



# PRESS RELEASE

## DETROIT WATER & SEWERAGE DEPARTMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**June 27, 2019**

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## **DWSD to invest \$500 million over next five years to begin to upgrade the water and sewer systems**

- More than 50 miles of water main and sewer collection pipe will be replaced or lined this year and projects to manage 37 million gallons of stormwater will be installed.
- As part of the program, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department will replace existing full lead service lines during water main replacement construction.

**DETROIT** – Today on Fullerton in Detroit’s Russell Woods neighborhood, Mayor Mike Duggan and the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department announced a comprehensive neighborhood-by-neighborhood approach to begin to upgrade the city’s water and sewer systems through a five-year, \$500 million program. Most of Detroit’s water and sewer pipes are more than 80 years old and there has not been a massive infrastructure upgrade since 1930.

The DWSD Capital Improvement Program (CIP) addresses the need to improve water and sewer systems’ reliability. Previously the department solely used the frequency of water main breaks and water-in-basement complaints to drive the strategy. This led to projects being done across the city without a cohesive plan for a neighborhood. Now, DWSD assesses the condition of the water and sewer infrastructure and develops a plan for rehabilitating those systems, which takes into account other public or private investments to a neighborhood. Factors such as the probability of a failure (breaks, sinkholes, etc.), as well as the consequence of failure (i.e. near a school or hospital, the risk is higher) are also included to prioritize the CIP strategy.

“Four years ago, we announced the creation of the Great Lakes Water Authority to operate the regional system with a \$50 million annual lease payment to be used to address our aging infrastructure,” said Mayor Duggan. “Now, Detroiters will see and experience the benefit of the GLWA lease agreement when in front of their house, behind their house or around the corner, they see water mains being replaced, sewer pipes lined and green stormwater infrastructure projects constructed. The team at DWSD is taking a planned, data-based approach to maximize this \$500 million program, and we will put Detroiters to work on these projects.”

The DWSD five-year, \$500 million CIP is possible due to the \$50 million annual lease payment from the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) to operate the regional water and sewer systems for the next 40

years, and cash received from improving the department's collection rate in the past three years, from 77 percent to 94 percent.

In calendar year 2018, DWSD upgraded 25 miles of water main, lined 22 miles of sewer piping and replaced 173 lead service lines. This was the most water and sewer construction in the past 15 years.

DWSD's CIP is intended to improve the level of service and the quality of life in Detroit by:

- Reducing water main breaks
- Reducing street flooding and sewer system failures;
- Reducing future investment in new Combined Sewer Overflow facilities (wet weather treatment);
- Increasing acres managed by green stormwater infrastructure (GSI);
- Coordinating with other public and private agencies to maximize dollars invested and minimize disruption from construction activity;
- Increasing job opportunities for Detroiters; and
- Upgrading and maintaining facilities, equipment and systems for effective operations.

"We asked our team how do we leverage our capital dollars when DWSD is responsible for 2,700 miles of transmission and distribution water mains and nearly 3,000 miles of sewer collection piping," said Gary Brown, DWSD director. "We decided to take a neighborhood-by-neighborhood approach, starting with assessing the water and sewer systems, then designing an upgrade strategy based upon that data, the probability of failure and the consequence of failure in the pipes."

In late 2017, DWSD began assessing the water and sewer systems by neighborhood. It started with pilot areas in North Rosedale Park and Cornerstone Village by flushing the hydrants, detecting leaks in the water mains, and placing cameras in the sewer pipes, for instance. The data was used to design water and sewer upgrades for the two neighborhoods where construction will begin this year. These two neighborhoods were chosen because they were identified for improvements in a previous DWSD water and sewer master plan.

Water and sewer condition assessments have since also been completed in Brewster Douglass, Brightmoor, Jefferson Chalmers, Miller Grove, Minock Park, Rosedale Park (south), and Riverdale. The results of the assessments are being reviewed and designs are underway for the infrastructure that needs rehabilitation.

