

# Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility

Sewer Backup Prevention

Cost Sharing Program





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## Program Overview

The Sewer Backup Prevention Cost Sharing Program provides reimbursements to eligible property owners throughout Lowell to reduce the risk of the sewer backups into their homes and businesses. The reimbursement program is being financed through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); funds will be awarded on a first-come first approved basis. The last date to apply is November 1, 2024.

Property owners connected to the City sewer system who are at a greater risk of experiencing sewer backups can apply to receive a reimbursement of up to \$5,000 for piping modifications made to prevent sewage backup from the City's sewer system during rain events. Eligibility for reimbursement is determined and must be approved by the City prior to starting work.

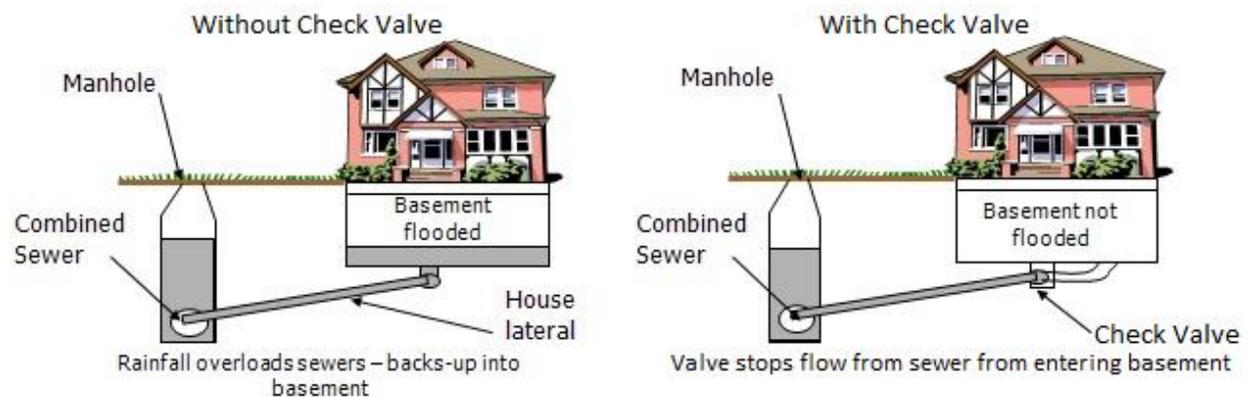
### Am I Eligible?

If you **own** property within Lowell that is connected to the combined sewer system you may be eligible. Eligibility will be determined based on several factors such if the property has a history of experiencing sewer backups or the area is known to flood as a result of the combined sewer system reaching capacity. Prequalified areas have been assessed to have historical record or increased potential of sewer backup occurring.

To determine if your property has been prequalified look up your address using this link: <https://arcs.is/1ibi590>; prequalified properties have been highlighted.

If you are interested in participating in the program and believe that you qualify please contact Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility (LRWWU) at (978)-674-4248 or email [jpugh@lowellma.gov](mailto:jpugh@lowellma.gov) to schedule an inspection.

This program is **not** intended to address backups and basement flooding associated with overland surface flooding unrelated to the City sewer system or caused by blockages, intrusions, or other defects within private service laterals or City sewer mainlines.





