

# Flooding Projects Fact Sheet

IN 2021, MAYOR HAMMOUD'S ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONED A LONG-TERM STUDY THAT SHOWS SEWER SEPARATION IS THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION FOR FLOODING. DEARBORN CURRENTLY HAS CAPACITY FOR 3.5 INCHES OF STORMWATER PER RAIN EVENT, WHICH IS INSUFFICIENT FOR QUICK DRAINAGE WHEN OVER CAPACITY. DEARBORN IS ALSO THE FURTHEST DOWNSTREAM COMMUNITY IN THE ROUGE WATERSHED.

## WHILE WAITING FOR RESULTS FROM THE STUDY, THE CITY:

- Invested over \$25 million in flood preparedness and stormwater mitigation.
- Removed more than 50 log jams over a 2.5 river stretch along the Rouge River. This single effort lowered water levels by more than a foot, increasing the river's capacity and helping move water out of Dearborn at 70% quicker rate. That means less water pooling in our neighborhoods and less opportunity for flooding.
- Converted 24 residential easements into bioswales to absorb up to 40,000 gallons of water per storm.
- Made green investments, including a 60,000-gallon sprinkler at PEACE Park West, permeable pavement, and new green infrastructure. We've increased tree care funding and continue the free tree program. Collaborations include a green schoolyard at Salina School and transforming the industrial corridor into a massive Industrial Greenway.
- Directly investing in the stormwater system: Clearing the 12-foot-wide Colson-Palmer line to increase capacity by an estimated 4 million gallons per rain event, totaling 7 million gallons. Designing a headwall and pump at the Colson outfall to prevent backflow.
- Hired a four-person team to ensure clear catch basins.

## WHAT THE CITY IS DOING NOW:

- Implementing Forced Mains: Two new pumps will force water into the river, protecting over 12,600 East Dearborn homes. A decommissioned outfall pipe at Miller was successfully tested last week for this project.
- Building Grate Protection Stations & Flap Gates: With a federal grant, four flap gates and two pumps will be installed in East Dearborn. These will isolate sanitary sewers from the combined system during heavy rains, protecting roughly 13,600 residents from basement flooding.
- Installing hundreds of new manhole covers will direct rainwater away from sanitary systems into new dedicated stormwater lines. These ongoing efforts aim to prevent basement flooding even when streets flood.

## WHAT'S NEXT:

- The flooding study gave the City a fuller picture of the exact infrastructure needs, in dollars, cents, and in square feet, to combat street and basement level flooding in Dearborn long term.
- On Thursday, Mayor Hammoud announced large-scale projects planned across the city that will massively increase stormwater capacity.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to evaluate the city's stormwater infrastructure, which will also make Dearborn eligible to receive federal funding for these projects in the years to come.

