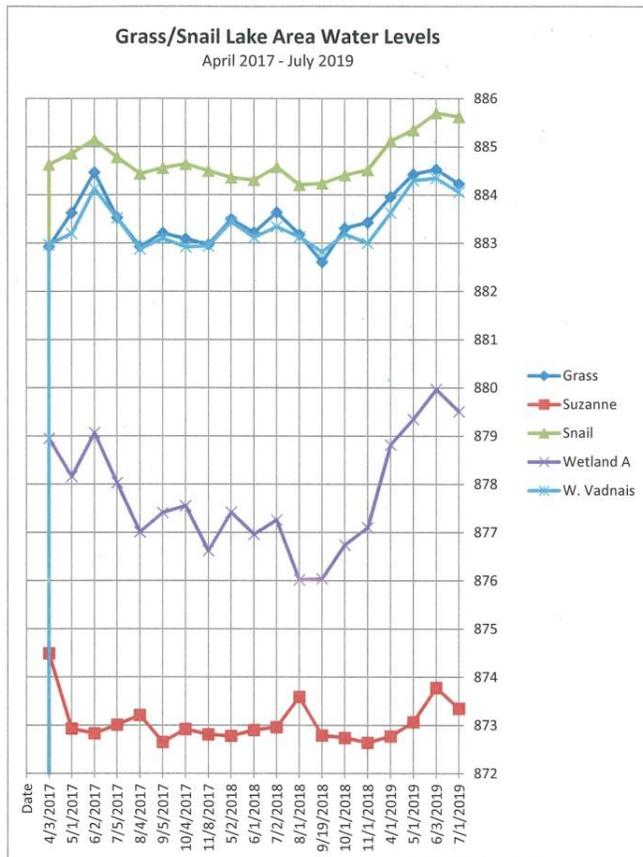


TO: MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER  
 FROM: MARK MALONEY, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
 DATE: JULY 12, 2019  
 SUBJ: PUBLIC WORKS MONTHLY REPORT

**GRASS/SNAIL LAKE AREA WATER LEVELS**



Water levels in the Grass and Snail Lake areas have gone down slightly since last report. As seen in the chart to the left, Snail Lake, Grass Lake, West Vadnais Lake and Wetland “A” (County Park behind Floral Drive) all hit record high levels in early June of this year, but have since decreased. These areas are still heavily impacted by water levels that reflect the recent extremely wet cycle. Snail Lake is approximately 3 feet above the augmentation target elevation of 882.7; the augmentation system has been inactive since 2013. At high water levels, Grass and West Vadnais Lakes are essentially connected, so their levels closely correspond. The recent decrease in level has allowed Ramsey County to re-open Rice Street in both directions. The high water level in the area of Wetland “A” has required Ramsey County to indefinitely close a section of their trail. Managing the water level in area is complicated; Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District

expended a significant amount of resources to provide temporary relief only to see the area fill back in with groundwater and surface drainage from an area that extends north of Highway 96. There are currently no plans by either RWMWD or Ramsey County to attempt to manage water levels in the Wetland “A” Area. While the City has been attempting to partner with the County to restore some functionality to the trail system in the area over the past two years, Ramsey County indicates a lack of funding outside of their future Master Planning cycle. The level of Suzanne Pond is heavily influenced by the high groundwater affecting the entire area, and has been managed by a permanent storm water pumping station since 1988. That facility is being upgraded and replaced in 2020.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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

The EQC is currently in the middle of the 2019 Green Community Awards season. Five applications were received from three groups, Lionsgate Academy, Oak Hill Montessori, and a resident, Adam Bloemke, who has an impressive renewable energy installation at his property. The group is in the process of arranging tours of each applicant's facility where they'll have the opportunity to ask questions and observe each installation first hand. After the tours, each award winner will be invited to attend a City Council meeting to receive their award and be recognized for their efforts.

