

TO: MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER  
FROM: MARK MALONEY, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
DATE: AUGUST 19, 2019  
SUBJ: PUBLIC WORKS MONTHLY REPORT

### **SMART IRRIGATION CONTROLLER REBATE PROGRAM**



A number of communities have recently launched rebate or cost-share programs to encourage their customers to conserve water. Based on the data provided through Shoreview's WaterSmart platform, the majority of residential properties in Shoreview are classified as "lawn irrigators"; water use throughout the community nearly triples during the warm weather growing season. Since new "smart" irrigation controllers have built-in technology to more effectively irrigate lawns, staff believes that a rebate program would be another step toward water conservation. The Metropolitan Council has recently established a Water Efficiency Grant Program that could provide up to 75% (\$50,000 maximum) of Shoreview's cost of a smart irrigation controller rebate program. Smart irrigation controllers are typically Wi-Fi or Bluetooth enabled and can be linked to weather forecasting phone apps. So rather than controlling a residential irrigation system simply with a calendar/clock, a "smart" controller allows the settings to be over-ridden or interrupted remotely by the owner based on changing weather conditions in a effort to prevent watering in the rain or other unnecessary uses. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that replacing a standard clock timer with a smart irrigation controller can save an average home nearly 7,600 gallons of water annually. At full deployment, that could conserve more that 50 million gallons of drinking water per year in Shoreview.

Staff is planning to apply for this Metropolitan Council grant and implement a smart irrigation controller rebate program in 2020 that reflects the following:

- The City would rebate the entire cost, up to \$175, for an EPA Water-Sense approved smart irrigation controller
- The number of controller rebates (approx. 350) would be a function of maximizing available Met Council grant resources of \$50,000, requiring City participation of approximately \$12,500
- The program would be offered to non-delinquent residential water customers (not commercial or Association accounts) on a first-come, first-serve basis
- Program applicants would be required to provide receipts, photographic evidence and other documentation to determine program eligibility
- The rebates would be administered as credits on utility bills

It is anticipated that the city cost of the program would be funded through the Water Utility similar to other activities related to water conservation.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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

The EQC has finished their site visits for the 2019 Green Community Awards applicants. This year two schools are being recognized for their efforts implementing sustainability into their programs. Oak Hill Montessori School is working with students learning about gardening and native plants. They recently installed a solar greenhouse on the property and plan to involve both students and residents at Shoreview Senior Living in growing and taking care of plants in the greenhouse. Additionally, the school went through the BizRecycling program with Ramsey County. Students at the school collect recyclables from each classroom at the end of every day. They inspect it to make sure everything has been properly disposed of and then take recyclables to the recycling collection container. This year's second winner is Lionsgate Academy School. Lionsgate Academy is a newer charter school in Shoreview on Cardigan Rd. During building preparations, the school worked with the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District to turn large portions of what had previously been paved space into native plantings, rain gardens, and play areas for students. Lionsgate also participated in Ramsey County's BizRecycling program to help establish good recycling protocols within the school as students are set to arrive for the fall. Next steps for the program include a mailed letter to each winner that includes an invitation to attend a City Council meeting in September 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 audited the 2019 event to get an idea of how things currently operate and where the best opportunities for zero waste would be. Several members attended this year's Slice of Shoreview to audit and take photos to share with the group. Their findings will be a part of the August EQC meeting. Also on the agenda for the EQC's August meeting is a request staff received from a student at Mounds View High School. An incoming junior at the school reached out to the Natural Resources Coordinator and asked to join the EQC; staff plans to take her request to the EQC to get their thoughts on the matter. The group has recently been discussing how to outreach better to the youth community, so allowing a student member on the committee may be a good method of better involving youth in EQC activities.

### **Forestry**

The city's Emerald Ash Borer treatment program for 2019 is nearing completion. Approximately 320 trees have been treated so far, including the city park trees at McCullough and Bucher Parks. A very large number of trees were quoted for treatment this summer across the entire city as the program continues to grow in popularity. The city's two forestry interns are currently working on treating the remaining 48 trees where residents have paid and are waiting for treatment. The trees have been taking chemical more slowly this summer due to a variety of factors e.g. temperature, moisture levels, etc. This year's program is expected to treat nearly 370 ash trees. Because of the large number of residents interested in this year's program, the city stopped accepting quotes and payments earlier than in years past to ensure that all who paid would be able to be treated in the time before the trees went dormant for the winter season.

