

Grosse Pointe Park State of the Infrastructure Statement January 2023

The GPP Infrastructure Committee in an effort to better set targets and inform the community intends to provide an overview of our current city Infrastructure status at the beginning of the year, our prioritization short and long term, as well as insight and definitions of some of our systems.

2022 In Review

2022 saw an extensive collaborative effort between administration, city employees, committees, outside engineering firms and consultants to overhaul how infrastructure is handled in Grosse Pointe Park. Appreciating the reality that Grosse Pointe Park is a city served by an extensive infrastructure system that was primarily built a century ago, the team is attempting to move to a proactive direction of short and long term optimization and upgrade for the broader system while concurrently engaging in a more robust routine of preventative maintenance. This change in course was dramatically bolstered by the generosity of the residents in adopting a Water/Sewer Millage, which affords the financial basis to move forward.

2022 saw the completion and commencement of several projects, some of which are listed below.

Financing

The millage gives the city a firm foundation for work going forward. Additionally, the city will continue to aggressively pursue any and all grant money available to us. Historically, demographic realities have impeded some of these efforts, but, the extremely proactive direction that has been taken (reinforced by the millage) helps to further bolster our attempts. We will also engage with philanthropic partners when possible, as the extraordinary generosity of the Grosse Pointe Park foundation in 2022 has shown. Furthermore, we are reorienting our infrastructure financial management by working to better isolate General Operation, Preventative Maintenance, Capital Improvement as well as Emergency Reserves, as well as better separating Water/Sewer. The City hired Baker Tilly who specializes in this work with multiple communities to assist Grosse Pointe Park for financial planning in the next 10 years. This allows for improved asset management and system planning improving efficiency.

Projects Completed:

Sewer Mapping, Televising and Cleaning: a \$900k project, which for the first time attempted to fully map, disposition the 40+ miles of city wide sewer. This also resulted in over 800 cubic yards of debris removal.

Multiple Alleyway Separations: Maryland/Wayburn Alley from Mack to Goethe behind the new DPW. Kercheval Alley behind Red Crown, Alley behind Medspa and Alley behind Sprout House, all together this separated about 3 acres of surface.

Completion and move in of new DPW building

Projects Ongoing:

Mack Cadieux Water Main: The first water main rebuild/upgrade since 1985, this also includes lead line mitigation.

Jefferson Alter Separation: Separation of critical corridor, reducing infiltration and system strain.

EERV: The city has diligently been working on the design as well as with surrounding partners to refine and develop the best possible option to provide protection for residents with minimal impact. Multiple meetings have been held with the Environmental Great Lakes and Energy over the past year working towards a permit, continuously refining the design and modeling, as well as providing numerous supplemental information requests. Ironically a lack of inclement weather has impeded the modeling process but we worked with EGLE to accommodate. We have also taken feedback from the GLWA of the EERV. Engineering and existing pumping and monitoring systems have already been upgraded, including the SCADA system work discussed in previous updates) in anticipation of creating a plug and play installation dynamic, initial critical construction materials have been ordered (The most Time Sensitive Components were ordered at a cost of almost \$130,000 thanks to the generosity of the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation).

Preventative Maintenance planning: A more aggressive PM routine is being put in place, this includes a multi-year ongoing sewer mapping and cleaning plan.

Water Sewer Rate Review and Long term Capital Planning: Conducting extensive review to address water/sewer rate and budget planning. This is being conducted in conjunction with our long term capital planning review.

Alleyway Repaving: Commissioned extensive alleyway repaving work to commence in 2023

City Website and Communication: Added Infrastructure to city website, providing monthly updates.

Downspout Disconnection: Multiple avenues of contact were made with residents, ordinances have been reworked and DPW has engaged in site visits approaching 35% completion.

2023 Goals

This year begins with the city now having a framework for projects moving forward and a funding mechanism in the of the millage. The goal of the infrastructure committee will continue to be to build upon the foundation that we have in Grosse Pointe Park. While there will be particular focus on water sewer infrastructure, we will strive to build up and improve the infrastructure across the city, including roads and sidewalks, cellular service to residents to the delivery of and communication of city infrastructure services.

Sewers:

Reduce Infiltration, by continuing to separate sanitary/storm where connections increase, continue inventorying sewers and studying flow in order to locate deficiencies or areas suitable for upgrade.

Expand Capacity, by mapping out and continuing to clean out the pipes, as well as studying flow rates to reduce bottle necks and expand key interchanges.

Improve Discharge, by continuing to expand preventative maintenance and maximizing pumping capacity through additional upgrades, as well as evaluating potentially adding more pumping, the EERV is a critical component of Discharge.

EERV: Having the Extreme Emergency Relief Valve in place is the top priority capital project of the city. This project provides the city a critical safety net, giving us an emergency option to allow city-controlled discharge of sanitary in the case of a massive rain event and downstream failures. This is a critical protection for not only our residents but will also take stress off GLWA and neighboring communities in such an event.

Water Mains and Lead Line Replacement:

Short and Long term Upgrade/Replacement Planning, 2022 saw the commencement of the first major watermain replacement in several decades and this is also concurrently replacing identified lead lines. We have now broken the city into districts and are gathering our data to identify a combination of the highest watermain break vulnerability as well as the largest lead line concentration. In order to be as efficient as possible with millage dollars we will try to maximize project impact by consolidating work into single digs and not ripping up the road or easement again after a project has been completed. This program of replacement is going to be a 10+ year endeavor. Our goal this year will be to outline the expectation of the next 1-3 years of watermain replacements as well as structuring the longer-term targets as well. The speed at which we can impact this will be dictated by dollars, while establishing a firm plan, we will have additional projects that can be slotted in, this will be dictated by both the cost of projects and finding greater efficiencies as well as if we can secure additional dollars through grants and subsidies.

Roads and Alleyways:

Improving Citywide Rating, The current city wide PASER rating is in good shape. We will however continue to be proactive; we have adopted a more aggressive stance on alleyways and will continue to do so. In the coming year we are also reviewing pricing of improving municipal lots, pending being able to consolidate the work with other paving in order to bring down cost.

External Efforts

Cooperation with Regional Utilities, We are working closely with our regional utilities to improve service and reliability for residents as well as getting the most efficiencies out of dollars spent as well as pursuing financial incentives. Water: this means ongoing efforts with GLWA to ensure we are appraised of their system capacities and maximize both of our respective systems. Electricity/Gas: we will continue working with DTE to try and minimize disruptions as well as working to improve friendly and transparent service all while pursuing financial incentives, DTE went through an extensive program of tree trimming and provided upgrades to several of their power poles in the community. Cell service: we are working to improve coverage throughout the Park.

Cooperation with Neighboring Jurisdiction, Water sewer and aging infrastructure upgrades are a state wide phenomena, as are unfunded mandates. We will continue our outreach to our neighbors, state authorities and our legislative representatives. Any efficiencies to be found in regional solutions will be explored, as well as engaging the state as a unified voice, however, independent of our neighbors, GPP will always strive to be proactive on issues of our own infrastructure.

Communications:

Website and Communicator, We are going to continue to build on the work that we have already done on the website. Our end goal is to streamline user interface so we have better cooperation between residents and city officials. It isn't just about getting information to and from residents but also ensuring that it is consolidated and catalogued to better improve not just the experience but the impact it can have on driving DPW work and response. Additionally, we are committed to keeping residents appraised of how the water/sewer millage is being utilized, with regular monthly updates on any capital projects, as well as an end of year report outlining our major expenditures and the remaining balance.