

City of
Fitchburg



Department of
Public Works

**301 Broad Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420
Phone: 978-829-1910**

DPW Weekly Update July 12 - July 19, 2019

Dear Mayor, Councilors, and Colleagues:

Last week the City of Fitchburg was awarded a \$102,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA). Secretary Kathleen Theoharides visited Fitchburg to meet with Mayor DiNatale, Senator Tran, and Representative Hay to view our city's flood management infrastructure along the Nashua River. DPW Civil Engineer Nick Erikson was vital in the development of the grant application and explained the role and vulnerabilities of the Nashua Flood Damage Reduction System in the city. After the tour, the Secretary led a regional roundtable discussion at the Montachussetts Regional Planning Commission. The roundtable was attended by City Councilors Squailia and Zarrella as well as myself.

The MVP Grant will fund the creation of a climate resilience and vulnerability plan aimed at identifying priority projects throughout the city that will address increased precipitation events such as flooding, ice storms, and severe weather. Completion of the vulnerability plan will make Fitchburg eligible to obtain Action Funds from the EOEEA to upgrade our city's infrastructure to deal with these increased precipitation events, thereby reducing damage to public and private property. The Governor is proposing a modest increase in the deeds excise to fund these Action Grants as described in Senate Bill 10. Some of the infrastructure projects that could be funded through the Action Grants include:

- Replacement and upsizing of culverts;
- Replacement and repairs of dams (both public and privately owned);
- Green stormwater infrastructure;
- Redesign and retrofit of stormwater systems,
- Repairs to the Nashua River Flood Damage Reduction System (FDR).

As always, this MVP planning effort will include community outreach and public participation efforts. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,
Nicolas H. Bosonetto, PE
Commissioner of Public Works/City Engineer

ROADWAYS

During this week approximately 560 potholes¹ were filled at various locations, including the following:

- Phillips Street;
- Westminster Hill Road;
- Klondike Avenue;
- Bluff Avenue;
- Atlantic Avenue;
- Sanborn Street;
- Industrial Road;
- Clinton Street; and
- Lunenburg Street.

Sink holes were repaired and paved on Swan Avenue and Laurel Street.

Catch basins were repaired and paved Duck Mill Road, Conner's Street, Davis Street and Prospect Street.

Manholes were paved on Alice Avenue, Airport Road and 955 Westminster Hill Road.

DPW crews assisted the Fitchburg High School in clearing brush from around the walking path near the memorial to the students who passed away while attending FHS. See before and after pictures below.



DPW crews also assisted the FPD by removing seven trees from the police station parking lot. DWP will return to remove stumps, curbing and soil as part of a project to expand parking.

DPW coordinated with Community Development on upgrading the crosswalk from the Common to the Post Office. The old pavement was ground out and new pavement was installed so that an aesthetic treatment can be applied.

Arrows were painted on the John Fitch Highway center turn lanes to clarify that the lane is a two-way-left-turn lane.

¹ Based on average pothole size of 3.5 inches depth and 1.5 foot wide by 1.5 foot long (volume of 0.66 cubic feet or 0.02 cubic yards)

PARKS & RECREATION

The Recreation Department helped keep the city cool during this weekend's heat wave by expanding hours of operations at the Coolidge Park Pool, the Crocker spray pad, and the Parkhill Splash Park.

DPW crews continued to work on the new trail on Rollstone Hill. The first Student Conservation Crew finished their 10-day rotation and significant progress was made on the lower part of the trail. The next Conservation Crew arrives on July 22.

DPW crews continued to maintain and repair the recreation infrastructure as follows:

- Installation of the new fence at Coolidge Park as part of the overall CDBG park project.
- Finished repairing mats at Coolidge Park playground.
- Grass was cut and trash picked up at the various parks.
- Replaced swing seats at Upper Howarth, Goodrich and North Streets.
- Cleaned up around the Dog Park.

WASTE WATER

The main sewer line system in the western section of the city will be smoke tested commencing on July 29th through August 9th. Areas affected will include Westminster Street, River Street, Sheldon Street, Nursy Lane, Nockege Street, Broad Street and Boulder Drive. Information packets and press releases will be distributed next week explaining the process. The 'smoke' is actually an inert moisture mixture that is non-toxic. The purpose of this test is to locate possible infiltration points into the sewer system.