"For the first time in decades, we have leadership at DWSD who are lifelong Detroit residents who identify with what residents are experiencing in the neighborhoods," said Palencia Mobley, P.E., DWSD deputy director and chief engineer whose team is managing the CIP along with contractor AECOM. "We looked at how we could adapt a neighborhood approach to infrastructure upgrades that is being done by other city departments, and meet our increased requirements to manage stormwater. We have discovered so far under this approach that every four miles of assessment, results in approximately one mile of infrastructure replacement or rehabilitation."

#### **Planned Investment this Year**

Active construction contracts for Fiscal Year 2020 starting this July 1, are composed of 29 miles of water system improvements including water main and meter replacements at \$38.6 million, 19 miles of sewer lining at \$18.8 million and an \$8.5 million project on Oakman Boulevard which is water main replacement and GSI between Joy Road and Tireman Avenue. The GSI project will manage approximately 37 million gallons of stormwater annually. There are also several projects in the planning and design phase with the costs estimated at \$32 million for the water system and \$16 million for sewer system improvements.

### **Replacing Lead Service Lines**

As part of the DWSD CIP, when contractors are on a street to replace a water main, they also replace the lead service line – when it exists – with copper pipe with owner/occupant permission at DWSD’s cost. The service line is the pipe which goes from the water main to the house. When DWSD is replacing the water main, a specialized crew will dig a four-foot by four-foot hole around the stop box (turn-on/off valve) in the front yard of each home to verify the service line material. If there is a lead service line, when the new water main is about to be connected, the crew will return and replace the lead pipe with copper.

DWSD implemented an outreach plan last year in advance of construction projects, and to obtain residents’ permission to replace a lead service line on the property during water main work. This begins a minimum of 40 days from the start of construction and includes door-to-door canvassing, letters, and community and block club meetings.

### **Hiring Detroiters**

The DWSD Capital Improvement Program Management Organization (CIPMO) has designed a contractor outreach program to engage more Detroit-based contractors and partner with them to hire Detroiters for DWSD work. The office held its first contractor fair in January of this year and will hold another event early in 2020.

Forty-four Detroit residents are working specifically on DWSD CIP contract work awarded to Inland Waters Pollution Control (IWPC). Also, subcontractors have 13 Detroit residents working on this same contract. Additionally, Lakeshore Global and its subcontractors have 11 Detroit residents working on a DWSD water main contract (they employ a total of 43 Detroit residents).

Through the Executive Order 2016-1, DWSD is requesting contractors have at least 51% of the hours worked on its construction projects be performed by Detroiters.

### **About The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department**

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) serves more than 230,000 accounts that includes a residential population of nearly 700,000. DWSD’s water network consists of more than 2,700 miles of water main and nearly 3,000 miles of sewer collection piping within the city of Detroit. To learn more about DWSD or to request water services, make payments, or report water problems, call DWSD Customer Care at 313-267-8000 or contact us at [www.detroitmi.gov/dwsd](http://www.detroitmi.gov/dwsd).

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# Detroit Water & Sewerage Department Capital Improvement Program Announcement Press Conference, June 27 at 10 a.m.



