped to prevent backups and overflow. Additionally, a septic system that is not properly inspected and maintained can also adversely affect the home’s value and the homeowner’s ability to sell the property.

For more information, contact Code Enforcement at (248) 796-4140.
How do I get my septic system inspected?
A list of certified inspectors is available from Code Enforcement. Contact the inspector of your choice and schedule an on-site sewage evaluation. On-site sewage evaluation forms are available from Code Enforcement and must be filled out by the contractor during the system evaluation or may be downloaded at www.cityofsouthfield.com.

My septic system did not pass inspection. What should I do?
If your septic system fails inspection, you have two options:
1) Connect to city sewer. The cost of connecting to the sanitary sewer varies depending on the distance from the house or building to the sewer line and the topography of the property.
2) Repair your broken septic system per local and state guidelines.

How much will it cost to connect to the city sewer system?
The cost of connecting to the sanitary sewer system is made up of two sums: the connection fee paid to the City of Southfield covering the cost of the sewer system and the installation fee charged by the contractor. The connection fee is $5,000. Installation fees vary by property depending upon the distance from the house or building to the sewer line and the topography of the terrain.

WHAT IS ORDINANCE 1571?
• Property owners with septic systems must have their systems inspected every three years by a Certified Inspector.
• If a septic system fails inspection, owners have the option to connect to the city sewer OR repair their septic system.