

Sunset series



What's under my road?



You may think a road is just pavement or concrete with painted lanes, road signs, signals, curbs, and sidewalks. But have you ever stopped to consider what's beneath it?

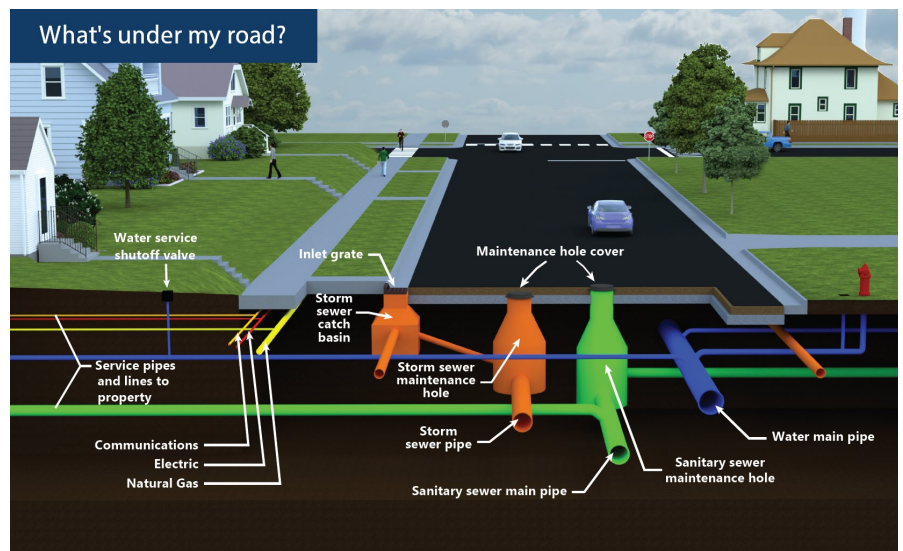
Utilities: underground infrastructure providing essential services

Below the road surface is a vast network of public and private utilities that provide the community with essential services like clean water, waste disposal, stormwater drainage, natural gas, electricity and communications.

Like the road surface, the infrastructure carrying underground utilities wear down over time, requiring updates and replacement to continue to serve the community. This is the case for Sunset Drive, where many utilities have been untouched for more than 50 years.

Here are some of the utility services underneath Sunset Drive:

- **Water main** – Clean water is necessary for homes, businesses and community infrastructure to function. But how does it get there? Every day, water leaves City of Spring Park's water treatment plant and is pumped through the watermain underground pipe network, branching off and connecting to every property that isn't connected to a well.
- **Sanitary sewer** – Used water is wastewater. It travels out of your home through a sanitary sewer pipe and connects to the larger sanitary sewer network. It is delivered to a wastewater treatment plant to remove pollutants and safely return the water to the environment.
- **Storm sewer** – Storm sewers help protect against possibilities of standing water and – over time – erosion, as well as pollutants and sediments ending up directly into our waterways. The storm sewer network collects rainwater runoff from the road surface and drains to local waterways through the stormwater network via catch basins, pipes, and ditches.
- **Private utilities** – Utilities such as natural gas, electricity, phone and cable, which are not provided by a government agency and instead by a private company, also travel underground near the road. These utilities are typically located under the boulevard or sidewalk.



Learn more about the project at www.hennepin.us/sunset-drive

Sunset series



What's under my road?



Replacing utilities take time and coordination

Replacing underground utilities is a complex process that takes time and coordination to ensure work gets done safely and service disruptions are limited.

Because utilities are owned and provided by different groups, such as regional and local government agencies and private suppliers, coordination is needed before any work can begin. These efforts limit service impacts to your home and keep the project moving along.

Before construction begins, you will see people marking the roadway and right of way and placing color-coded flags throughout the project area. The painted markings and flags identify the location of all the underground utilities, so construction crews know where to dig and replace them.

On the right a list of the colors used to identify different underground utilities.

When construction begins, one of the first activities is utility replacement. Crews will remove the existing roadway and dig at least six feet deep to access the utility segments.



White - Proposed Excavation



Pink - Temporary Survey Markings



Red - Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables



Yellow - Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials



Orange - Communication, Alarm, or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit and Traffic Loops



Blue - Potable Water



Purple - Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines



Green - Sewer and Drain Lines



At the same time, they need to install temporary pipe networks to provide services while removing the old and installing the new permanent utility infrastructure.

When the work is done, crews need to replace the soils to install the new roadway. This is a time-consuming process, often taking months to complete.

There are thousands of feet of utilities under Sunset Drive, so we anticipate it will take a while to complete this work. This work is typically done in sections to ensure that people continue to have access in the area.

While all of this takes time to complete, the new utilities under and around Sunset Drive will serve the Spring Park community for years to come. And, replacing them now should mean fewer needs to dig up the road and right of way for repairs.

Watch a short video

If you want to learn more about what's underneath your road, watch this [brief video](#).

Share your thoughts using the online comment map at www.hennepin.us/sunset-drive