

Project Timeline- Updated 11.28.23

Phase One Tree Restoration

Funding for tree replacement was not included in the remediation portion of the contract between the City of Grand Rapids and project contractors, unbeknownst to Cascade Township. Staff have worked hard to secure additional funding for tree replacement and, in November, sent a letter to all homeowners who had one or more trees removed as part of Phase 1. This letter asked recipients to email goodwoodwater@gmail.com with a subject line of 'Burger Goodwood Trees', call the Township office at (616) 949-1500, or drop off a note at the office (5920 Tahoe Dr. SE) titled 'Burger Goodwood Trees' stating their name, address, the number of trees they are interested in having replanted in their yard (up to double the number removed), as well as their email address and/or phone number so that we can contact them with any questions.

Phase One Whole Home Water Filtration System Removal

Now that water main installation is complete for Phase One, water filtration systems are no longer needed in homes that have connected to city water. The Township will soon be going through the lists of homes that are receiving bottled water and water filtration services and compare it with addresses that have connected to city water. Residences that had a whole home water filtration system installed due to PFAS contamination will have the opportunity to keep the filtration system and take on full responsibility for system maintenance and disposal. Since there is generally a high cost to remove and dispose of the filtration systems, we are requiring all residences who want to keep their whole home filtration system to sign a filter agreement, transferring the title of the filtration system to the homeowner. There will not be an additional cost to the resident from the township to keep the whole home filtration system. If this is something you are interested in, please email goodwoodwater@gmail.com for a copy of the form and further information.

Phase Two

Some funding for Phase Two has now been distributed to the City of Grand Rapids, so the project will now go to bid and preparations can begin. Be on the lookout for more information, both through the email list and on this page. Please continue directing questions on Phase Two of the project to goodwoodwater@gmail.com.

Phase Two Tree Removal

Due to the nature of the project's funding, no tree removal is permitted between April and October, to preserve bat roosting habitats. In order to begin installation in 2024 as quickly as possible, the Township sent a letter to all residences who would have one or more trees removed in winter 2023. This is only taking place in a small portion of Phase Two's scope, with additional tree removal occurring in 2024. Trees to be removed winter 2023 will be marked with an "X", on the street facing side, by the project contractor. This will make it possible to begin line installation in early spring, rather than having to wait until the bad roosting season is over for the year.

Groundwater Restrictions

At the beginning of the Goodwood/Berger PFAS investigation, there was discussion that the township may adopt a Groundwater Use Ordinance, like the one adopted in Plainfield Township. Cascade Township does not currently intend to pass any type of Groundwater Use Ordinance because, unlike Plainfield, Cascade was able to secure enough grant funding from the state and federal government to cover the project without requiring the same magnitude of funding from the party at fault which the township identifies as the Gerald R Ford International Airport. Plainfield Township passed a Groundwater Use Ordinance as part of their agreement with Wolverine World Wide that provided for PFAS cleanup costs.

This means that Cascade Township will not be requiring residents to cap their wells or hook up to city water at this time. If the state were to require this type of ordinance in the future, the situation would become more complicated. Depending on the circumstances, the Township may be able to ask the GR Ford Airport to pay for well capping as part of remediation, but that depends on how many years down the line this legislation would be adopted and what it required.

There is already a portion of Cascade Township's ordinance that addresses required city water connections at residences where it is available:

§ 313-83. Public water connection required. [Amended 12-22-1993 by Ord. No. 18-1993; 6-13-2018 by Ord. No. 5-2018]

C. All existing single-family residential structures and multifamily residential structures, including such structures which are covered by an existing Special Assessment District for public water, shall be required to connect to available public water:

(1) When there is a major repair required of the private well, as determined by the Kent County Health Department.

Failure of a well would constitute a 'major repair', as determined by the health department, and would require connection to 'available public water', as defined earlier in the ordinance.

§ 313-82. Definitions. As used in this Part 6, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated: AVAILABLE PUBLIC WATER — Public water pipes located in a right-of-way, easement, highway, street, or public way which crosses, joins, or abuts upon the property and passing not more than 300 feet at the nearest point from a structure.

This means that if your property is closer than 300 ft from public water utilities, whether they were available prior to this project or were installed as a result of this project, and your well fails, you won't be allowed to drill a new well. In this circumstance you would have to move onto city water and there isn't any guarantee that government funding would be available at that time; this would put the monetary burden of connection to city water on the property.

The Township is not currently planning to impose water testing requirements at residences that do not connect during the project.

Plumber List for Water Service Connections

Water service placement in areas located adjacent to existing water main is ongoing. Plumbing companies are also quoting connections for residents in Phase I. If you have not done so already, please reach out to one or both of the two pre-qualified plumbing companies about connecting to municipal water. The City of Grand Rapids has approved the following companies as plumbers for making the private service connections:

McDonald Plumbing

Attn: Grace Thumser

(616) 698-6771

gthumser@mcdonaldplumbing.com

BRIK Plumbing

Attn: Kraig Keegstra

(616) 277-1561

kraig@brikplumbing.com

Here is the process that will be followed for connections:

- The property owner can coordinate with one or both of the pre-approved plumbing companies and select the company that they feel most comfortable working at their house.
- The plumbing company will provide Prein & Newhof (P&N) and the City of Grand Rapids with a property specific quotation form. This information will also be available to the property owner.
- P&N will coordinate with the City of Grand Rapids to review the property specific quotation form and verify that it is in line with the costs received at the time of bidding.
- Once verification of pricing is validated the plumbing company will be approved to complete the work.
- The plumbing contractor will coordinate with both the City of Grand Rapids and Cascade Township for required inspections.
- After completion of the work, the plumbing company must compile and submit all required paperwork to P&N and the City of Grand Rapids for review and payment.
- The City of Grand Rapids will approve payments to be made directly to the plumbing company.

Please note that each connection is unique and there may be questions you have or issues specific to the connection at your home. Please discuss all those issues with your selected plumber and they will review with the project team to determine what is included in the project costs.

Project Contacts

A list of contacts for the project can be found on the left-hand side of the Prein & Newhof project page here: https://www.preinnewhof.com/construction_projects/goodwood-watermain/.

If you don't see your question/answer above, you can always reach out to the project email address at goodwoodwater@gmail.com.