## Additional Information:

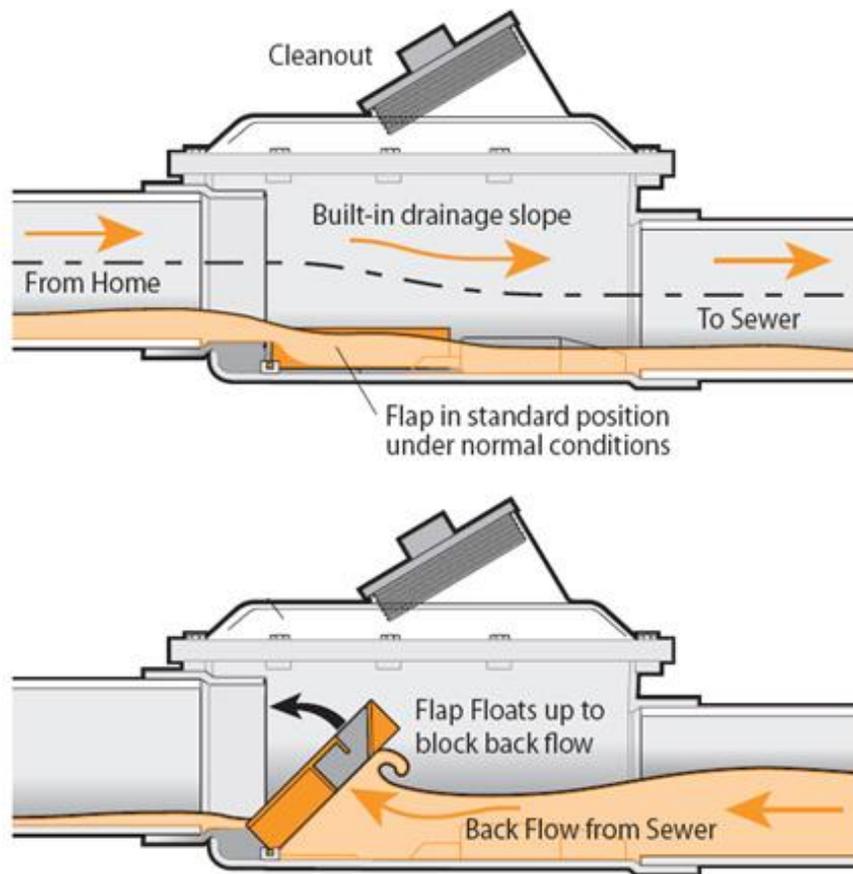
During heavy rain events the [combined sewer system](#) can reach capacity, resulting in sewer backups and street flooding. Piping modifications, such as the installation of a check valve, can be performed in order to reduce the risk and severity of a sewer backup. Excess flow from rain and groundwater entering the sewer system is known as inflow and infiltration.

### Why is it Important to Reduce Inflow and Infiltration?

Reducing extra flow from entering the combined sewer system reduces the overall volume within the sewer system. This reduction decreases the potential for overloading the system, resulting in less surcharging and ultimately fewer situations that could result in sewer backup occurring. Additionally, reducing the amount of excess flow in the system makes for a more efficient treatment process, saving the city money.

### What is a Check Valve installation and How Does It Work?

A check valve is a type of valve that can be installed on your lateral sewer service that works to prevent flow from backing up into your property. During normal conditions the 'flapper' valve remains open in the direction of the flow. During heavy rain events the flow will begin to travel up the sewer lateral and the valve will close to prevent sewage from backing up any further up the lateral. While the valve is closed during a heavy rain event flow will also be blocked leaving the property, do not use water until the storm has subsided.



Check valves typically need periodic inspection and maintenance to ensure they continue operating properly. **It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain the check valve.**





## Reimbursable Costs

### Eligible Costs:

#### For Outdoor Work:

- Locating, excavating, and exposing lateral sewer service
- Installing approved check valve/backwater valve, etc. on the existing sewer lateral
- Grass seeding to restore disrupted green spaces
- Permit fees

#### For Indoor Work:

- Concrete floor trenching and repairs
- Installing approved check valve/backwater valve
- Permit Fees

### Ineligible Costs:

- Use of materials that do not meet requirements of [City Ordinances and Codes](#) and MA [Uniform State Plumbing Code](#)
- Ancillary property improvements unrelated to providing protection from sewer backups
- Repairs to sewer lateral and internal plumbing unrelated to the installation of a backup prevention system



Sewer Backup Prevention Cost Sharing Program

Program Application: Form A

Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility
451 First St. Blvd Lowell, MA 01850

