

Phase Two Update- Updated 10.11.24

Phase Two

CL Trucking & Excavating began work on Phase II of the Burger/Goodwood PFAS Remediation Water Project on August 19th, 2024 has been progressing expeditiously. **Due to their rapid progress this fall, they intend to begin work on Oak Tree Dr and Forest Valley Dr (from Oak Tree Dr to the valve on the east side of Forest Valley Court) yet this year.** The other streets in Phase II will begin after the winter pause, in Spring of 2025.

Residents on Brookhills Ct, Winterberry Ct, Misty Lane Ct, Ridgemont Ct, Tricklewood Dr, and Woodbrook Dr who have yet to schedule a quote for connection reach out to McDonald Plumbing as soon as possible, as those homes may be ready for connection yet this year. As all remaining residences will be completed in 2025, homeowners on all other streets should wait until early spring of 2025 to call McDonald Plumbing for a quote. We will update residents when it is time for additional streets to request quotes.

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.

Irrigation Repairs – 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. **Residents are encouraged to work with their landscape/irrigation companies to winterize their irrigation systems as they usually do.** When repairs are made to systems as part of the water main contract, the contractor will test the systems and re-winterize them.

If you have any concerns regarding the project, please reach out to the project email account

at goodwoodwater@gmail.com.

Other Phase Two Information

The other streets will begin after the winter pause, in spring 2025. The contractual completion date for Phase Two water main extension is November 1, 2025.

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.

Cascade Township will communicate the project schedule to residents as it becomes available from the contractor. Residents will have at least through spring 2026 to complete their connection. Please continue directing questions on Phase Two of the project to goodwoodwater@gmail.com.

Phase Two Tree Removal

Due to the nature of the project's funding, no tree removal is permitted between April and October, to preserve bat roosting habitats. In order to complete installation in 2025, the Township sent letters to residences who would have one or more trees removed in winter 2024 (or earlier). This only took place in a small portion of Phase Two's scope, with additional tree removal occurring in 2024 and potentially 2025.

Phase One Whole Home Water Filtration System Removal

Now that water main installation is complete for Phase One, water filtration systems are no longer needed in homes that have connected to city water. The Township is going through the lists of homes that are receiving bottled water and water filtration services and compare it with addresses that have connected to city water. 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.