Olivia, one of this year's forestry interns will be returning to school in late August but Maria, our second intern will likely be able to continue working for the city into the fall. Part of the fall work Maria will be assisting with the replacement planting of trees removed during the 2018 street reconstruction projects. A significant number of trees had to be removed during street projects in 2018. Replacement letters were

mailed to each resident who lost at least one tree. So far 19 trees have been requested by these residents to be planted by the City. Plantings will occur in September.

### **Recycling**

Staff has started the process of planning for this fall's Cleanup Day. The event will be held on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 7am to noon at the Ramsey County Public Works site at the corner of Hamline Ave and Highway 96. The city will again be working with Eureka Recycling, Shoreview's recycling contractor, and Nitti Sanitation, a subcontractor for Eureka. Additional subcontractors will be brought in for appliance, mattress, electronics, and tire recycling. Eureka will also be bringing cardboard recycling dumpster in an attempt to capture more recyclables. The city will again be accepting bicycle donations and will likely bring any donations received to Bikes-4-Kids in the north metro. Staff and Eureka are still working to staff the front end of the event and plan the layout in an attempt to move residents through with shorter wait times.

Eureka Recycling approached staff recently and asked if the city would be open to receiving an unsolicited proposal for weekly collection. According to Eureka, Shoreview's recycling participation rates are consistently one of the highest they've seen and they wanted to encourage more recycling because of that. When recycling carts are full (as happens often during every other week collection), residents throw excess recycling into the trash. Additional carts wouldn't necessarily solve the problem, as a large number of residents already have multiple carts or are limited on storage space. In fact, the city recently purchased another semi-load of 95-gallon recycling carts because we had run out of that largest sized cart from the original order. Shoreview residents are requesting 95-gallon carts at a rate of about 15 per month, 65-gallon carts at 6 per month and 35-gallon carts at 11 per month. Given the trend of increasing cardboard from home deliveries, all new cart purchases made by the city will be of 95-gallon carts. No additional smaller carts will be purchased in the future.

### **Energy**

Construction on the city's solar array project on the roof of the Maintenance Center is finally underway! Ideal Energy delivered and began installation of the solar panels in early August. Crews have been working on installation and wiring since the delivery and are anticipated to be working for several more weeks before the system is up and running. Current estimates put the system going online around Labor Day.

Additionally, the city will be working with volunteers from Cummins Power on the installation of two electric vehicle charging stations at City Hall/Community Center. Cummins employees approached the Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT) with an idea for a volunteer program. The focus behind the idea is to give Cummins employees an opportunity to volunteer to assist the communities in which they live with more technical projects where they have expertise. Cummins has offices in Shoreview, White Bear Lake, and Fridley. CERT reached out to each of those cities on behalf of Cummins to see if there were any projects staff could use help with. The Cummins team was mostly interested in electric vehicle projects and the Shoreview Commons EV charging station installation project was of great interest to them. Cummins now plans on having between 3 and 5 employees volunteer approximately 10 hours each to help Shoreview finish up its electric vehicle charging installation work. Specifically, Cummins employees will help the city assess the current electric infrastructure in the parking lot. They will also help with outreach and possibly signage for the chargers themselves to make sure that the public is aware that they are open for use. A kick-off meeting is scheduled for late August where Cummins

employees, city staff, and CERT representatives will interact and start working on the project. EQC members Tim Pratt and John Suzukida have also been involved in the process.

## **MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES**

Public Works crews worked together with the Slice of Shoreview event planners before, during and after the 3-day event last month. Crews performed pre and post event sweeping and cleaning up. Crews set up and tore down Slice event signage, traffic control devices as well as tents and seating and trash/recycling collection.

In addition, the Street Division work program for the last month included:

- Asphalt patching and repairs.
- Trail maintenance and seal-coat preparations.
  - Mowing maintenance strips along trails and trimming as necessary
  - Edging along trails to be seal-coated
  - Sweeping trails
  - Crack filling and patching trails as needed
- Storm Ponds and catch basins inspections, cleaning and other maintenance activities
  - The emergency pump at Gramsie Rd continues to be closely monitored, inspected and refueled as needed. Vandalism in the Ramsey County Park/Open Space remains a problem.
- 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.
- Sign maintenance continues as necessary
  - Barricades and signage were delivered and picked up as requested for “Night to Unite” and block party events.
- Street crews were called to check on 12 street lights that were failing
  - Street crews were able to repair 5 of those lights
  - Signature Lighting was called in to repair 4 of those lights
  - Xcel energy was responsible for the other 3 lights.