-----To Be Completed By Homeowner-----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own the property: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of scope of work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Discharges to:

Do your roof gutters connect underground? Yes No \_\_\_\_\_

Does your property have a yard drain? Yes No \_\_\_\_\_

Does your property have an exterior perimeter drain? Yes No \_\_\_\_\_

Have you filled out a Lowell Sewer and Street Flooding Issues Survey? Yes No

https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b250f82d120b407e8d06b14a6ae792d9/page/Take-the-Survey!/

How many sewer backups have you experienced at this property? \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor/Plumber Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Value of selected quote for work (\$): \_\_\_\_\_

Written proposal, drawing, and quote(s) must be submitted with this form



Sewer Backup Prevention Cost Sharing Program

Program Application: Form A (Continued)

-----**To Be Completed By City**-----

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Approval Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Approved as noted: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Not Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for non-approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Returned: \_\_\_\_\_



## Sewer Backup Prevention Cost Sharing Program

### Program Application: Form B

#### Applicant's Responsibilities and Agreement

The property owner (applicant) accepts responsibility for completing the work, the quality of the work, and maintenance or repairs required. This work is completed by the property owner and is the property owner's responsibility. Backflow preventers and pumps often require regular maintenance to work properly, therefore property owners should familiarize themselves with any products installed.

Please be aware:

- Applicant must use provided forms
- Applicant assumes all responsibility for compliance with the program
- Applicant assumes all responsibility for completion of work
- Applicant assumes responsibility of all cleaning and maintenance of the installed system
- Applicant shall not find the City liable for system failures, future claims related to unacceptable workmanship, or any damage resulting from sanitary sewer backups or flooding, or any claims of any nature regarding the work of the contractor.
- Applicant acknowledges that no system is fail proof and any work performed pursuant to the program does not guarantee the elimination of all risk of sanitary sewer backups.
- Applicant acknowledges that participation in the program is voluntary.

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Applicant’s Responsibilities and Agreement

Program Application: Form B (Continued)

**I understand and agree** that the City of Lowell established the Sewer Backup Prevention Reimbursement Program to assist property owners in protecting their home/business from flooding due to sewer backups. The program provides a cost share of up to a maximum reimbursement of \$5,000.

**Prior to the installation** of any plumbing work, quotes for the proposed work shall be submitted to the City for review and approval. No work shall commence until City’s approval is obtained. The City shall be notified to inspect the work once complete.

**Reimbursement** of eligible items will be made after the work is completed, inspected and approved by the City. A completed “Request for Reimbursement” form must be completed and submitted with a detailed invoice.

**Liability:** The City shall have no liability for any defective work or other damage, injury and/or loss on account of any act or omission of the Contractor in the performance of the work. The Property owner shall make any claim for such matters directly against the Contractor or Contractor’s insurance carrier. The Property owner hereby agrees to indemnify and hold City harmless against any and all claims and further covenants not to sue the City for any and all claims, as no system is absolutely fail safe.

**Disclaimer-**The program is designed to substantially reduce the risk of basement backups. However, there is always some risk of basement backups as a result of unexpected sewer collapse, obstruction, power failure, extreme environmental conditions or other unforeseen factors. All footing drains, storm water tiles, perimeter drains, and other storm or ground water systems must be disconnected from the sanitary system. Storm water/ground water discharges shall be disposed of properly

**Breach-** If the Property owner fails to comply with all requirements of this Agreement or to complete installation as provided in this Agreement, the City shall have no obligation to reimburse the Property owner.

I understand and agree with all the above statements and agree to comply accordingly.