The EQC is also moving forward with their plan for implementing organics collection and zero waste at the Slice of Shoreview. As discussed with Council at their February 2019 workshop meeting, the EQC is planning to audit the 2019 event to get an idea of how things currently operate and where the best opportunities for zero waste would be. At their June meeting, the EQC invited representatives from Eureka Recycling to share their experience and insight into zero waste event planning. Representatives from Eureka suggested that vendors be contacted this year so they're aware before the 2020 event. They also suggested that the EQC could start with a low-waste vs. zero-waste event, or that they could chose a specific section of the Slice to make zero waste as opposed to the whole festival. Eureka noted that it was very important for this process to be simple and easy for residents as it would likely be the first exposure to zero-waste/organics recycling for most attendees. If the process is confusing or difficult in any way, it's likely that residents will leave with a negative impression and that is the opposite of the EQC's goal. The group is currently reviewing sample outreach materials provided by Eureka and several members plan to attend this year's Slice of Shoreview to audit and take photos to share with the group.

### **Forestry**

The city's Emerald Ash Borer treatment program for 2019 is well underway. More than 150 trees have been treated so far, including the city park trees at McCullough and Bucher Parks. More than 460 trees have been quoted so far this summer across the entire city. The interns are currently working on treating the 165 trees where residents have paid already and are waiting for treatment. The trees have been taking chemical more slowly this month due to higher temperatures and humidity. Trees take chemical best in cooler temps, after a rain event, and early in the day. This year's program is expected to be similar to past years in terms of the number of trees treated. Because of the large number of residents in the current waiting list, the city is no longer providing quotes for treatment this year.

### **Recycling**

The city continues to run out of the organics recycling starter kits provided by Ramsey County to its residents. Over 200 starter kits (including a storage bucket with a lid for your kitchen counter, and a packet with some information on the program, and a compostable bag) have been handed out at City Hall within the last year and the Natural Resources Coordinator will be picking up more next week. The high level of resident interest in the organics recycling program is

encouraging to staff and also to the EQC who hopes to implement organics waste collection at the Slice and potentially the Community Center.

## **MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES**

Over the past month the Utility Division work program reflected:

- Each day Utility personnel inspect all the wells, lift stations, water towers, the booster station and the water treatment plant. Regular/routine scheduled maintenance is performed and any necessary repairs are completed as needed.
- Utility crews respond to location requests by marking underground City utilities in proposed excavation areas.
  - City and County projects ramp up this time of year and at two people are locating daily and at times up to four people are required to keep up with the high demand for location requests.
- Utility crews are actively participating in the inspection of utility infrastructure in project areas. They are working closely with contractors to ensure the infrastructure is installed and functioning as designed.
- Drinking water samples were collected and analyzed as required by the Minnesota Department of Health.
- All of the City's approximately 10,000 water meters are read every month. It takes one person approximately one week to drive the streets to collect all the water meter reads through radio transmission. That data is use for water billing statement as well as the WaterSmart customer portal.
- When time permits, crews inspect manholes, covers and structures and also televise segments of the sanitary sewer system.
- Utility crews continue jetting sanitary sewer segments in accordance with general routine maintenance. The goal is to complete at least a third of the City per year.
- They completed one repair to a broken water main this past month.

The Street Division work program for the last month included:

- Asphalt patching and repairs.
  - Spot patching
  - Patching water main break repairs
- Storm Ponds and catch basins continue to be cleaned, inspected and maintained.
  - The emergency pump at Gramsie Rd continues to be closely monitored and inspected and refueled as needed.
  - Mowing and trimming around the Target pond area.
- Street sweeping continues as time and resources allow.
  - Debris collected from street sweeping is screened to remove sticks, paper and trash and the remaining dirt is hauled away.
- Street crews are mowing maintenance strips along trails and trimming as necessary.
- Crews have begun preparing trail segments for the annual seal-coating project.
  - They are patching and crack filling and edging along trails to be seal-coated.

