



Detroit's Far West Neighborhood Stormwater Infrastructure Upgrade

Description and Details

Detroit is investing in a \$40 million initiative to implement a transformative stormwater management system in the Far West neighborhood near Rouge Park. The project, described by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department as the largest of its kind, will redirect 98 million gallons of rainwater and snowmelt into two new detention basins and a renovated sewer system. The new wastewater system will greatly reduce water volumes in Detroit's combined sewer system during heavy rainfall and provide flood relief for roughly 1,200 homes troubled by flooding in recent years. The expansion informed by community feedback is one of the city's most prominent investments to enhance green infrastructure and improve its overextended wastewater management.

The project has been planned through extensive study and community coordination since 2016 and is planned to be constructed in 3 phases extending through 2026. Crews broke ground on the South Basin, North Basin, and Sewer overhaul in July of 2022, and progress to date is reported to be on track. When complete in three years, the supplemental basins and sewer system situated along Parkland Road are designed to store and effectively purify stormwater through natural filtration before release into the Rouge River.

The stormwater management initiative plans to encompass neighborhood improvements in addition to the basins. First, the planned sewer renovation will replace lead service lines, reducing health risks to residents while also managing stormwater with greater efficiency. Secondly, the project plans to disconnect and redirect downspouts from around 400 homes to parcel-sized wastewater management tactics, a small but impactful measure to reduce excess

water in the sewer system and greatly reduce the risk of flood in the community. Lastly, the stormwater initiative promises to increase recreational opportunities for neighborhood residents and greater Detroiters. The enhancements in Rouge Park set the stage for improved park experiences through the creation of wetland park spaces. Planted with native Flora, the new basins plan to welcome residents and visitors to enjoy greener, inviting spaces in their community. As construction progresses, further community meetings are planned to continue collaboration regarding elements such as detailed planting selections for the basin areas.

The project is financially backed by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) and the Oakland County Water Resources Commission. Despite the project's location in Wayne County, the collaborative financial effort is a result of neighboring Oakland County benefiting from improvement to their Evergreen-Farmington Sanitary Drain Drainage District. The funds and contract for the work have been awarded to Major Contracting, a Detroit-based firm reinforcing the city's commitment to investment in local businesses and their economy.

In total, the \$40 million basin construction and sewer renovation is a collaborative effort among local authorities, contractors, and community organizations. Post-completion, the project is expected to bring wide-reaching benefits in wastewater management, flood reduction, and public health and recreation.

Discussion Questions

- How does the investment in stormwater management projects in Detroit's Far West neighborhood affect wider existing disparities in infrastructure?
- What can be learned from this project regarding incorporating community feedback from residents in historically marginalized areas to reflect diverse perspectives and needs?
- Can the employment opportunities created by the project with Major Contracting be expected to support workforce diversity and the economic empowerment of underrepresented groups in Detroit?
- Following the completion of the stormwater management system, what measures should be taken by local authorities to monitor and assess the long-term impact on environmental justice and quality of life improvements for communities in the area?

References

Official Statements & Media/News References:

Far West Detroit Stormwater Improvement Project

<https://detroitmi.gov/departments/water-and-sewerage-department/dwsd-projects/far-west-detroit-stormwater-improvement-project>

Far West Detroit Stormwater Improvement Project Construction Update

<https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2024-01/Far%20West%20Detroit%20Stormwater%20Improvement%20Project%20Decemb>

Project could stop 48 million gallons of combined sewage overflows into Rouge River

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/oakland/2021/02/10/oakland-wayne-project-rouge-river-sewage-overflows/6705291002/>

Detroit launches 'largest' ever stormwater project in west neighborhood

<https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/detroit-launches-largest-ever-stormwater-project-in-west-neighborhood>

o

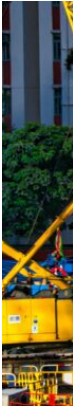
 Post Views: 101

May 23, 2024 | Categories: [Case Summary](#) | Tags: [Environmental Engineering](#), [Environmental Justice](#), [Environmental Policy and Sustainable Infrastructure](#), [Hydraulics and Hydrological Engineering](#), [Water Quality and Health](#) | [0 Comments](#)

Share This Story, Choose Your Platform!



Related Posts



Leave A Comment

Comment...

Name (required)

Email (required)

Website

Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment.

POST COMMENT

© 2023 The Regents of the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI 48109 USA

