

Progress Update- 7.24.25

The installation of 122 services has been completed with 6 additional scheduled. Services continue to be installed on Sandy Lane Dr, Sandy Lane Ct, Aqua Fria Ct, Forest Valley Dr, Forest Valley Ct, Oak Creek Ct, White Oak Ct, and Oakmont Dr. Work is still progressing on time and will be done by November 1, 2025, the Phase Two contractual completion date. In the last days of July, there will be traffic shifts along Thornapple River Dr to accommodate watermain installation, but two-way access will be maintained.

Road Resurfacing

After all 2025 planned roadwork in Cascade Township was scheduled, Kent County Road Commission had availability and allowed the Township to get a jump on road resurfacing in the Burger/Goodwood Neighborhood that was initially planned for 2026. The following roads have been added on as 2025 fall resurfacing projects:

- Oak Terrace Ct (Woodbrook Dr to the end)
- Ridgemont Ct (Woodbrook Dr to the end)
- Sandy Lane Ct (Sandy Lane Dr to the end)
- Sandy Lane Dr (Woodbrook Dr to the end)
- Tricklewood Dr (Woodbrook Dr to Tricklewood Ct)
- Woodbrook Dr (Burger Dr to the end)

Lawn Restoration

We recently began hearing additional concerns about the presence of weeds and that residents are having a difficult time establishing new grass throughout the Township. This is in part due to the heat of summer, but the contractor is committed to ensuring the required turf growth is achieved on properties still undergoing construction and restoration. This may include re-seeding certain areas and applying weed treatments as necessary. Phase One of the project ended in 2023 with work under the contractor warranty period ending in 2024. The scope of active construction is contractually restricted to the remaining Phase 2 areas of the project. If you have further questions or concerns regarding Phase 1 restoration, email goodwoodwater@gmail.com.

The project contractor has asked property owners to assist in the success of these efforts to help support healthy grass establishment in the following ways:

- **Irrigation:** Newly seeded areas benefit from consistent, light watering. Begin watering one day after application. We recommend watering 3 times per day. The goal is to keep the surface of the newly seeded areas consistently moist (but not soaked) especially during dry periods.
- **Mowing:** Avoid mowing until the new grass reaches a height of 3–4 inches. When you mow, set your mower blades high.
- **Traffic:** Try to minimize foot traffic across newly seeded areas to help prevent damage to emerging grass. Block children, pets, and other pedestrian traffic, if possible, to avoid disruption of the hydro seeded mulch or germinating seeds. You should minimize traffic after application for 5 to 6 weeks to allow your lawn to mature.
- **Weed Control:** DO NOT use weed control products on new grass. These chemicals can destroy fledgling grass. If you notice weeds growing in your hydro seeded lawn, do not be concerned. Over time, the new grass will become denser, and most weeds will be choked out by advancing grassroots. After the new grass is fully established, you can use weed control.
- **Patience:** Grass establishment can take time, especially during hot, dry months, but with consistent care, results will follow.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work toward completing this restoration.

Residents who have not yet obtained a quote for their water service connection are encouraged to contact McDonald Plumbing for a property-specific quote. Please note that once excavation begins, it may take up to a month before the work is completed and irrigation systems are restored.

**McDonald Plumbing Contact info:
Grace Thumser – (616) 698-6771**

As a reminder, the work McDonald Plumbing will be providing will be paid for by the project, not residents. The only fee homeowners would be responsible for is the difference in price if they choose copper for the private portion of the water service, rather than the plastic version that is covered by the project, and any costs associated with retaining their well for irrigation, if they choose to do so.

If residents are concerned with meter and/or service sizing for their home, we recommend

they discuss their concerns with McDonald Plumbing when they receive a quote for the property. Residents can also contact Lawrence Olson with the City of Grand Rapids (lolson@grand-rapids.mi.us) as he can also assist with proper sizing.

