Options for Down Spout Removal

Downspouts that go underground with no known discharge point are most likely connected to the sanitary sewer system. This can be confirmed with smoke & dye testing.

A more expensive approach involves rerouting storm water to a safe location away from the building foundation.

The least expensive repair alternative is to plug the pipe with concrete and install a splash block.

Other options might include landscaping changes or the addition of a rain barrel.

Illegal connections and your sewer utility.
Your community’s sewer facilities are designed to “collect”, transport, and treat waste, or dirty water, from homes and businesses. When downspouts, yard drains, and sump pumps are connected to sewer lines, they let clean or rain water into the system. Which is then treated the same as wastewater, at the same cost. It’s like throwing money down the drain!!!

In addition, this clean water can overload the sewer facilities. These overloads often result in raw sewage being discharged into the environment, creating a public health hazard.

The City is under Ohio EPA Findings & Orders to reduce inflow and infiltration into the City’s sewer collection facilities, specifically requiring removal of illegal connections.

Downspouts / Yard Drains
Downspouts and yard drains are the easiest storm water connections to locate and correct.

Why should I participate?
First of all because it is illegal to discharge clean water into the sewer facilities. And second, because there will be financial assistance to help property owners remediate these discharges.

Why is X doing a downspout removal program?

What’s next?
1. The contractor for the project, QES, will be inspecting the outside of your property. You will be notified prior to the inspections and all QES staff will have an I.D. badge.
2. If illegal connections are identified, the City will work with the property owner to find an alternative outlet for storm water.
3. Properties with documented problems will be offered financial assistance to incentivize repairs.