

TO: MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER  
FROM: MARK MALONEY, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
DATE: MARCH 14, 2019  
SUBJ: PUBLIC WORKS MONTHLY REPORT

## **FLOOD RISK PREPARATION**



The Department is rapidly transitioning from the challenges of the unprecedented cold weather conditions of the past six weeks to preparing to increased high water level impacts forecasted for much of the State. City staff met this week with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) and member communities to talk about the current conditions and possible scenarios if the relatively wet weather continues. Throughout the District, water bodies (incl. Snail and Grass Lakes) were at extremely high levels last fall, with groundwater being problematic as well. The models that consider snowmelt and possible rainfall amounts are predicting difficult conditions this spring, and all cities in the area are preparing for flood impacts in low-lying areas. City staff met with RWMWD representatives to identify at-risk areas in Shoreview and develop strategies for mitigating high water impacts to habitable structures where possible. The department is preparing sandbags for deployment in those areas if/when needed.

UPDATE: In addition to the minor standing water issues and still frozen storm drains throughout the city, this week's rain and snowmelt caused Gramsie Road to flood just east of the intersection with Mackubin Street, requiring the road to be closed temporarily on Thursday, March 14. Public Works personnel are setting up emergency pumping that hopefully will allow the roadway to re-open within 24 hours.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

### **Environmental Quality Committee (EQC)**

The Environmental Quality Committee met with the City Council in February to go over their goals and workplan for 2019 and 2020. Each of the three sub-committees of Water, Recycling,

and Energy presented their goals to Council. The group thought that the Council was receptive of the Committees new goals and action items, and were appreciative of the work done by the group in the past.

The first speaker of the 2019 EQC Speaker Series took place on Thursday, March 9th. Paul Gardner spoke at 7pm in Council Chambers to kick off the 2019 series. This presentation was rescheduled from February 20<sup>th</sup> when there was a large snow event. Paul gave an excellent presentation on his own efforts to conserve water on his property, help water infiltrate into the ground, as well as ways for others to follow in his footsteps. The March speaker will be from the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District and will talk about carp management in the Owasso Lake chain. This presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. The April speaker will discuss soil health in urban vegetable gardens, and the May speaker will discuss recycling in Shoreview and ways to improve.

### **Forestry**

Disease tree removals from 2018 are still being taken care of as the city's contractor hit a delay due to warmer temperatures and wet ground late last year. All diseased ash trees tagged in 2018 have now been removed and all but two oak trees as well. Upper Cut Tree Service, the city's prior contractor, is unable to remove the remaining two oak trees. As they have oak wilt and need to be removed, they will be removed by the new contractor prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>. The City started a new contract with Precision Landscape and Tree in March. The Natural Resources Coordinator met with staff at Precision to discuss the year's contract, expectations, and this last minute tree removal. Staff is anticipating a good working relationship under the new contract.

Additionally, the city's tree sale began in late February and will continue through April 19<sup>th</sup>. A variety of species are offered this year, including a mix of native and non-native plants. An example of a non-regionally native species offered this year is the northern redbud tree. This species is native just south of our region, in Iowa and Missouri. The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum has cultivated a variety of this species that is hardy through Minnesota winters. With the changing climate and growing zones beginning to migrate north, staff thought the redbud would be a great species to help with that transition. All trees and shrubs ordered through the tree sale will be delivered by city crews in late May.

### **Recycling**

Recycling in Shoreview had some issues over the past two months due to an abundance of weather events. These events caused delays and cancellations in recycling services for many residents. Those in Wednesday's collection zone were hit the worst as major storms appeared to be concentrated on Wednesdays this winter. Eureka made efforts to come back and collect when residences were missed due to weather. During the storm, staff worked on communication efforts for last-minute collection cancellations. Because Eureka has a contract for collection services with the city and not with individual residents, they do not have contact information for all residents to call/email/text them that service was postponed for the day. The City does not have this contact information for all its residents either. Eureka does have an app that notifies users of recycling delays and changes (among many other things). In order to increase resident knowledge of this app, the city put information in its utility bill mailings, on the website and social media, and in the ShoreViews newsletter. This information was also included in the annual

recycling calendar mailing. Hopefully this additional outreach effort will help residents become aware of Eureka's app and become more informed of any collection schedule changes in the future.

