

Please read below for answers to many commonly asked questions regarding this project:

What is being constructed?

- Overall, the project includes over 27,000 lineal feet of sewer, 100 manholes, 4,000 lineal feet of force main, one lift station and one low pressure sewer system in the public right-of-way. See further information on project phasing below.
- Restoration including asphalt patching, aggregate shoulder, and seed & blanket.
- The entire region will benefit from this sanitary solution because eliminating most private septic systems will greatly improve the area's water quality. Failing and overloaded septic systems contribute significant amounts of fecal coliform bacteria to the Fox River, especially when they become submerged during wet weather conditions.

What impacts should residents expect during construction

- Residents should expect traffic detours, partial or full pavement replacement and tree removal and replacement throughout the construction period.

Who will have access to the sanitary sewers and when?

- Due to increases in material costs, the cost of the public portion of the sewer installation will be \$12 million for main underground sewer lines in the public right-of-way plus a lift station. This is more than the planning phase estimated cost of \$6.7 million. Therefore, the project will be constructed in phases. The first phase will include installation of the lift station, force main and underground trunk sewer on Sunset Drive and Holiday Drive. The work will be publicly bid to obtain the competitive pricing. The bidding documents will include additional areas to be constructed in Phase 1 if contractor pricing is within the available funding amount.
- It is anticipated that Phase 1 will be constructed in 2022.
- Criteria for determining the Phase 1 sewer installation was a balance between serving homes within the floodplain while maximizing dollars spent by serving as many homes with the shortest length of sewer.
- Remaining sewer within the Village and Le Villa Vaupell will be constructed in future phases as more funding becomes available. The NMWRD is actively seeking funding opportunities on local, state and federal levels to construct sewer in the entire region. It is the NMWRD's goal to construct as much sanitary sewer as practical over the next five years.

How is this project being funded?

- The cost of the public portion of this sewer installation will be over \$12 million for main underground sewer lines in the public right-of-way plus a lift station. Phase 1 is estimated to be \$7 million. \$3.5 million is being funded by a grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the remaining \$3.5 million will be paid by the NMWRD with no cost to residents. Ultimately, creating more than a \$35,000 free benefit for every homeowner.

What costs will residents be responsible for?

- For residents who choose to decommission their private septic systems and connect to the sanitary sewer, their connection fee will be \$10,822 which is consistent with fees for other new residential sewer customers, plus a one-time \$100 inspection fee.
- Additionally, homeowners will be responsible for the cost to connect their home to the new sewer stub at their property line and to decommission their existing septic system. This cost is anticipated to be \$3,000 - \$8,000 depending on the individual home.

Can these costs be financed?

- Yes, partially. Residents can choose to have the NMWRD finance their \$10,822 connection fee at a 4% annualized rate, leaving them responsible for a \$52 monthly repayment for 30 years. Alternatively, they can self-fund this fee to avoid the 30-year amortization.
- The \$3,000 - \$8,000 expense on private property to connect your home to the sewer stub cannot be financed by the NMWRD. Homeowners will pick a licensed and bonded contractor that performs the installation at their cost, following the NMWRD's standards and subject to inspection.

Do homeowners have to connect to the sanitary sewer?

- Not immediately, but homeowners will have to connect to the sanitary sewer within 15 years of when the sewer system is fully operational or when their septic system fails. However, the NMWRD's offer to finance the connection fee will expire 3 years after the sewer system is fully operational leaving residents responsible for their own finances.

What costs will my NMWRD monthly user bill reflect, and when?

- For those who choose to connect within three years and select the option of 30-year financing of the \$10,822 connection fee, the current monthly user fee is \$41.50 plus another \$52.00 monthly repayment, or a total monthly user bill of \$93.50.

What role will the NMWRD serve in future years?

- The NMWRD will own, inspect, and operate the sanitary sewer and lift station. The Village of Holiday Hills will not be involved with the sanitary sewer and all questions and concerns about the sewer system should be directed to the NMWRD.