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Property Owner (Printed Name)	Signature	Date
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Property Address



Sewer Backup Prevention Cost Sharing Program

Program Application: Form C

Request for Reimbursement

-----To Be Completed By Property Owner-----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date work was completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Plumbing permit number issued: \_\_\_\_\_

(attach copy of permit)

Contractor who performed work: \_\_\_\_\_

(attach copy of contract invoice)

Total cost of eligible expenses: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount of reimbursement requested: \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner Certification**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am the property owner of the premises indicated above and I certify that all the information contained on the Request for Reimbursement Form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Request for Reimbursement  
Program Application: Form C (Continued)

-----**To Be Completed By Contractor**-----

**Plumber/Contractor Certification**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ certify that all work completed under this program has been performed in accordance with the Sewer Backup Prevention Reimbursement Program and all applicable City Ordinances and Codes, and 248 CMR 10.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

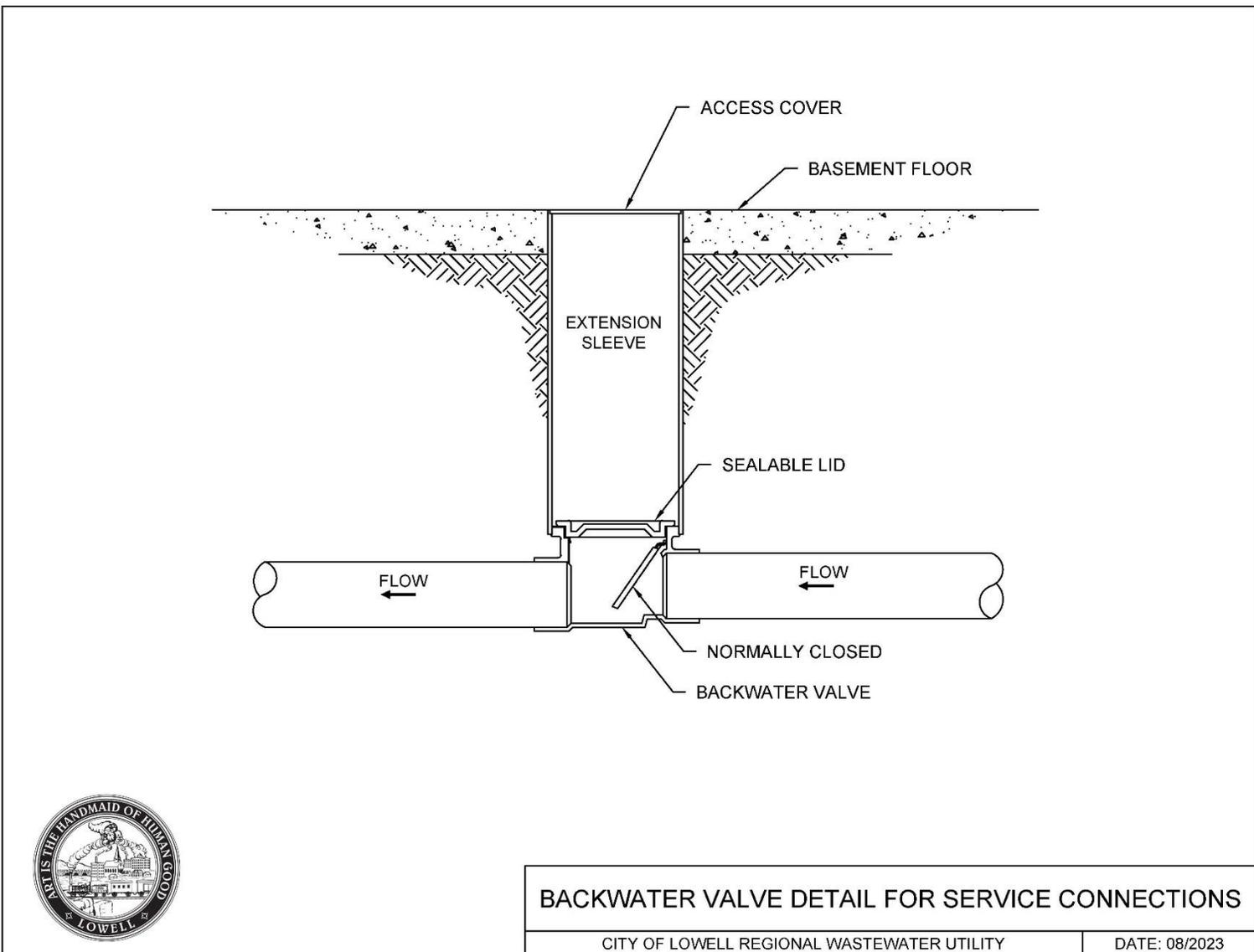
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

