

Grosse Pointe Park State of the Infrastructure Statement January 2024

The GPP Infrastructure Committee 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. *Please note the fiscal calendar does not coincide with the calendar year.*

2023 In Review

2023 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 as well as extraordinarily generous philanthropic contributions which allowed acceleration of water/sewer projects. *The fiscal year and calendar year do not line up, there will be adjustments.*

Water Sewer Capital Allocations:

Income:		Projects:	
Millage	\$1,874,800	EERV	\$2,900,000
Philanthropic Contributions	\$1,035,000	Construction	
Water Sewer Income Allocation	\$150,000	Mack Water Main & Lead Line	\$529,000
Water Sewer Reserve Usage	\$794,200	St Clare Montefalco Water Main	\$175,000
		Sewer Scoping and Maintenance	\$250,000

Water/Sewer:

The permitting and Construction of the **EERV** was the single biggest infrastructure accomplishment of 2023. Receiving the Permit entailed over 2 years of working closely with the State of Michigan, EGLE, GPP administration and engineering. With permit authorization in hand construction began this summer and has proceeded very well. The city is diligently working to continuously improve sewer service to residents and will do all that is possible to ensure residents are protected, and while we hope to avoid its use, the **EERV** provides a massive safety system for Park residents in the event of a catastrophe.

2023 was not without challenges, we saw a large uptick in water main breaks towards the end of summer. DPW responded diligently to breaks and the city has been working with GLWA so they would address pressure fluctuations, concurrently we have been discussing engineering options that could stabilize external fluctuations. However, the core issue here is the age of our water main system, this is why GPP has begun the process of annual systematic replacement and upgrades of water mains. This program has already seen the first major water main replacements in almost 40 years beginning with replacement of a section of Water main at Mack Avenue and a section serving the area of St Clare of Montefalco. This plan of water main replacement will dramatically reduce breaks, water losses, improve service to residents and overtime will allow more efficient allocation of resources towards Preventative Maintenance instead of repairs. This long-term plan is made possible through the resident approved Water Sewer millage.

Sewer Cleaning, Scoping and Maintenance is now an annual budgeted item, this allows us to optimize the operation of the sewers, as well as to better build out the service map. 2023 saw further streamlining of the system, with notable cleaning and sediment removal on the south side of Jefferson, with 36 cubic yards of sediment removed (equivalent of 3 dump trucks) and nearly 9500 feet of sewer receiving root treatment.

There was also progress on further drying the system with alleyway, parking lot and sewer separations as well as downspout disconnections, without even including downspout and homeowner separations more than 5 acres of additional area has been separated.

It is also critical to note that GPP could not have moved as aggressively on these capital projects without the extraordinary support of our philanthropic community.

Road Work, Parking and Alleyways

Major sections of roadway that were lower on PASER ratings have been completely repaved, including a section of Kercheval and Cadieux (with support of County Grant Money). The entire city hall/library parking lot has been completely repaved and two blocks of alleyways.

Energy and Sustainability

2023 saw the completion of the city-wide street light replacement project. This is a major project that is anticipated to substantially reduce city electricity use (projected savings of \$110,000/year), it reduces the maintenance of the system, it creates better more uniform lighting to aid in public safety, and the project cost of approximately \$243,000 was supported by \$94,000 of federal grant money. Additionally, the near century old Jefferson pumping station windows have been replaced due to the City Hall Bond.

DPW Service

This summer saw some substantial storms, with major precipitation and wind. The pumping stations were under continuous monitoring during these storms and performed very well. DPW also responded diligently to downed trees/branches and any obstructions, this can be attested to by one storm in August that saw the DPW working through the night and producing 1500 yards of wood chips in a matter of days.