**Lane Coleman**

Chair, Capital Improvement Program Committee  
Board of Water Commissioners



**Mayor Mike Duggan**

City of Detroit



**Gary Brown**

Director  
Detroit Water & Sewerage Department



**Palencia Mobley, P.E.**

Deputy Director & Chief Engineer  
Detroit Water & Sewerage Department

## **Press Conference Location:**

Fullerton Avenue west of Dexter Avenue  
in Detroit's Russell Woods neighborhood



**Water & Sewerage  
Department**



**Water & Sewerage  
Department**

# \$500 Million in Upgrades to Detroit's Water and Sewer Systems



**Water Main Replacement**



**Lead Service Line Replacement**



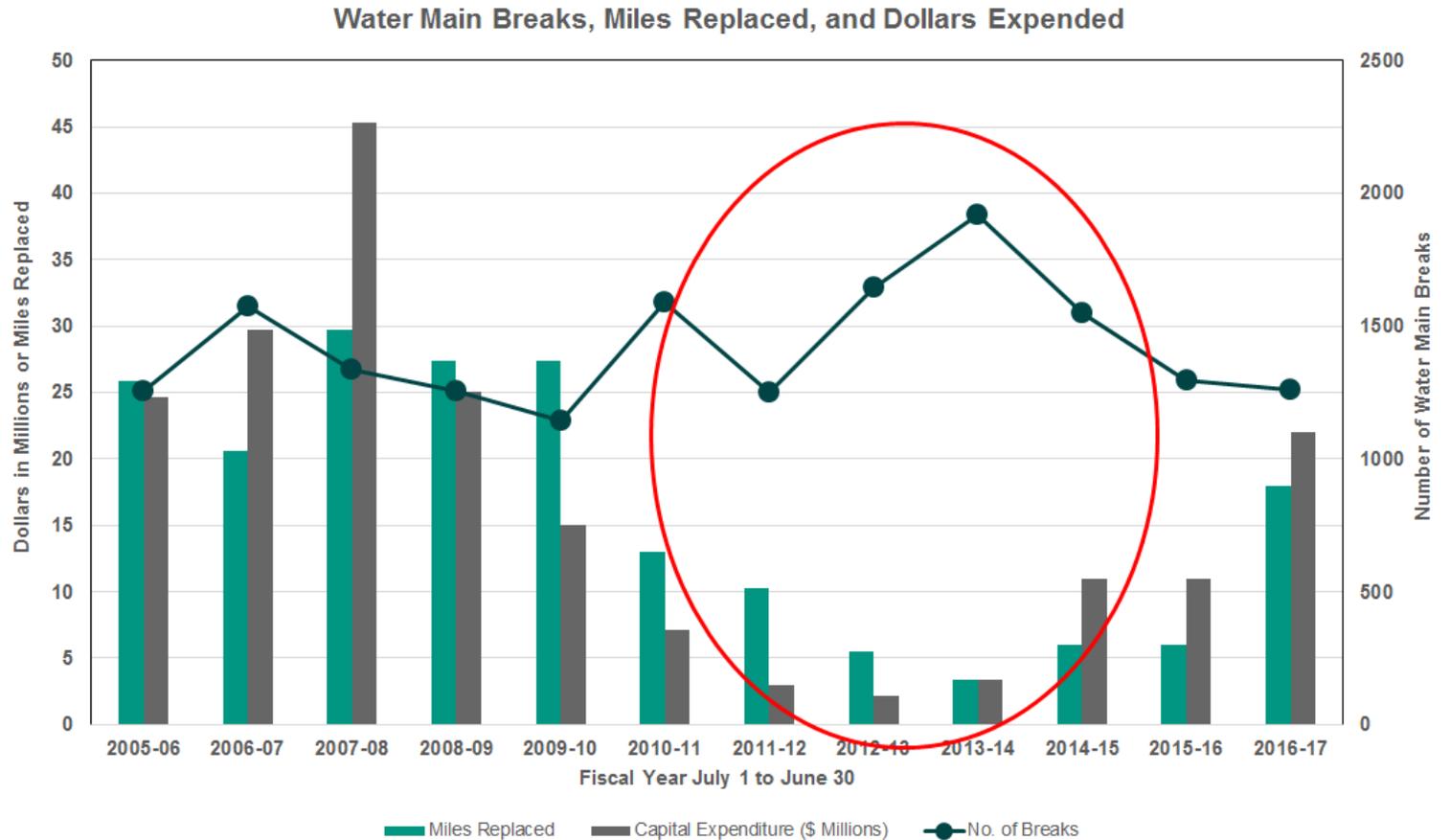
**Sewer Lining**



**Green Stormwater Infrastructure**

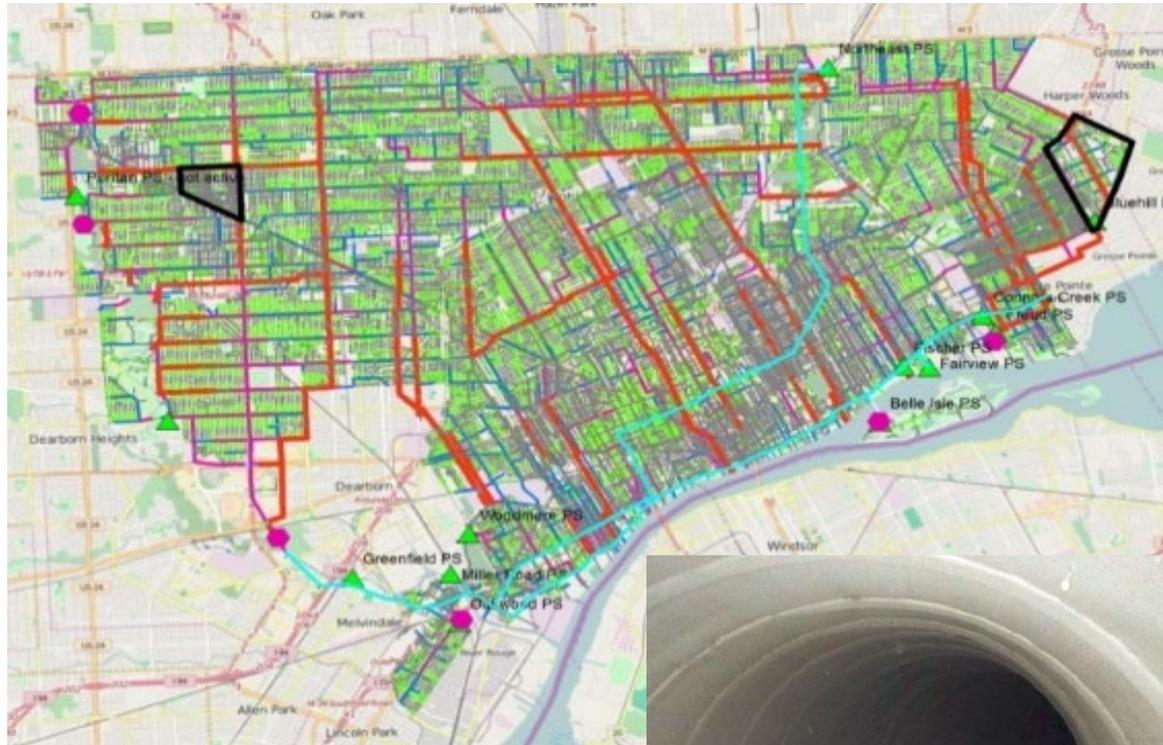
# Detroit's Water System

- 2,700 Miles
- 15% replaced since the mid-1990s
- 1,500 pipe breaks per year, on average
- Compliance with State of Michigan's Lead & Copper Rule (LCR) with full lead service line replacement during water main replacement
- Replacement of valves and hydrants to improve system functionality



# Detroit's Sewer System

- 3,000 Miles
- 200 sink holes or cave-ins per year, on average, in past 5 years
- 15% sewers lined in past 20 years to increase integrity and capacity
- Develop a green stormwater infrastructure integration strategy to reduce wet weather impact on the sewer system
- More than \$1B spent on wet weather treatment facilities since 1994





Water & Sewerage  
Department

[detroitmi.gov/DWSD](http://detroitmi.gov/DWSD)

# DWSD INVESTING \$500 MILLION TO UPGRADE THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS



## ABOUT THE PROJECTS

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) is replacing water mains, relining sewer pipes and installing green stormwater infrastructure in 2019 as part of its five-year, \$500 million Capital Improvement Program (CIP). DWSD began assessing the water and sewer systems by neighborhood in 2018, rather than by the number of water main breaks and basement backups to avoid taking a scattered approach and causing unnecessary traffic disruptions across the city.

## THE DWSD GOAL

DWSD's goal is to improve service delivery and quality of life in the neighborhood by:

- Reducing water main breaks;
- Reducing street flooding and sewer system failures;
- Reducing future investment in new CSO facilities (wet weather treatment);
- Increasing acres managed by green stormwater infrastructure;
- Coordinating with other public and private agencies to maximize dollars invested and minimize disruption from construction activity;
- Increasing job opportunities for Detroiters; and
- Upgrading and maintaining facilities, equipment and systems for effective operations.