The Department of Corrections crew continues to clean the Maintenance Center and its grounds twice a week. The crew is working heavily within parks, medians and commons areas to control weeds and are cleaning and maintaining grounds and flower beds. They are also working with the street department edging trails and generally preparing trails for seal-coating. They are kept very busy and are scheduled out weeks in advance.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

**Rice Creek Fields Stormwater Reuse – Project 17-06** – The start-up was completed and performed as designed. The City’s SCADA consultant is currently working with the contractor to connect the system to the City’s SCADA system and the contractor is working on punch list items.

**Bridge/Lion/Arner/Dale Reconstruction – Project 18-01** – The contractor has been addressing punch list items and the remaining items are expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

**2018 Street Rehabilitation – Project 18-02** – The contractor has been addressing punch list items and has started the construction of the concrete sidewalk along Kent Street. The existing material has been removed, the granular base installed, and the installation of concrete is expected to start on July 11. It is expected the installation of the sidewalk and all restoration work will be completed by the end of July.

**Dale Court N & S Water Main Extension – Project 18-03** – Project is complete.

**Wabasso Neighborhood Reconstruction – Project 19-01** – The contractor has completed the removal of trees in the project area and has started the removal of the existing pavement and driveways. The contractor has also started the underground utility work in the Janice/Centre area and is expected to take 2-weeks to complete.

**2019 Street Rehabilitation – Project 19-02** – The contractor has completed the reclamation of the existing asphalt and injecting the asphalt emulsion for the street sections west of Fernwood Street and started to install the new asphalt pavement the week of July 10<sup>th</sup>. The contractor has started the reclamation of the existing asphalt on the street sections east of Fernwood and it is expected the injection of emulsion will begin the week of July 15<sup>th</sup>. The first layer of new asphalt pavement was installed on Hamline Avenue and the Dale Street Alley.

The water main work was completed on Chandler Road and the contractor is currently completing restoration of the areas behind the curb that were disturbed by the water main installation. Once the restoration work is complete the existing asphalt will be reclaimed.

**County Road E Trail – Project 19-03** – Bids were received for the project and it is expected a recommendation to award the project to the low bidder will be presented to the Council for consideration at the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**St. Albans Court Water Main Extension – Project 19-04** –The contractor has completed the installation of the water main and is currently installing the water services to the properties in the project area. Once the services are installed the roadway area will be graded and the aggregate base installed in preparation for the installation of concrete curb and gutter.

**County Road E Water Main Extension – Project 19-05** – Bids were received for the project and it is expected a recommendation to award the project to the low bidder will be presented to the Council for consideration at the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Schutta Road Sewer Improvements – Project 19-06** – The schedule of the project has been delayed due to an issue obtaining an easement from Ramsey County. The pipeline is located in the Rice Creek Regional Park and the City needs to acquire an easement from Ramsey County to allow the installation of the pipeline. During the process to acquire the easement it was discovered that there may be an error with the recorded ownership of the property and the City Attorney and City staff are currently working with County staff to address the issue.

**North Owasso Blvd Reconstruction – Project 19-07** – The plans and specifications for the project are essentially complete and will be presented to the Council for consideration for approval and to advertise for bidding at the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**2019 Street Light Replacement – Project 19-08** – The plans and specifications for the project are essentially complete and will be presented to the Council for consideration for approval and to advertise for bidding at the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**2019 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – Project 19-09** – The contractor has completed the cleaning and televising of all the pipelines included in the project and has started lining sections of the piping. It is expected the lining will continue through the month of July.

**Suzanne/Gramsie Stormwater Improvements – Project 20-01** – The City’s consultant is currently collecting data and working on the preliminary design for the project.

**Edgetown Acres Reconstruction – Project 20-02** – The City Council established the project and ordered the preparation of a feasibility report at the May 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Due to the size of the neighborhood and total length of streets to be reconstructed the project will be divided into two years and the feasibility report will include a recommendation on how the project areas should be divided. Survey and geotechnical consultants are currently collecting data in the neighborhood that will be used in the preparation of the feasibility report.

**Maintenance Solar Array Project** – Ideal Energy staff has completed the design and submitted to Xcel Energy for review and approval. The review process has taken longer than expected and delayed the start of the project. Once the design is approved by Xcel, the installation will be scheduled.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 15, 2019