

**PRESS RELEASE:** July 16, 2019

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A program to evaluate the City of Boone's sanitary sewer system is continuing in high gear. The City's Engineering Department working with WHKS & Co., an engineering consultant, continues inspecting the sanitary sewer system for signs of excessive wear and tear, as well as for structural defects and storm water pipeline cross connections.

Smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system is being conducted in August. Areas to be tested include neighborhoods between Main Street and Division Street north of College Street; the Airport; and creek crossings around town. Approximately 60,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer pipe will be tested with smoke. It is hoped that these tests will lead the Engineering Department to defects that can be economically repaired.

Non-toxic smoke will be introduced into sewer pipe sections under moderate pressure. Engineering personnel will observe and document where the smoke is emitted. An inspection crew will travel throughout the city, lifting manhole lids, setting out testing equipment, and entering yards to observe and record the smoke testing.

Since the smoke will be placed into the sewer system that is connected to each home in Boone, residents are requested to pour tap water into their floor drains and sinks. This small amount of water creates a seal that keeps the smoke out of the homes. Dry traps, drains without traps, and other plumbing defects will allow the smoke to enter the dwelling connected to the sewer line that is being tested. The smoke is non-toxic, leaves no residue, and creates no fire hazard. If smoke does enter, open the window and allow it to dissipate. It may also be desirable to contact a plumber if the smoke enters the house through other than a dry drain trap.

The City will provide regular updates to social media on the locations and dates that testing activities will occur.

Smoke testing is most effective when performed during the times that the ground is dry, such as August and September. WHKS & Co. and the City thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

*If citizens have any questions, they may call Angie Kolz of WHKS & Co. at (515) 450-5359*

# Smoke Testing Locations August 5-16