Staff is also continuing to work with Eureka on an issue they brought to light late last year. Currently in Shoreview there are as many as 50 households with long, private driveways where Eureka's trucks have difficulty accessing recycling carts. Eureka provided an additional list of addresses in early March and staff has been doing field investigations, research, and creating maps to try and determine a plan of action. Eureka is still collecting recycling from these residences in the interim but is seeking resolution of their concern in a timely manner.

### **MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES**

Over the past month the Public Works maintenance crews responded to a record 10 separate snow events. Needless to say these activities have consumed the entire work program.

- The timing of three of those events required two full crew plowing of all streets and cul-de-sacs for each event.
- The other 7 events required one full crew plowing for each event.
- Trails and sidewalks are cleared after each event.
  - Trails and sidewalks are usually cleared with v-plows or straight blade plows, but the depth of the snow required trail and sidewalk equipment be converted to snow blowers. There are four pieces of equipment that are set up with snow blowers that are regularly used on the trails and sidewalks.
  - Blowing snow from trails and sidewalks takes more than twice the time as plowing them.
- Crews responded to each event and two other events with ice control and de-icing.
- After each event plows and equipment are cleaned and inspected and repaired as necessary.
- Because of the high accumulation of snow, between each event crews were out benching back snow banks and cleaning and widening streets.
- Utility crews as well as the DOC crews were out clearing around fire hydrants between plowing events.
- Crews are out opening catch basins in response to the snow melt and rain.

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.
- 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.
- While time permits crews are inspecting manholes, covers and structures and are televising and flushing segments of the sanitary sewer system.
- They have been repairing hydrants and replacing hydrant flags as necessary.

Beside snow plowing, clean up and trail and sidewalk maintenance, the street division work program during the past month has included:

- The crew continues to respond to icy conditions throughout the City.
- Storm sewer maintenance and repairs included:
  - Extra emphasis has been placed on clearing catch basins of debris and ice.
- Weight restrictions on local streets went in to effect on Friday, March 15. Crews are installing load limit signs on local streets.

The Department of Corrections crew has been cleaning the maintenance center twice a week. They are working with the Parks Department and Public works with snow removal and clean up. Between snow events, the crew has been busy clearing snow from around hydrants and opening catch basins. The DOC crew continues to fill sand bags to prepare for possible high water conditions.

## **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** – A majority of the work was completed in 2018 with some minor items that will be completed in the spring of 2019. Work remaining includes restoration of the areas around the sidewalk that was installed along Dale Street and 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. The installation of the sidewalk will be completed in the spring of 2019.

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

**2019 Street Rehabilitation – Project 19-02** – Bids for the project were received and opened on March 12<sup>th</sup>. A recommendation to accept the low bid and authorize a construction contract will be presented to the Council for consideration at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Wabasso Neighborhood Reconstruction – Project 19-01** – The public hearing for the project was held at the March 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. After the public hearing the Council ordered the project and authorized the preparation of plans and specifications. A resolution to approve the final plans and specifications and order the taking of bids will be presented to the Council for consideration at the March 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

**County Road E Trail – Project 19-03** – The consultant for the project is currently working on the design for the project. The design will be completed during the winter with construction occurring in the summer of 2019.

**St. Albans Court Water Main Extension – Project 19-04** – The public hearing for the project was held at the March 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. After the public hearing the Council ordered the project and authorized the preparation of plans and specifications. The installation of the water main and associated restoration of the roadway and disturbed areas would be included with the Wabasso Neighborhood Reconstruction project.

**County Road E Water Main Extension – Project 19-05** – The public hearing for the project will be held at the March 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. A resolution ordering the project and authorizing the preparations of plans and specifications will be presented to the Council for consideration at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The water main installation would be included with the County Road E Trail project.

**Schutta Road Sewer Improvements – Project 19-06** – At the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council approved the plans and specifications, ordered the improvement, and ordered the taking of bids on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am. It is expected a recommendation to award a construction contract will be presented to the Council for consideration at the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**North Owasso Blvd Reconstruction – Project 19-07** – The public hearing for the project was held at the February 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. After the public hearing the Council ordered the project and authorized the preparation of plans and specifications. At the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council authorized an amendment to the professional services agreement for the preparation of final plans and specifications and bidding services with the engineering consultant completing the design of the project. It is anticipated approval of final plans and specifications and ordering the taking of bids will be presented to the Council for consideration in April.

**Maintenance Solar Array Project** – 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 the spring of 2019.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 18, 2019