

## **Phase Two Update- Updated 7.30.24**

### **Phase Two**

The construction contract for Phase Two of the water main extension project has been awarded. The City of Grand Rapids has officially selected CL Trucking and Excavating, LLC. Unfortunately, due to a delay in securing project funding, the City of Grand Rapids was unable to award the contract in sufficient time to guarantee completion in the 2024 calendar year as originally publicized. The contractor has indicated they intend to begin work on Phase II the week of August 19, 2024. They will begin work on Brookhills Ct, Brookpoint Dr, Winterberry Ct, and Misty Ct. It is possible homes along these streets will be ready to connect to the water main in 2024. The other streets will begin after the winter pause, in spring 2025. The contractual completion date for Phase Two water main extension is November 1, 2025.

Unlike the grants that funded Phase I, the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) obtained for Phase II do not allow multiple plumbing contractors to complete the connections from the road to the residences. McDonald Plumbing was the low bidder for these private side connections and was awarded the contract for all Phase II services.

The quotes for the work that McDonald Plumbing will be providing will be paid for by the project, not the homeowner. The only fees homeowners will be responsible for are the difference in price if they elect to proceed with copper, instead of the default plastic, for the private portion of the water service and any costs related to retaining their well for irrigation.

**On August 12, 2024, residents on Brookhills Ct, Brookpoint Dr, Winterberry Ct and Misty Ct can begin reaching out to McDonald Plumbing to get a quote specific to their property. We respectfully ask that homeowners on those four streets prioritize requesting quotes as soon as possible (on or after August 12, 2024) as those home may be ready to connect to the water main yet this year. As all the remaining work will be completed in 2025, remaining homeowners should wait until fall/winter of 2024 or early spring of 2025.**

McDonald Plumbing Contact info:  
Grace Thumser – (616) 698-6771

If a resident has a concern with meter and or service sizing for their home, they should discuss it with McDonald Plumbing when they are providing a quote for the property. Residents can also with contact Lawrence Olson with the City of Grand Rapids ([lolson@grand-rapids.mi.us](mailto:lolson@grand-rapids.mi.us)) and he can assist with proper sizing as well.

Cascade Township will communicate the project schedule to residents as it becomes available from the contractor. Residents will have at least through spring 2026 to complete their connection. Please continue directing questions on Phase Two of the project to [goodwoodwater@gmail.com](mailto: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, the Township sent letters to residences who would have one or more trees removed in winter 2023. This only took place in a small portion of Phase Two's scope, with additional tree removal occurring in 2024 and potentially 2025.

### **Phase One Complete**

All residences in Phase One of the project received a [letter from the Township, in May, detailing the close out of Phase One](#) on June 30, 2024. Almost all houses in Phase One connected to municipal water but quite a few residences did not have their wells capped. We realize that some residents do not want to cap their wells so they can continue to use them for irrigation. Phase One residences had until June 30, 2024 to schedule a connection to municipal water and/or a well capping and report it to Cascade Township for reimbursement.

If a resident chose to keep their well for irrigation and connected the rest of their property to city water, they are responsible for all costs for any modification necessary to continue using the well for irrigation. Whether the residence was not connected to city water at all or the well was kept solely for irrigation purposes, costs will not be reimbursed if the well needs to be abandoned anytime after the June 30, 2024 deadline.

This is due to the expiration of grants and funding that was allocated to Phase One of the project. Phase Two has been funded through different grants and funding sources, so Phase One residences that do not schedule their connection by June 30, 2024 will not be able to tag onto Phase Two due to the specificity of the funding requirements.

### **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 is 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 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](mailto:goodwoodwater@gmail.com) for a copy of the form and further information.

### **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.