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April 3, 2020

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Storm-Water Management

Q. Who is responsible for the sewer lines?

A. Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works has an agreement with the City of Parma to maintain storm and sanitary sewer systems. The county repairs sewers on an as-needed basis upon their own findings or when the city or a resident alerts the county about a problem. Homeowners who want a sewer line checked or snaked should contact County Public Works, Monday through Friday at 216-443-8201 or on weekends, 1-800-683-2689.

Q. What has the city done in the past to address flooding?

A. Since 2012 through its partnership with the county and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), Parma has spent about \$31.5 million on maintaining sewer lines, including jetting nearly 1.7 million feet of lines and telescoping another 1.6 million feet. In the last eight years, about \$8.66 million has been invested in infrastructure projects, such as lateral storm line repairs, culvert repairs, storm and sanitary lining and infrastructure maintenance projects. More recent projects include:

- In 2018, the Chevrolet Boulevard Detention Basin was created and sewer improvements were made at a cost of \$3.5 million.
- In 2018, NEORS provided \$217,276 for the city to make dam repairs at Twin Lakes.
- Accessing money from NEORS's Storm-Water Fund, in 2018 the city purchased a broom sweeper for \$281,517 and a jet vacuum for \$475,460. The sweeper cleans the streets, helping to prevent debris from blocking catch basins. The jet vacuum unclogs catch basins if they become congested.
- In 2018 and 2019, the city spent nearly \$846,000 from NEORS's Community Cost Share program to repair and replace 288 catch basins on main streets and secondary neighborhood streets.

- In 2019, NEORSD dredged the Bonny Banks Detention Basin near Stormes Drive and cut a large channel to open water flow from the basin and nearby creek. An estimated 16,700 cubic yards of sediment, as well as trees, brush and debris were removed from the basin. The project cost \$531,890.
- In 2019, the NEORSD's Community Cost Share program provided more than \$3.2 million for stream restoration on Linden Lane and about \$600,000 for storm-water improvements to the Orchard Park and Forest Hills area.

Q. What is the city doing this year?

A. This is a regional problem. Because Parma's system connects to neighboring cities and ultimately to the City of Cleveland's sewer system, fixing a problem in one community can impact another community. The Sewer District's extensive storm-water study, which is expected to be released this year, will assist the city in learning more about why it is having problems with flooding and help it find solutions. Meanwhile, city officials are regularly meeting with Sewer District and Public Works officials to determine ways to mitigate flooding.

- The city will spend about \$600,000 for catch basin repairs and storm-water improvements throughout the city.
- Using about \$150,000 through NEORSD's Community Cost Share program, the city will repair the headwall at 1560 Lourdes Drive and make other storm-water improvements.
- The city will spend about \$100,000 to improve a catch basin on city-owned land behind a residence on Hickory Hill Lane.
- A storm-water management consultant will analyze and recommend storm-water improvements on Fenway Road near Arcadia Lane, as well as provide recommendations for headwall restoration and storm-water improvements on Meadow Lane.

Q. You said last year that city engineers were talking to the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as local, state and federal agencies. What happened in those meetings?

A. Although the city has received millions over the years in grants and low-interest loans to offset expensive infrastructure projects such as sanitary and storm sewer line improvements, culvert repairs, bridge upgrades and headwall replacements, it does not always receive the money it requests.

- In August 2019, the Parma Engineering Department appealed to the Army Corps of Engineers for grant money. The department asked for federal assistance to address flooding in areas surrounding Antoinette Drive, Ridge Drive, Regency Drive, Ridgewood

Road, West Pleasant Valley Road and Stormes Drive north of Sprague Road but was denied funding.

- In December 2019, city engineers gave an in-person presentation to the Small Community Environmental Infrastructure Group (SCEIG). This group makes recommendations to the Army Corps of Engineers for federal assistance. The city was denied funding to support the Valley Villas, York and State Septic Abatement Project and to make headwall and storm sewer improvements throughout the city.
- Over the past two years, the city has requested funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission for headwall and storm sewer improvements but has been denied.
- In 2019, the city asked for money from the Ohio Emergency Management's Hazard Mitigation Grant program so it could purchase properties that have suffered multiple occasions of damage through extraordinary storm events but was denied assistance.

Q. Regarding current construction, do city engineers take into account the city's drainage system before allowing for new homes and businesses?

A. Yes. The Parma Engineering Department, Public Works and Sewer District all review construction plans to help prevent new construction from negatively impacting the current drainage system. On major projects, Cuyahoga County Soil and Water District also participate in the review process.

For more information, go the City of Parma website, click on "Departments" and select "Service Department" from the dropdown menu. On the Service Department page, you can read Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works annual reports for the City of Parma from 2013 to 2018. Also on this page, residents can read about "Integrated Planning" (see link in the right blue column).

City of Parma Service Department

cityofparma-oh.gov/en-US/Service-Dept.aspx