

WATERS DRAIN PROJECT SUMMARY

The Waters Drain is a 5 foot wide drainage channel which runs approximately 500 feet South of Fulton Street from Westboro Lake to the Dominican Sisters property at Marywood. It was constructed in 1903 and its purpose is to convey stormwater (rainfall and snowmelt) from an 820-acre (1.3 square mile) watershed into the Grand Rapids storm sewer system. Over the last 100 years, part of the drain has been enclosed in concrete pipe, but most of the drain is an open stream of the same size and in the same location as originally built. Since the 1970s, major storm events have caused flooding in the area West of Lakeside Drive and have flooded the basements of several residences. After severe floods in 2004 and 2006, residents of the affected area petitioned the Drain Commissioner to improve the drain and provide relief from this flooding.



Flooding Upstream of Lakeside Drive



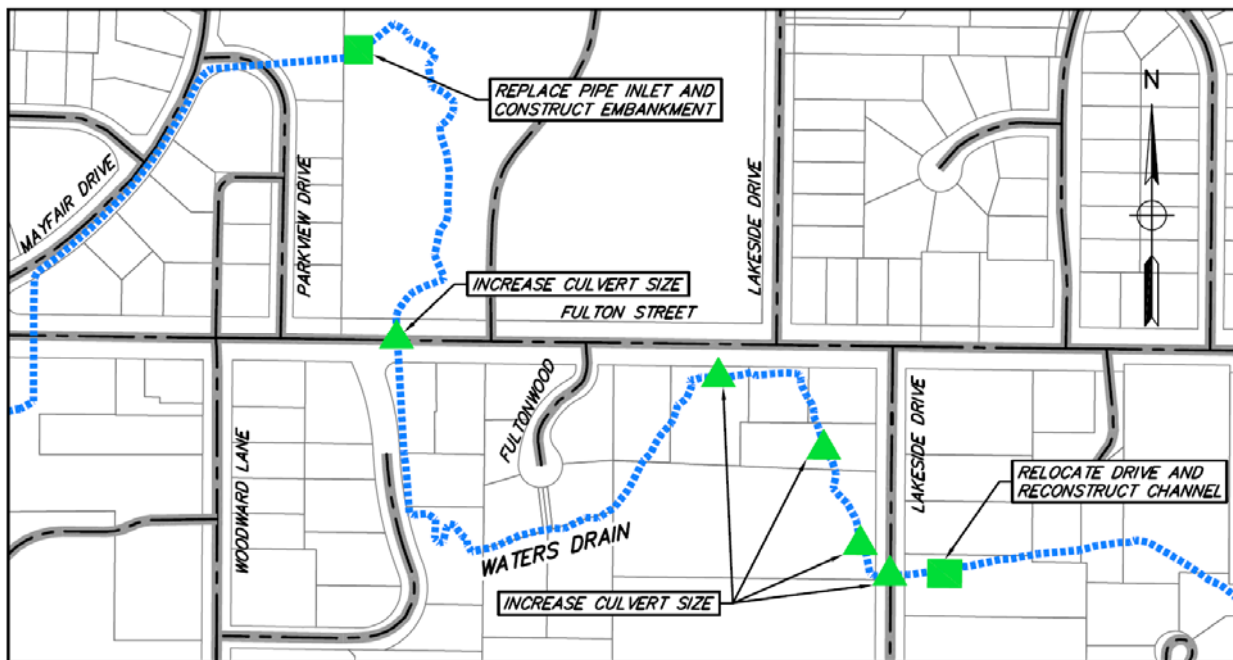
Flooding Upstream of Sunnybrook Avenue

In January 2008, a public hearing was held where an independent Board of Determination took two hours of testimony from residents of the district and found that improvements were necessary to protect public safety, health, and welfare. Since that meeting, the Office of the Drain Commissioner, along with Spicer Group, Inc. of St. Johns, MI, studied the entire watershed and considered a wide range of solutions. The optimal solution requires increasing the size of several culverts including Lakeside Drive, 4 residential driveways, and a 360-foot long culvert under Fulton Street near the Marywood property. In addition to these improvements, it is necessary to construct an embankment near Mayfair Drive to prevent flooding of properties downstream. Over the last 6 months, our consultant and staff have been preparing design plans and acquiring easements for this new construction. On June 1, 2009, we opened bids for this project and we hope to begin construction in early July and complete the project by October, 2009.



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The cost of the project is \$776,000. 60.5% of the cost will be assigned to the City of Grand Rapids. An additional 15% will be paid by Grand Rapids Township, City of East Grand Rapids, Kent County Road Commission, and the Michigan Department of Transportation. The remaining \$190,000 (25%) is assigned to the residents of the 820-acre district which is served by these improvements. The costs assigned to each property owner are determined by a formula dependent on acreage and the amount of impermeable surface (e.g. roof, driveway, parking area) on each parcel. The assessment listed on page 2 of the enclosed letter will be added to your tax bill and paid in equal installments over 10 years.



Proposed Construction Activities

During construction, Fulton Street will need to be closed for approximately 2 weeks near the Marywood property. We regret this inconvenience to the residents and will do our best to expedite the work and keep the closing as short as possible. During construction, traffic will be detoured via Robinson Road. We also are grateful to the Dominican Sisters of Marywood for their cooperation in granting right of way for this project.

If you have questions about this project please feel free to contact my office at 616-336-3688.

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