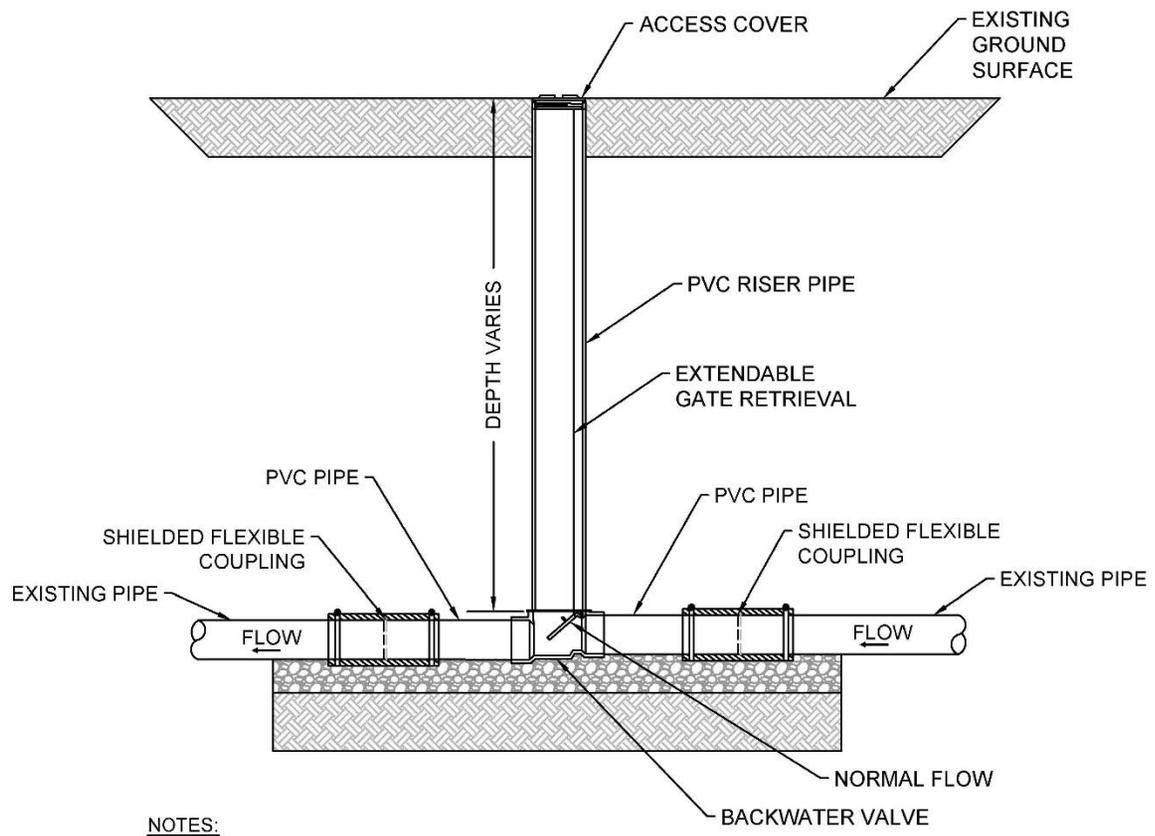
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# Check Valve Standard Installation Examples



