

WRC Quarterly Newsletter

We collaborate with communities across Oakland County and throughout the region to maintain safe, reliable drainage, water and sewer systems. We work to protect public health, preserve natural resources, maintain reliable, high-quality service, ensure the value of investment and contribute to economic prosperity.

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Community Outreach Event: Lead Service Line Replacement Project



On Wednesday, June 15, our office, in coordination with the Charter Township of Royal Oak Parks & Recreation, Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. (HRC) and D'Angelo Brothers, Inc. gathered outside the Charter Township of Royal Oak Recreation Center to meet with residents to discuss the Lead Service Line Replacement program. Local residents learned about the efforts that have been made to identify and replace lead service lines in the area. The purpose of this event was to raise awareness and educate the community about water service line materials.

Historical records of the service line material used throughout the Charter Township of Royal Oak do not exist, creating a challenge to determine what service lines need to be replaced. With the help of Royal Oak Township Residents and HRC we will collect and document this information for the Township. At random, homes in Royal Oak Township have been selected to provide data for this initiative. The residents of these homes will receive a letter asking them to schedule an appointment to have a professional come into the home to identify the pipe material inside the home as well as the service line material connecting to the street. If a lead service line is identified at the street, we'll work together with the homeowner to upgrade the service line.

Our office is dedicated to protecting public health and safety by educating Royal Oak Township residents about the different types of lead service line materials. We were able to provide an interactive model with four types of piping that could be found in their homes. Residents were able to see examples of the following piping materials and how to identify them. Materials shown were as follows:



- Copper: The color of a penny.
- Plastic: Rigid pipe that is joined with clamps. Plastic pipe comes in colors such as white, blue, red, gray, green or black.
- Galvanized: A dull, silver-gray color. Magnets will typically cling to galvanized pipes.
- Lead: A dull, silver-gray color that may be easily scratched using a coin. Strong magnets will not cling to lead pipes.

Residents were also given demonstrations as to how they can clean out their faucet's aerators which can immediately improve water pressure and quality.

HRC is the lead consultant on this project and has two years to identify which homes in the area need service line replacements. From there, they will aim to replace any lead service lines within three years' time.



ART FISH FUN Returned With Enthusiasm



Oakland County residents had a “reel” good time at the 8th Annual ART FISH FUN Festival in Pontiac’s Beaudette Park. After a two-year hiatus, this free event returned in-person in June to share art, environmental education and activities for everyone.

“I look forward to this event all year long,” said Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash. “I’ve been a longtime catch-and-release fisher and I love being able to share my excitement with the children—some of whom experienced fishing for the first time today. This is the perfect way to kick-off the summer and I’m always so impressed with the kids’ enthusiasm for the environment and their ability to express their passion through art.”

The festival kicked off with a park cleanup. Collectively, this event has removed over 2,000 pounds of debris from the park since it first began in 2014. The remainder of the day was packed full of excitement with a large variety of events for everyone to participate in. This included:

- Fishing with the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash
- 100 River Day t-shirts giveaway and tie-dye station (Clinton River Watershed Council)
- Jumping in bounce houses (Pure Oakland Water)
- Carnival games (Michigan State Fair)
- Mini festival (Oakland County Parks and Recreation)
- Cardboard fish collage (The Art Experience)
- Painting a rain barrel (Michigan Rain Barrel)
- Using super soakers to learn about soil erosion and storm drains (Oakland County WRC)
- And, more!

ART FISH FUN was first held in honor of the Clinton River Watershed Council River Day with the purpose of bringing the community together through arts and crafts to celebrate and raise awareness about environmental education. Year-after-year, the festival has continued to grow, incorporating additional environmental-related activities.



Job Shadows, Water's True Cost Video and the Water Residential Assistance Program



We may have a career for you! Our office is actively engaging the public to learn more about careers in water by job shadows in different areas of interest. From sustainability to water operations to construction and engineering, our goal is to get future generations interested in careers in the areas of water sustainability, preservation and treatment. We started our job shadow project in March 2022 and since have hosted 12 individuals so far.

From the shadows we've done, we have hired two employees. To request a job shadow, visit us online at www.oakgov.com/wrcjobshadow. The job shadow tracks we have available are:

- Environment and Sustainability
- Water Operations
- Drain and Sewer Operations
- Facility Operations
- Construction Projects and Engineering

Choose an area of interest:



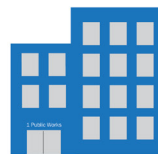
Environment & Sustainability



Water Operations



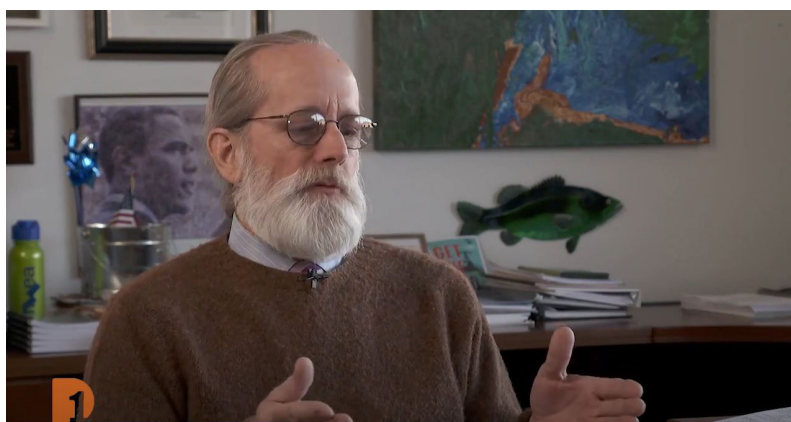
Drain & Sewer Operations



Facility Operations



Construction Projects & Engineering



Our office continues to educate the public regarding the importance of investment in water infrastructure and water affordability. Circle of Blue journalist Brett Walton talks with Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner Jim Nash about water affordability for residents in Southeast Michigan. To view the video visit: <https://bit.ly/3atRYxf>. You may also read about the issue in a ten-part series by visiting <https://bit.ly/3m5ql0g>. Special thanks to the Mott Foundation for supporting this Great Lakes News Collaborative independent journalism project. This group includes Bridge Michigan, Circle of Blue, Great Lakes Now and Michigan Radio.

The Water Residential Assistance Program provides funding to eligible, low-income households. Funding is provided by the Great Lakes Water Authority and is administered in partnership with local community action agencies. The program can help you reduce your water bill and pay past due balances. If you are an Oakland County resident, call 248-983-5656 or visit www.waynemetro.org/WRAP to learn more and apply today!

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR WATER BILL?

WRAP CAN HELP!

The Water Residential Assistance Program provides funding to eligible, low-income households.

