



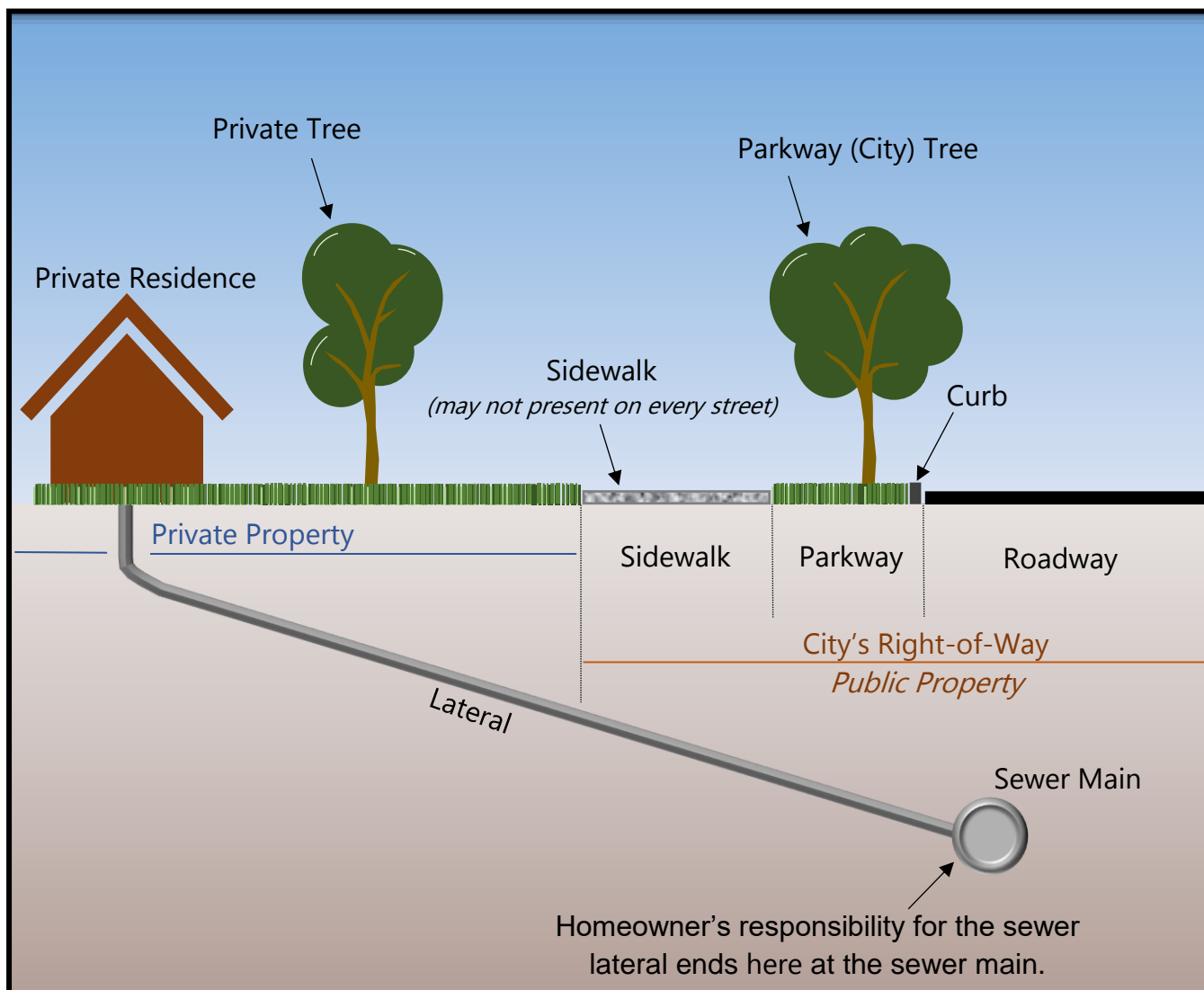
CITY OF COVINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

pw@covinaca.gov | (626) 384-5220

Tree Roots and Sewer Laterals

Trees require water and nutrients in order to survive and will seek out the easiest source for both. Generally, when roots encounter the sewer lateral, nothing will happen because they will grow over and around the lateral. However, if there is a leak, however small, tiny hair-like roots will enter the lateral and rapidly grow on the nutrient rich material. Eventually, these roots may block the lateral and back-up the system. As the homeowner, in order to prevent root intrusion, please maintain and ensure the integrity of your sewer lateral.



Homeowner responsibilities

Homeowners are required to maintain the lateral from their home, to the main sewer line, typically located in the street, which includes the portion that may be located within the City right-of-way (under the roadway, parkway tree, and sidewalk). Maintaining the lateral includes keeping the lateral line flowing and free of debris such as tree roots. Parkway trees will not be removed solely for roots in sewer laterals.