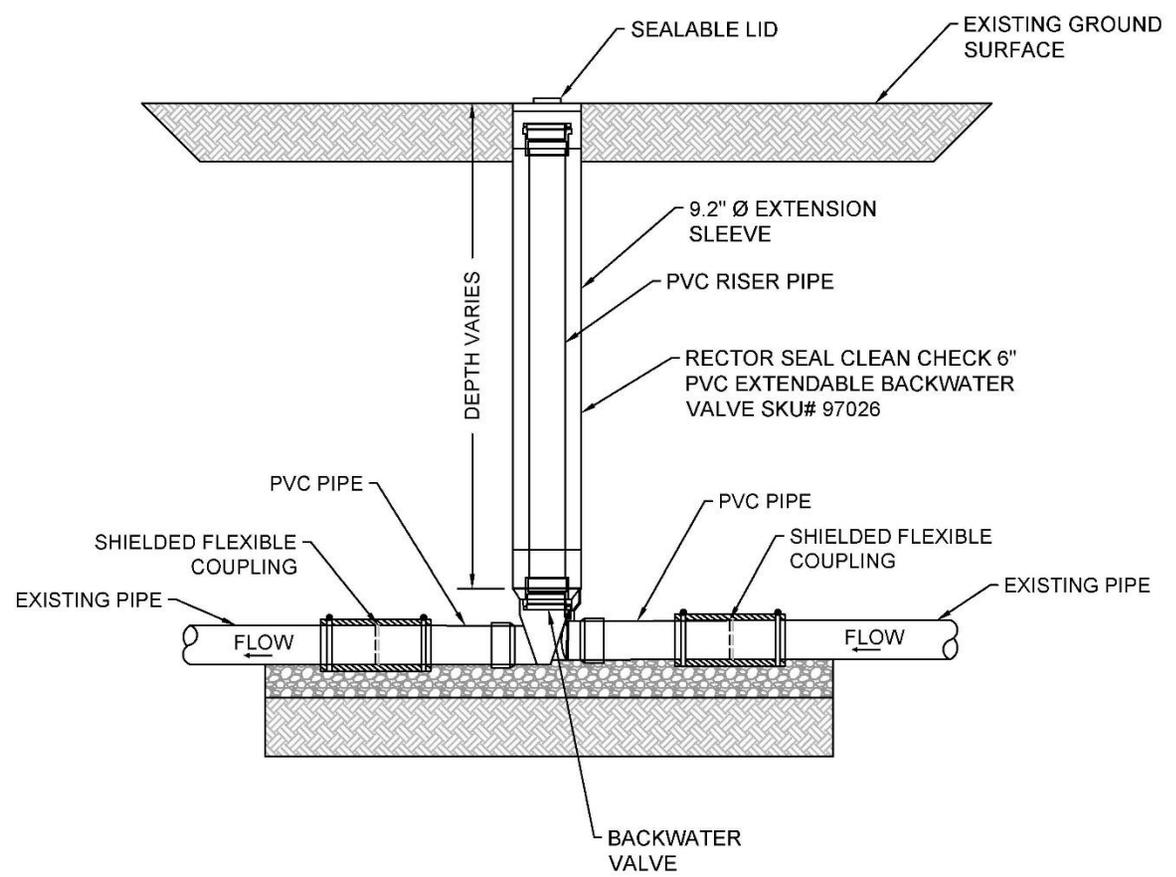


NOTES:

1. BACKWATER VALVE MUST BE ACCESSIBLE FOR MAINTENANCE.
2. USE OF AN EXTENSION KIT SUPPLIED TO THE MANUFACTURER AND INSTALLED BY THE CONTRACTOR IS ACCEPTABLE.



<b>EXTENDABLE BACKWATER VALVE DETAIL FOR EXTERIOR CONNECTION</b>	
CITY OF LOWELL REGIONAL WASTEWATER UTILITY	DATE: 08/2023



BACKWATER VALVE DETAIL FOR EXTERIOR CONNECTION - RECTOR SEAL

CITY OF LOWELL REGIONAL WASTEWATER UTILITY	DATE: 08/2023
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