

TO: MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER
FROM: MARK MALONEY, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2018
SUBJ: PUBLIC WORKS MONTHLY REPORT

SNAIL/GRASS/VADNAIS LAKES UPDATE

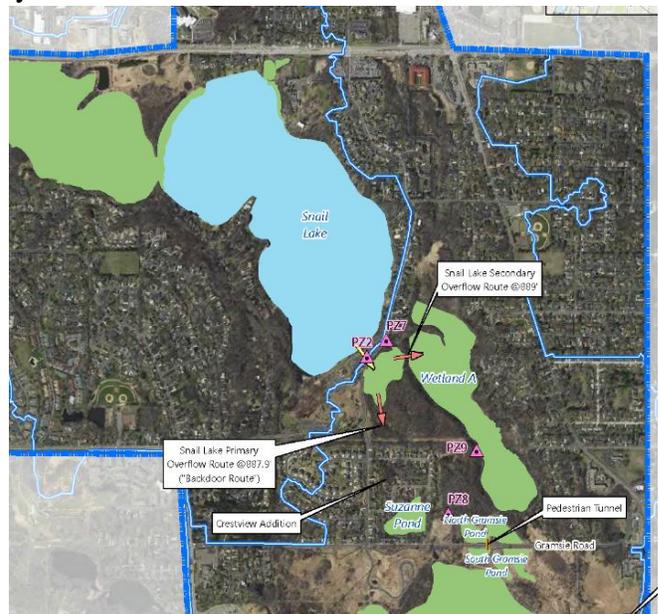
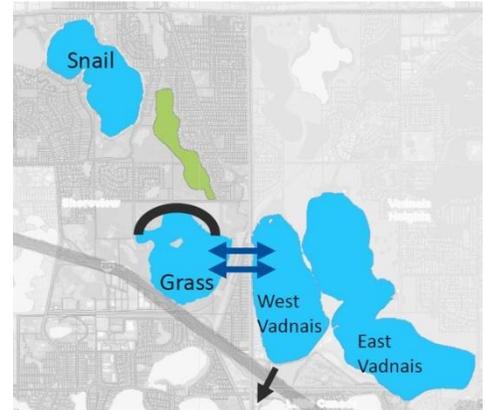
The City, Ramey County, and the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) continue to work together to address issues related to water level concerns in the Snail, Grass, and Vadnais Lakes Area.

The RWMWD has committed a significant amount of resources studying and completing projects in the area to mitigate water level issues. Projects completed in 2018 included:

- Raising the berm around the north side of Grass Lake to add storage capacity.
- Removing sediment and vegetation from the channel connecting Grass Lake to West Vadnais and from the West Vadnais outlet to optimize movement of water through the system.
- Continued monitoring of the levels in the lakes, wetlands, and groundwater in the area.
- Working with the City to create an Emergency Flood Response Plan to protect one home on Snail Lake. (City crews would install sand bags around the home if Snail Lake reaches a specified elevation)

Additional projects and studies will be completed by the RWMWD in 2019 and include:

- Installation of automated level monitoring equipment in Owasso, Wabasso, and Grass Lakes to provide real-time monitoring.
- Grading in the Snail Lake Regional Park to divert Snail Lake overflow to Wetland A and away from the Crestview Neighborhood. (Snail Lake level would need to increase over 2-feet from the current level before reaching the overflow elevation.)
- Modifications to the pedestrian tunnel under Gramsie Road to allow the installation of stop logs on the south side of the tunnel. Stop logs could be installed to prevent water flowing north through the tunnel if Grass Lake



overflows its berm.

- Miscellaneous grading along the north side of Gramsie Road to reduce the amount of stormwater draining to the west, which can increase the groundwater and affect the level of Suzanne Pond.
- Currently working with the Vadnais Lake Watershed Management Organization, the Department of Natural Resources, and Ramsey County on the feasibility of lowering the outlet from West Vadnais approximately 10-inches. Grass Lake and Vadnais Lake basically act as one large basin and lowering the outlet from West Vadnais would provide additional storage.
- The RWMWD has received over 30 cost-share applications for shore land restoration projects from Snail Lake properties.



