



City of Chicago  
Rahm Emanuel  
Mayor



Department of Water Management  
Thomas H. Powers, P.E.  
Commissioner

## WATER MANAGEMENT CUSTOMER NOTICE

July 8, 2011

Dear Neighbor,

At Alderman Cochran's request, I am providing you with information regarding a sewer construction project in your neighborhood. I want to be certain you are well informed about the project, and that you know where to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Our crews will soon be installing a new sewer main in S. Indiana Avenue, from E. Garfield Boulevard to E. 57<sup>th</sup> Street. The old pipe dates back to 1889 and needs to be replaced.

We are coordinating with Alderman Cochran's office, and he has made clear we are to put great importance on your convenience and the quality of life in this neighborhood through the whole term of this project. Good communication is the key.

I have asked my staff to assemble the attached information for you and to monitor the project closely. We know that construction always involves inconveniences and noise. We will do everything possible to minimize inconvenience and noise and to conduct ourselves as good and thoughtful neighbors in the course of our presence on your street.

If you have questions or comments about the project, please feel free to contact Assistant Commissioner Tom LaPorte at 312-742-1029 at any time, you may leave a message.

Thank you for your understanding and good will.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Powers  
Commissioner

cc: Alderman Willie Cochran  
20th Ward



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## INDIANA SEWER PROJECT HISTORY

Do you wonder what was happening in 1889? That's the year the old sewer was installed beneath your street. Among other things:

### Hull House



- Hull House was opened by Miss Jane Addams at 800 S. Halsted, helping hundreds of Chicago immigrants gain a place of self-respect in society.
- The first train load of fruit, oranges, left Los Angeles for the east coast.
- Benjamin Harrison won the American presidency despite Grover Cleveland's larger share of the popular vote.
- The first concrete reinforced bridge was built.
- The Chicago Auditorium opened. President Harrison made a visit.
- Charlie Chaplin was born.
- Bayer introduced aspirin in powder form, in Germany.
- The first jukeboxes were placed in bars and arcades.
- The Wall Street Journal began publication.
- The Oklahoma land rush officially started.



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## **INDIANA SEWER PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**Project:** The Department of Water Management will be installing a new sewer main in S. Indiana Avenue, from E. Garfield Boulevard to E. 57<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Reason:** The old pipe dates back to 1889 and needs to be replaced. The area bounded by Garfield Boulevard on the north, 59<sup>th</sup> Street on the south, Prairie Avenue on the east and Michigan Avenue on the west will benefit from improved drainage and reduced risk of flooding.

**Timing:** Work will begin shortly, with completion anticipated for late November. This includes restoration of the damaged streets/parkways. Dates may change depending on weather and other factors. If there is any appreciable change, we will notify you.

**Traffic:** Our excavation and the equipment involved all take up space, and safety, of course, is the foremost consideration. We may have some closures to "through traffic". You will always have access to your property.

**Parking:** We will post our work area for "No Parking" as needed, during work hours. We are agreeable to parking outside of those hours, but will have to insist that cars be moved by the start of the next workday. We will try to preserve as much parking as we can.

### **CONTACT NUMBERS**

**24-HOUR SERVICE AND INFORMATION LINE  
3-1-1**

**ALDERMAN WILLIE COCHRAN  
773-955-5610**

**ASSISTANT WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSIONER TOM LAPORTE  
312-742-1029**



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## INDIANA SEWER PROJECT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Will our sewer or water service be interrupted?** Neither should be. But we can't be absolutely certain. Whenever you are doing heavy construction, there are bound to be surprises. Sometimes we find a water service from a house well away from where our records indicate it is. Sometimes, old pipes are brittle and prone to breaking when there is the vibration of digging.

**Will I get notice if there is a shutdown?** We will try to give you notice prior to a shutdown. But it all depends on the circumstances. If necessary, we will perform the emergency shutdown immediately and then tell you about it. Safety and avoiding property damage are prime considerations.

**What about restoration of curb and parkway damage?** When we finish the job, we will pave the street and address curb and parkway issues. We promise to leave your parkway and curb at least as good as we found them.

**What about improvements I've made in the parkway?** If there are ornamental plants, brickwork, sprinkling systems, etc., in your parkway, we certainly try to avoid them. The City of Chicago, however, cannot assume responsibility for privately made improvements. We will work with you to avoid any problems along these lines.

**Why should I be nice about this?** We are renewing your neighborhood and helping reduce the risk of local flooding during heavy rain. We intend to be good neighbors, although we are aware that our work is inherently disruptive. We will work with neighbors, Alderman Cochran, and others, to ensure that this disruption is minimal and that the experience is as agreeable as possible.