DWSD will communicate with residents and businesses on the planned project streets and neighborhoods before, during and after construction. This includes door hanger notices and fliers for all projects, and door-to-door outreach and community or block club meetings for specific projects depending on the type of work.

## Planned DWSD Water and Sewer Upgrades for 2019-2020:

### DISTRICT 1

- Codding between Grand River and Margareta
- Coyle from Fenkell to Grand River
- Edinborough bioretention stormwater project
- Five Points between Seven Mile and McNichols
- Grand River from Bretton to Marene – MDOT project
- Lahser between Seven and Eight Mile
- Margareta from Codding to Shiawassee
- Mark Twain between Fenkell and Lyndon
- Marlowe from Grand River to Chalfonte
- Schoolcraft from Asbury Park to Greenfield
- Schoolcraft between Greenfield and Grand River
- North Rosedale Park neighborhood – several identified streets both water and sewer upgrades

### DISTRICT 2

- McNichols between Schaefer and James Couzens
- Pembroke from James Couzens to Biltmore
- Prevost between Pembroke and Seven Mile
- Robson from Curtis to Seven Mile
- Rutherford between Pembroke and Seven Mile
- Stansbury between Outer Drive and Curtis
- Whitcomb from West Outer Drive to Curtis
- Whitcomb between Pembroke and Vassar
- Southfield Freeway Northbound Service Drive from Seven Mile to Pembroke

### DISTRICT 3

- Algonac between Lappin and Manning
- East Outer Drive from Dequindre to Conley

**Customer Care and  
Emergencies: 313-267-8000**

**DWSD Lead & Drinking Water  
Hotline: 313-964-9300**



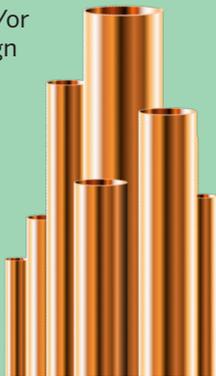
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## LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

If DWSD is on your street replacing the water main, and our workers discover you have a lead service line (the line from the water main to your house), DWSD will replace the pipe with copper with your permission, at DWSD's expense. If this applies to your home, you will receive a Lead Service Line Replacement Program packet delivered to your door with details outlining next steps.

Homeowners and/or residents must sign an agreement to have the work completed on their property.



## Planned DWSD Water and Sewer Upgrades for 2019-2020:

### DISTRICT 4

- Britain from Cadieux to McKinney
- Chandler Park Drive bioretention stormwater project
- Chandler Park Drive from Three Mile to Cadieux
- Jefferson Chalmers – sewer relining
- East Jefferson Avenue in four sections
- East Outer Drive from Wallingford to South Cornwall
- Kelly between Glenwood and Eastwood
- Lanark from Morang to Moross
- McKinney between Grayton and Morang
- Nottingham from Berkshire to Whittier
- Park Grove between Morang and Kelly
- Riad from Morang to Moross
- Whitehill between Grayton and Morang
- Cornerstone Village neighborhood – several identified streets both water and sewer upgrades

### DISTRICT 7

- Ardmore from Intervale to Lyndon
- Beaverland between Sawyer and Tireman
- Brace from West Warren to Paul
- Fullerton between Petoskey and Dexter
- Greenfield from West Chicago to West Warren
- Greenview between West Warren and Paul
- Oakman from Joy to Grand River
- Oakman bioretention stormwater project
- Tireman between Greenfield and Hubbell
- West Chicago from city limits to Bramell
- West Outer Drive between Joy and West Warren
- West Parkway from Tireman to Plymouth
- West Warren between Evergreen and Southfield Fwy.
- West Warren from Heyden to Evergreen
- West Warren between Parkland and Heyden

DWSD crews are also doing water and sewer maintenance across the city.

**98%** OF THE  
**FIRE HYDRANTS**

IN DETROIT ARE WORKING –  
DWSD AND THE DETROIT FIRE  
DEPARTMENT WORK IN TANDEM  
TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY.



**19,000**  
**CATCH BASINS**

CLEANED AND  
INSPECTED TO  
REDUCE STREET  
FLOODING SINCE 2017.