Eight sewer abatements were issued this week. Most of these were for filling of swimming pools. Received one noise complaint from a Leominster resident, which is under review.

There were no combined sewer releases (CSOs), system bypasses or sewer overflows this week. Catch basin cleaning will continue through Ward 4 next week. Crews inspected outfalls from the stormwater system into the Nashua River during the dry weather looking for flow that would indicate illicit connections. Flows are tested to determine if it is treated water, sewage, or groundwater.

- Inspected 31 outfalls over 3 dry field days
- Found 9 outfalls flowing, sampled all 9
- 51 out of 277 complete to date.

In addition to routine maintenance work, the following services were completed:

Sewer Lines CCTV Inspected (feet).....	2,000
Sewer Abatements	8
Manhole Covers Butyl'd	2
Buried Manholes Raised	2
Buried Manholes Located	15

WATER DIVISION

The water division continued routine flushing of the high-water system in the areas of Wallace Road, Depot Street, River Street, Burma Road and Franklin Road. Crews also flushed hydrants on Rodiman Avenue and Daily Terrace due to a water quality complaint on Daily Terrace. A sinkhole near a fire hydrant at 143 Westminster Street was filled, compacted and paved.

A total of 11,030 water/waste water bills were mailed out. Yearly water usage for Fitchburg High School was calculated and provided to consultant for project bid specifications. New meter accounts were created in MUNIS for meter replacements.

The city’s consultant (Arcadis) visited the treatment plants and remote sites during Monday and Tuesday for the SCADA upgrade. The Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system is the computer system that monitors and controls the water treatment process.

Water Treatment This Week

	Falulah Plant	Regional Plant	Totals
Raw Water Inlet (Gal)	10,518,000	29,638,000	40,156,000
Finish Water Treated (Gal)	8,995,000	26,194,000	35,189,000

Fire Hydrants This Week

Total Hydrants	Out of operation
1,632	1

- All fire hydrants except for one are operational in the city. The hydrant at Cushing Street by River Front Park is shut off because the water main is damaged.
- All fire hydrants in the city have been exercised and flushed within the last year and a half.

In addition to routine maintenance, the following services were completed:

Emergency DigSafe Markouts.....	3
DigSafe Markouts	10
Record Plan Updates	6
Curb Stops Services	4
Gate Valves Cleaned.....	5
Hydrants Flushed	23
Hydrants Painted	17
Hydrants Installed	3
Final Readings	17
Meter Replacements	16
Backflow Preventers Tested	27
Residential Appointments Made.....	42

ENGINEERING

As mentioned in the cover letter DPW Engineering secured a \$102,000 MVP grant from EOEEA that will allow us to unlock further capital grants for stormwater work.



Figure 1 - Secretary Theoharides (center) visited Fitchburg to present \$102,000 MVP grant

DPW Engineers visited Shea Brook to perform a site walk and identify areas needing sediment removal. Oak Hill Country Club was also contacted to discuss their driveway crossing over the swale.



Figure 2 - Shea Brook

Engineering held an internal meeting to discuss status of funds committed and spent over the last few years from Unitil, Water department and Wastewater department. Over the next few weeks, funding sources will be allocated to streets where utility work has been completed to determine total funding available for paving work. This paving work is preliminarily planned for the end of summer/start of fall.

DPW Engineering continued issuing various permits and inspecting work throughout the city.

Permits/Inspections This Week

Permit/Inspection	Number	Fees Collected
Dig-Safe requests	2	
Dumpster Permits	1	
Driveway Permits	2	
Sign Permits	4	
Excavation Permits	23	\$1,575
Sewer Permits	1	\$2,000
Sewer/Drain Inspections	9	
Parcel Updates	6	
Planning Reviews	0	

ADMINISTRATION

Finalized a year-over-year analysis of papermill actual billings, costs, and inflows to the West Plant for review. Analysis compares all amounts billed to each company, actual departmental costs, and inflows reported on a quarterly and yearly basis and the variance to previous quarter and/or year for FY15 thru FY19.

The following invoices were researched and processed for payment:

Streets/ Admin/ Engineering.....	14 invoices paid totaling \$	817.06
Wastewater	0 invoices paid totaling \$	0.00
Parks	5 invoices paid totaling \$	965.45
Water.....	19 invoices paid totaling \$	11,955.00