Over the past month the Utility Division work program reflected:

- Daily inspection of 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.
  - Crews pulled and repaired pumps at the Oakridge lift station and at the North Lexington lift station.
- Utility crews respond to location requests by marking underground City utilities in proposed excavation areas.
  - City and County projects and various projects throughout the City have caused the need for locating services to dramatically increase this year.

- In the last 6 weeks crews have responded to 947 location requests. For every one of these requests that come in through the Gopher State One-Call System, we are required to field locate any city-owned underground infrastructure including sewer and water lines, drainage facilities, street light wiring, etc.
- There have been numerous days in a row where 8 utility crew members worked solely at marking locations in response to these requirements
- Utility crews continue to actively participate 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.
  - They are also loading and testing water mains and collecting and testing samples as necessary.
- 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.
- 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.
- A leak survey was completed in the southern section of the City.
  - One leak was detected and is scheduled for repairs.
- Two hydrants that were not functioning properly were repaired this past month.
- Generators are scheduled to be placed at the North Water Tower and at South Lexington lift station. Crews prepared the sites for the generator placement.
- As time permits crews are exercising gate valves and repairing curb boxes.

The Department of Corrections crew continues to clean the Maintenance Center and its grounds twice a week. A new crew leader was assigned to work in Shoreview. She began working with our crews, and learning the City and our expectations and standards. The crew continues working heavily within parks, medians and commons areas to control weeds and are cleaning and maintaining grounds and flower beds. They have been preparing for trail seal-coating. Trimming and removing trees and brush along trails continues. 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 completed the installation of the concrete sidewalk along Kent Street. Restoration of the disturbed areas

around the sidewalk is delayed due to the installation of new Xcel gas mains on Kent Street. Once the gas main work is complete, the contractor will complete the restoration.

**Wabasso Neighborhood Reconstruction – Project 19-01** – The underground utility work is complete and the contractor will be starting the process of grading the roadways and installing the granular base.

**2019 Street Rehabilitation – Project 19-02** – The contractor has completed the installation of new asphalt pavement on all streets in the project area except Dale Street between Arner Ave and Mound Avenue. A repair to the sanitary sewer below the roadway was required delaying the rehabilitation work. It is expected the injection of emulsion on Dale Street will be completed the week of August 12<sup>th</sup> and the new asphalt pavement installed the week of August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**County Road E Trail – Project 19-03** – A preconstruction meeting for the project was held and the contractor is planning to move on site the week of August 19<sup>th</sup> to set-up traffic control and start the removal of trees and other vegetation.

**St. Albans Court Water Main Extension – Project 19-04** –The contractor has completed the installation of the granular base for the roadway and also installed the concrete curb and gutter. It is expected the first layer of the new asphalt roadway will be installed the week of August 19<sup>th</sup>. The restoration of the disturbed areas behind the curb will be delayed until early September at the request of the residents. A majority of the residents have hired a contractor to install water services into their homes and the areas behind the curb would be disturbed by the installation of the services, so it was decided to delay the restoration until the services lines are installed.

**County Road E Water Main Extension – Project 19-05** – The water main installation will be completed as part of the County Road E Trail project. It is expected the contractor will start the installation of the water main the week of August 26<sup>th</sup>.

**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** – Bids for the project were received and opened on August 14<sup>th</sup> and a recommendation to award a contract to the low bidder will be sent to the Council for consideration at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**2019 Street Light Replacement – Project 19-08** – Bids for the project were received and opened on August 7<sup>th</sup> and a recommendation to award a contract to the low bidder will be sent to the Council for consideration at the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**2019 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – Project 19-09** – A majority of the lining of the main line sewer has been completed and the contractor is working to complete the remaining areas. Lining of sanitary

sewer services from the main line to the property line in specific areas will also be completed as part of the project. It is expected the service lining will begin in September.

**Suzanne/Gransie Stormwater Improvements – Project 20-01** – The City’s consultant is currently collecting data and working on the preliminary design for the project. The new storm drainage lift station is scheduled to be constructed and operational in 2020.

**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 is currently completing the installation of the solar arrays on the maintenance center and it is expected the work will be completed in the next few weeks.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 19, 2019