

The question propounded in this report involves a clear definition by what is meant by the term "trunk sewer".

Where large areas only are involved there is generally little confusion as to the significance of this term, but, as the drainage areas decrease, the trunk sewer merges insensibly into a "lateral sewer".

Attempt has been made to fix limitations by the text of location, by terming all those sewers, "trunks" which are located outside of streets. This method, however reasonable within developed areas, fails when plans are developed for undivided tracts. For example, referring to detailed plat A4282.1 it is quite possible that some of the sewers shown as "trunks" might well fall within future street limits and might more properly be regarded as offering local drainage only. In brief, a classification based upon this definition would include considerable mileage of trunk wherever undeveloped territories are served.

Another possible means of identification is that of size. It is generally understood that local sanitary drainage is afforded by an 8-inch sewer. Where it is necessary to enlarge the size, it is clear that something besides local service is being afforded and there should be an equalizing charge toward trunk sewers. On the other hand, it quite frequently happens, as in the present case, that the minimum size of 8-inch is quite sufficient for furnishing service to a quite considerable territory, this owing to the circumstances of grade available, as for example, in the case of the Treadmont Street extension to the Sippe Trunk.

Delimitation might be effected upon the score of cost by fixing a certain minimum charge as that approximate to local drainage. It might be possible to agree that the average local sewer costs, say, \$1.50 per lineal foot and that cost in excess of this amount should be charged to trunk sewerage. This, however, ignores known differences of cost between laterals in different locations and would require a very involved and questionable adjustment of these charges.

The fact is that it is impracticable to establish a general rule for differentiating between "trunks", "subtrunks", and "lateral". In this report determination is quite arbitrary. Without exception, there has always been included the drain from the nearest available outlet to the lowest point in the particular tract. From this point on, however, the basis of classification is quite variable and has been predicated entirely upon general considerations. Reference to the plats will make clear what has been included in the estimates.