

PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (PMP)

THE QUESTIONS AND THE ANSWERS

Last updated October 7, 2020

UTILITIES

STORM GRATES (STORM DRAINS OR CATCH BASINS)

Q1. What is the type of storm grate planned for the remaining PMPs?

A: The City standard catch basin is a 2-foot by 3-foot rectangular structure with a Neenah Foundry 3067-L casting. This casting has a higher inlet capacity than the old round inlets, and it is bicycle safe.

Q2. Some storm grates are open against the curb. Homeowners with a similar storm grate said they are a “raccoon interstate highway system,” with one reporting there is a “game” trail from the grate into his yard and another reporting “we have had raccoons, fox, opossum, and ducks make nests in there.” Will the City continue to use grates that are open against the curb so raccoons and other animals can go into the sewer?

A: Yes.

Q3. Won't animal refuse in the storm drains contribute to water problems?

A: Fecal impairment is possible; however, phosphorous impairment is by far the most common impairment in Minnesota.

Q4. Can the City make sure the new storm grates do not allow animals into them?

A: Unfortunately, no. If we block access for all the various sized animals, we would also be restricting water flow, which could cause flooding issues in the street.

Q5. Why do the new storm grates look old because of patches of coloring when the old storm grates do not have this problem?

A: The inlets are cast iron, and rusting is part of the aging process. Eventually the rust fades.

Q6. Can the City make sure that the new storm grates do not discolor?

A: See answer to Q5.

Q7. When did the City start installing the larger storm grates with openings to the back?

A: The City has used the rectangular catch basins with vane grates for decades.

Q8. How much more of a water capacity does this type of storm grate have compared with the ones we now have?

A: The capacity difference can be significant, and there are many variables.

Q9. Why do some storm grates in the 2019 PMP have green paint on them? Are they being scheduled for maintenance

A: The catch basins have been located for Gopher State One Call and the paint was placed there to help the locator track progress.

OPTION FOR HOMEOWNERS TO CONNECT SUMP PUMPS TO THE STORM SEWER

Q10. Can you confirm the City is installing stubs to the storm sewer line, which would allow a homeowner to connect the sump pump discharge line to the storm sewer?

A: Yes.

Q11. When could a homeowner connect the sump pump discharge line to the storm sewer? After the construction is done? During construction only?

A: Whenever they want to, but the City prefers that it wait until the latter half of the construction season (once the base layer of pavement has been installed).

Q12. Can two sump pumps be connected to the sewer?

A: Yes. Staff needs to know the locations of the discharges from the home in order to locate the stubs properly.

Q13. What are the specifications of what is connected to the storm sewer? For example, can you use a hose?

A: The connection needs to be piped because it is underground.

Q14. Is there an additional cost to the homeowner for making the connection?

A: There is no cost for installation of the service stub, but the property owner is responsible for all costs associated with connection.

Q15. Does the City inspect the work after it is done? If so, what is the cost?

A: Yes, via a Right-Of-Way Permit. The Right-Of-Way Permit fee is waived if a resident is making the connection as part of the PMP project.

Q16. Can a homeowner bury the line (after determining where the gas line is) and make the connection, or do you require professionals to make the connection?

A: Homeowners can perform the work.

Q17. What professionals would do this work? Plumbers? Landscapers?

A: Both.

Q18. Do you have a recommended list of professionals to do this work? If so, can you provide the list?

A: The City does not make recommendations regarding contractors.

Q19. Are homeowners from other PMP areas also able to connect to the storm sewer?

A: Yes.

OPTION FOR HOMEOWNERS TO REPLACE SEWER CONNECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION

Q20. What is the reason for the sewer replacement program?

A: The program is part of the City's efforts to reduce I & I (discharge of clear water into the sanitary sewer system). Most repairs are done using trenchless technology, and very few services are replaced.
www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/inflow-infiltration.php

Q21. If the homeowner chooses to have the sewer replaced, is there a discount since the street has already been dug up?

A: No. See answer to Q1 regarding repair methods.

Q22. Can the City advise on the matter of the City ordinance of sewer line inspections prior to selling one's home? Are lines inspected anyway before they re-lay the sewer pipes? If an owner is something within a five-year time horizon of selling, when is the best time to do this and does the City replacement project impact that at all?

A: I & I compliance at the point of sale is required by City Code. See previous answer regarding repair methods. Anytime is a good time to do this.
https://library.municode.com/mn/golden_valley/codes/code_of_ordinances, Chapter 28, Article III, Sec 28-50

Q23. What are the procedures for inspection and pricing of redoing of the sewer connection between the home and the street? Are there options for homeowners to hire their own contractor for this work? Is there a list of acceptable contractors provided by the City?

A: When notified, call the City Engineering Department to schedule an appointment. Pricing varies based on the defects in the service. Homeowners may hire their own contractors. If property owners wish to have the cost assessed, they need to work with one of several contractors the City contracts with.

Q24. Must the sewer replacement program be paid in a lump sum, or can it be added to property tax?

A: The costs can be assessed.