2024 Goals

2024 will be kicking off with a presentation of a 6-year CIP framework to the planning commission in their January meeting, which we then hope to see put to the City Council for adoption at the following meeting. While much of infrastructure communication focuses on water/sewer, our CIP will encompass capital planning for all departments, also while this document checks city requirements, it is intended to be a foundation. The city has been planning out infrastructure needs far beyond the 6-year timeframe and concurrently is working to build out resident friendly devices and mapping so small, mid- and long-term work from minor maintenance and major capital projects can be anticipated. This long-term effort is being built out dynamically to better adjust for resident needs, cost fluctuations, philanthropic and grant support, etc. all while keeping an eye on continuously improving communication and community engagement.

Projected Water Sewer Capital Allocations:

Income:		Projects:	
Anticipated Millage	\$1,900,000	Water Main Replacement and Lead Lines	\$1,000,000
Water Sewer Income	\$150,000	<i>Maumee, Beaconsfield and Dedicated Defer Water Main</i>	
		Ongoing Sewer Cleaning Scoping	\$200,000
		Jefferson Sewer Separation	\$435,000
		Pump Station Controls	\$50,000
		Water Meter Replacement Allocation	\$215,000
		Water/Sewer Reserve Deposit	\$150,000

Water/Sewer:

This projected budget is on target with the city's goal of replacing 2-3% of city water mains annually (which will be accelerated if funding allows) as well as compliance with Michigan lead line replacement mandates. The targeted water mains for this period (2 blocks of Beaconsfield and a section of Maumee) have been identified both by DPW and engineering as high priority for multiple factors, including frequency of breaks, lead line concentrations, resident service, and financial impact. Furthermore, a dedicated water supply is being put in place for Defer school.

Sewer maintenance and resiliency are now an ongoing annual component, as well as an annual contribution to our water/sewer reserve. We have engineered and anticipate moving forward with a separation project on Jefferson, which will further dry out the broader sewer system of GPP.

With these projects underway, the city is now finalizing a plan to undertake a greatly needed project of city-wide systemic water meter replacements. More than 70% of city buildings are utilizing obsolete water meters, which are out of calibration and cannot accurately transmit data. This is a critical project to allow for accurate billing, reduction in waste and better allocation of city resources. A proposal for the water meter replacement is being developed for council consideration and will be presented in the first quarter.

In terms of financing, the water sewer millage allows for concerted long-term capital planning, though 2023 saw us tap into the water sewer reserve due to some high priority projects needing immediate action, going forward we are targeting an annual contribution to the reserve fund. The city continues to aggressively seek support for needed projects, through efficiencies, grant programs, coordination with regional utilities and discussions with state and federal representatives. The broader market of high interest rates, supply chain and labor constraints factors into our planning and we will always stay on a dynamic footing to make the most of opportunities as they arise.

Roads, Alleyways, Parking

Road work and alleyway improvement is well underway. The PASER ratings for GPP continue to be strong and the aim is to maintain that with a more proactive approach. Going forward we want to move away from patchwork repair to more robust longer-term replacement and our attention is turning to some longer runs of Kercheval, Charlevoix and on Windmill Point. We also are targeting county and regional grant support for this work.

The business district will see a substantial expansion of parking capacity with the completion of the new lots in early first quarter, it is important to note these lots also contain EV charging and were built with robust consideration of storm water management and inclusion of permeable pavers. The city is also working to standardize parking with the other Pointes, and we anticipate moving to the same digital parking application early in 2024.

The city is developing an alleyway maintenance plan and schedule, which we expect to begin rolling out later in 2024. Furthermore, there is development underway for a more targeted sidewalk repair and maintenance plan.

Energy and Sustainability

In 2024 there are further upgrades and modernization efforts being undertaken with the pumping stations. These efforts will improve responsiveness as well as should improve energy efficiency and reducing waste. There is also pursuit of energy efficiency grants both through utilities and state/federal programs, while it is an outside chance to receive them, we continue to work to gain financial support for system upgrades and more resiliency that also reduces energy usage. Additionally, the water meter replacement program and water main replacement program both dramatically tackle wasted water.