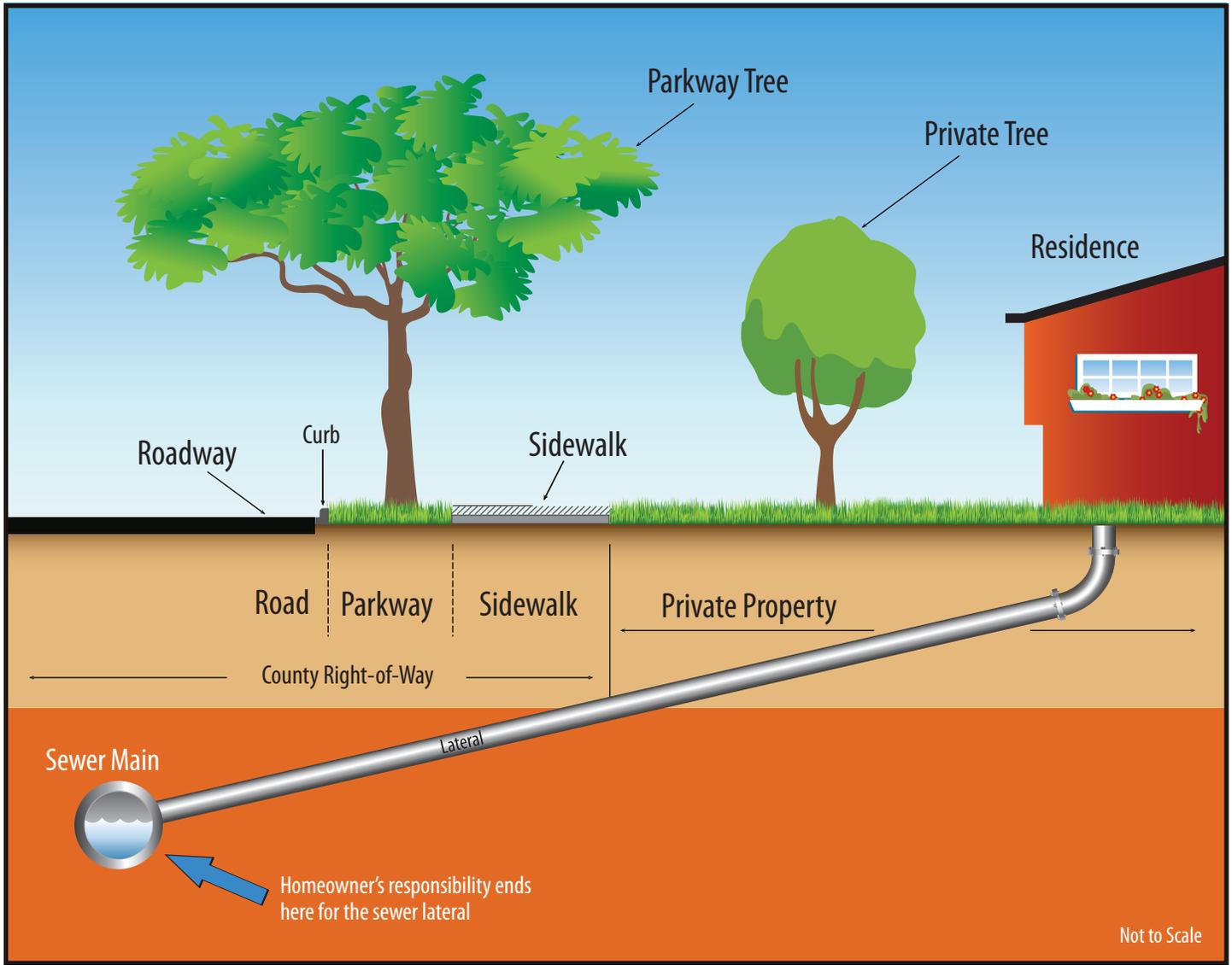


Tree Roots and Sewer Laterals



Trees need water and nutrients in order to survive and will seek out the easiest source for both these. 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, no matter how 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 system. In order to prevent root intrusion, please maintain and ensure the integrity of your sewer lateral. For more information on sewer lateral maintenance, please visit us at dpw.lacounty.gov/smd/homeowner.

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 County 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.

Homeowners who are removing and replacing their sewer lateral and excavating in the County right-of-way, will need to get a permit from Public Works. <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/permits/>. During excavation, the parkway tree will be evaluated by Public Works.