The City and Ramsey County are currently working together on preliminary alignments and a cost estimate for trail improvements in the Snail Lake Regional Park. Proposed improvements include:

- Addition of an at grade crossing on Gramsie Road and new trail segment to allow a north/south connection that would allow trail users to bypass the pedestrian tunnel (area labeled Sheet 2 on adjacent map).
- Raising the grade of the trail or installing boardwalks in areas that are prone to flooding (areas labeled Sheet 3 and 4 on adjacent map).

Staff is planning to present the preliminary alignments and cost estimate to the Council for consideration in January of 2019. The City's 2019 Capital Improvement Plan includes estimated funding for trail improvements. Final funding amounts required would be determined based on the preliminary cost estimates and any cost-share agreement between the City and the County.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Environmental Quality Committee (EQC)

The Environmental Quality Committee, after finalizing its goals for 2019 and 2020, decided to form sub-committees. Each subcommittee is composed of three group members and will tackle one of the committee's three goals, Water, Recycling, and Energy. These sub-committees agreed to meet once between the November meeting and the January meeting (the December EQC meeting fell on Christmas Eve and was cancelled by the group) to discuss action items and

priorities related to their specific goal that could be added to the workplan for 2019 and 2020. The workplan will be reviewed and finalized at the January meeting and EQC members hope to attend the February 2019 Council Workshop to present their selected goals, priorities, and workplan to the Council.

Forestry

The disease tree program for 2018 is going strong. More than 50% of the households with diseased trees in 2018 have contacted the Natural Resources Coordinator and arranged for their trees to be removed. Most elected to use the city contractor, Upper Cut Tree Services, though some completed the removals themselves or used separate contractors. The removal of seven diseased trees still needs to be arranged. These trees need to be safely removed by the spring of 2019 in order to help prevent the spread of oak wilt or emerald ash borer to surrounding trees. All removals will be verified by staff after the removal deadlines have passed.

Additionally, staff has completed sending out renewal notices and applications to tree trimming companies licensed through the city in 2018. Letters were also sent to companies who were licensed in Shoreview in 2017 but not 2018, along with those companies who were caught working in Shoreview without a license at any point throughout 2018. Applications for 2019 licenses have started coming in to City Hall and staff will continue to process them and bring them before Council as they come in.

Recycling

Eureka Recycling, the city's contractor worked with city staff on developing the 2019 recycling mailer. The mailer this year is very different than the calendar that was mailed out in past years. It includes a variety of information on what is and is not recyclable under the current program, in addition to the recycling calendar itself. Special instructions for where to store your cart and how to order a new or additional cart were also included on the mailer, along with a message that the recycling process is a team effort. This is part of Eureka's messaging attempting to get community buy-in for recycling programs. The mailer started hitting mailboxes in early December and both city and Eureka staff have received positive comments from residents about the information available.

Wildlife Management

The Victoria Valley Orchard bow hunt is ongoing. As of December 13th, 4 deer have been harvested. This annual hunt is part of a City effort to lower the concentration of deer in the area with the goal of reducing property damage and vehicle collisions. The hunt will continue through December 31st (except on November 22nd and December 24th and 25th).

MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Over the past month the Public works maintenance crews responded to 4 separate snow events.

- Two of the events required full crew plowing of all the streets, cul-de-sacs and trails.
- Two were lighter snow fall events that required only salt application to the streets.
- Before each event collector streets were pre-treated with a salt brine mixture.

- After each event plows and equipment are cleaned and inspected and repaired as necessary.

Over the past month the Utility Division work program included:

- Every day, Public Works personnel inspect every well, lift station, water tower, the booster station and the water treatment plant. Regular/routine scheduled maintenance is performed and any necessary repairs are completed as needed.
- Crews are working on a thorough detail/cleaning in each of the well houses.
- Each day utility crews respond to location requests by marking underground City utilities in proposed excavation areas.
- Drinking water samples were collected and analyzed as required by the Minnesota Department of Health.
- Every water meter (there are approximately 10,000) in the City is read (by radio) each month by the Utility Division. It takes one person approximately one week to drive the streets to collect all the water meter reads.
- Crews are inspecting manholes, covers and structures and are televising segments of the sanitary sewer system.
- They are working on the annual flushing/cleaning one half of the Cities sanitary system.
- Utility crews worked with a contractor to repair a water main break on Milton Ave.
- One fire hydrant was hit during a snow event and crews removed it and repaired the hydrant.