Property owners should be aware that many irrigation systems will likely be damaged and have lines/zones removed or severed. As part of the contract, CL Trucking and Excavating will be coordinating with an irrigation company to repair these systems at no cost to the property owner.

If you have any concerns regarding the project, please reach out to the project email account at goodwoodwater@gmail.com.

Other Phase Two Information

Unlike the grants that funded Phase I, the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) obtained for Phase II do not allow multiple plumbing contractors to complete the connections from the road to the residences. McDonald Plumbing was the low bidder for these private side connections and was awarded the contract for all Phase II services.

The Kent County Road Commission enforces standard construction specifications for soil erosion and sedimentation control on all projects within its jurisdiction. Many residents have asked about the black and orange fabric bags placed in some catch basins within the project area. These bags are required by the road commission to prevent dirt and construction debris from entering the storm system, which could restrict sewer capacity during wet weather.

Contractors are responsible for maintaining and emptying these bags as needed. However, they cannot be removed until the road commission determines that grass growth has been sufficiently reestablished to prevent further construction debris from entering the system.

Please continue directing questions on Phase Two of the project to goodwoodwater@gmail.com.

Phase Two Tree Removal

The Township recent sent letters to residences who had one or more trees removed as part of Phase 2 in order to initiate tree restoration. The Township will work with any eligible residences who respond and develop a plan for restoration.

Whole Home Water Filtration System Removal

Residences that had a whole home water filtration system installed due to PFAS contamination have the opportunity to keep the filtration system and take on full responsibility for system maintenance and disposal. Since there is generally a high cost to remove and dispose of the filtration systems, we are requiring all residences who want to keep their whole home filtration system to sign a filter agreement, transferring the title of the filtration system to the homeowner. There will not be an additional cost to the resident from the Township to keep the whole home filtration system. If this is something you are interested in, please email goodwoodwater@gmail.com for a copy of the form and further information.

Groundwater Restrictions

At the beginning of the Goodwood/Berger PFAS investigation, there was discussion that the township may adopt a Groundwater Use Ordinance, like the one adopted in Plainfield Township. Cascade Township does not currently intend to pass any type of Groundwater Use Ordinance because, unlike Plainfield, Cascade was able to secure enough grant funding from the state and federal government to cover the project without requiring the same magnitude of funding from the party at fault which the township identifies as the Gerald R Ford International Airport. Plainfield Township passed a Groundwater Use Ordinance as part of their agreement with Wolverine World Wide that provided for PFAS cleanup costs.

This means that Cascade Township will not be requiring residents to cap their wells or hook up to city water at this time. If the state were to require this type of ordinance in the future, the situation would become more complicated. Depending on the circumstances, the Township may be able to ask the GR Ford Airport to pay for well capping as part of remediation, but that depends on how many years down the line this legislation would be adopted and what it required.

There is already a portion of Cascade Township's ordinance that addresses required city water connections at residences where it is available:

§ 313-83. Public water connection required. [Amended 12-22-1993 by Ord. No. 18-1993; 6-13-2018 by Ord. No. 5-2018]

C. All existing single-family residential structures and multifamily residential structures, including such structures which are covered by an existing Special Assessment District for public water, shall be required to connect to available public water:

(1) When there is a major repair required of the private well, as determined by the Kent County Health Department.

Failure of a well would constitute a 'major repair', as determined by the health department, and would require connection to 'available public water', as defined earlier in the ordinance.

§ 313-82. Definitions. As used in this Part 6, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated: AVAILABLE PUBLIC WATER — Public water pipes located in a right-of-way, easement, highway, street, or public way which crosses, joins, or abuts upon the property and passing not more than 300 feet at the nearest point from a structure.

This means that if your property is closer than 300 ft from public water utilities, whether they were available prior to this project or were installed as a result of this project, and your well fails, you won't be allowed to drill a new well. In this circumstance you would have to move onto city water and there isn't any guarantee that government funding would be available at that time; this would put the monetary burden of connection to city water on the property.

The Township is not currently planning to impose water testing requirements at residences that do not connect during the project.