Over the past month, when not plowing or clearing snow from streets and trails, the Street Division work program was highlighted by the following:

- Crews have begun the annual trimming along boulevards. Boulevard trees or other vegetation encroaching into the street right of way are trimmed back. This allows plow trucks and other equipment to move through the streets without damaging the equipment and the trees or vegetation.
- Storm sewer maintenance and repairs included:
 - Pulling a pump at Gramsie lift station and repairing as necessary.
- Sign maintenance/manufacturing ramps up this time of year. Crews are making new street name signs to systematically replace signs as they age and lose their reflectivity.
 - 8 street lights were reported as failing or inoperable.
 - 1 street light was reported to Xcel.
 - 2 lights were referred to an electrical contractor for repairs.
 - 7 street lights were inspected by Public Works Staff.
 - 5 lights were repaired in house with either a bulb replacement or the photo cell replaced.
- They are also repairing and replacing signs as necessary.

The Dept. of Corrections crew leader has been out on a leave of absence. The DOC contract has been temporarily suspended throughout his leave and a credit for the time absent will be reflected on the first billing of 2019. The DOC crew leader is scheduled to return on December 17, 2018.

PROJECT UPDATES

Rice Creek Fields Stormwater Reuse – Project 17-06 – The work for the system is complete, but the start-up and training of the equipment was postponed until the spring of 2019. Given the time of year, the irrigation system at the Rice Creek Fields was winterized for the season and the pump house equipment cannot be tested while the irrigation system is not in use.

Bridge/Lion/Arner/Dale Reconstruction – Project 18-01 – Due to the colder weather the work on the project was postponed until spring of 2019. Work remaining includes restoration of the areas around the sidewalk that was installed along Dale Street and minor punch list items.

2018 Street Rehabilitation – Project 18-02 – All of the work for the project was completed except for the concrete sidewalk along Kent Street, between Harriet Avenue and Owasso Street North. Due to the colder weather the installation of the sidewalk was postponed until the spring of 2019.

Dale Court N & S Water Main Extension – Project 18-03 – All of the work for the project is complete.

2018 Water System Improvements – Project 18-04 – All of the work for the project is complete and the Council approved final payment for the project at the November 19th meeting.

Wabasso Neighborhood Reconstruction – Project 19-01 – Staff is currently preparing the Feasibility Report for the project and is expecting to present the report to the Council in February 2019.

County Road E Trail – Project 19-03 – At the August 6 meeting, the Council authorized a professional services agreement for preliminary design of a trail along County Road E between Lexington Avenue and Vivian Avenue. The preliminary design along with a cost estimate was submitted to Ramsey County with a request to cost share on the project and the cost share was approved. At the December 3 meeting, the Council authorized a professional services agreement for development of plans and specifications for the trail. The design will be completed over the winter of 2019 with construction occurring in the summer of 2019.

St. Albans Court Water Main Extension – Project 19-04 – Staff is currently preparing the Feasibility Report for the project and is expecting to present the report to the Council in February 2019. It is expected the water main installation would be included with the Wabasso Neighborhood Reconstruction project.

County Road E Water Main Extension – Project 19-05 – Staff is currently preparing the Feasibility Report for the project and is expecting to present the report to the Council in February 2019. The water main installation would be included with the County Road E Trail project.

Schutta Road Sewer Improvements – Project 19-06 – The Council established the project and authorized the execution of a professional services agreement for engineering services required

for the project at the November 5th meeting. The consultant for the project is currently working on the plans and specifications for the project with construction occurring in the spring/summer of 2019.

Owasso Blvd N Reconstruction – Project 19-07 – An open house for the project was held on November 14th. Residents were provided information on the feasibility process, current conditions and goals for the project area, and estimated assessment information. The consultant for the project is currently working on the Feasibility Study and City staff is expecting to present the Study to the Council at the January 7th meeting.

Maintenance Solar Array Project – The design for the system is complete and Ideal Energy staff has been working with City staff on schedule and logistics for material delivery and installation. It is expected installation of the solar equipment will begin in January of 2019.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2018