

Worth Township Proposed Sewer District FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Why are sewers being installed? We are under a Michigan Supreme Court Order to install a public sewer system in the proposed district. Prein & Newhof Engineering was hired after a detailed interview process by the Worth Township Board of Trustees. They completed the preliminary engineering design and it was approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality last year. We are working very hard to comply with our court-ordered deadline of having the municipal sewer system fully functional by September 1st 2018.

If my property has a functioning septic system, will I have to connect to the sewer system?

All properties within the sewer district, as defined by the court, have to hook to the municipal system. Per Michigan law, property owners have up to 18 months to connect to the sewer system from the time the public sewer is available, which is estimated to be September 1st 2018. All properties within the sewer district, and structures within 200 feet of the sewer system, must connect to the sewer system as required by the Michigan Public Health Code.

Are there additional costs for the property owner? Yes, by law the Township can only bring the sewer line to the property line. It is the property owner's responsibility to have a licensed sewage hauler pump out the tank and properly "abandon" the tank. Alternatively, the property owner can have the tank removed if they wish to. The septic field can be removed or left in place at the discretion of the property owner. It is the property owner's responsibility to connect their building's sewage discharge pipe to the public sewer, commonly referred to as the "lateral," at the property line.

Will there be one service line to the street for each home/lot, or will adjoining neighbors be connected to a central line leading to the street? Each property will have its own service line/lateral to the street or easement.

How long will the sewer construction take? The sewer project contains five (5) contracts, which will be awarded at the same time. Each contractor will commence actual construction as they see fit as long as they complete the project within the 9-month scheduled period. The project time clock will be placed on hold during the winter and spring months, as determined by the engineering company, and then resume as the weather and weight restrictions allow.

How will people access their property during construction? Emergency vehicles are required to be able to access all properties at any given time.

What happens if a property owner fails to connect within the 18-month required time?

The Sanilac County Health Department will be notified and the house may be deemed uninhabitable.

What happens if a property owner chooses to split off a portion of their property after the sewer assessment has been assigned? Splits within the sewer district will be allowed if they meet all of the zoning criteria. Each newly created property will be assessed the amount of the sewer assessment or charged a connection fee at the time the property is split as determined by the Township Board and will be required to be paid in full at the time of the split.

What happens to the roads, road rights-of-way, and to areas within the easements? After the construction is completed, the contractors are required to return the areas affected to as good or better condition than what they were prior to construction. All roads will be put back to state and county specifications.

Will there be any flexibility as to where/how a resident is connected to the sewer? When the contractor starts work in a certain area, property owners will be asked to mark the area on their property frontage where they would like the connection to be. If no area is marked the engineer or construction company will choose the location he/she determines is best.

Where is the treatment lagoon going to be located? The treatment lagoon is going to be located southwest of the corner of Baker and Babcock Roads. The main sewer line feeding the lagoon will run west down Gardner Line Road from M-25, then north on Babcock to the lagoon property.

Where will the discharge from the lagoon go? The discharge pipe will go from the lagoon property north to Mill Creek. The pipe will discharge treated water into Mill Creek twice per year after being verified that it meets discharge water requirements.

Will there be noise from the pump stations? All of the pumps and motors will be located underground at the pump stations so there will be minimal sound from them, if at all. Each pump station will have a backup generator, which will cycle on and off as scheduled to ensure it remains functional.

Will future developments have to pay their fair share of the sewer system? Yes, future developments will have to pay for the sewer expansion, as well as a connection charge. This fee is generally the initial assessment amount, plus expansions costs, plus interest and inflation costs; and will be adjusted by the Township Board on an annual basis.

If the property has a functioning well, am I required to connect to municipal water? No, there is no law requiring you to hook up to municipal water. However, if your well goes bad and your property is in the water district, a new well cannot be drilled and you would have to hook up to municipal water at that time. If your property being served with sewer and is not connected to municipal water, you will be charged a flat monthly rate and it may be adjusted annually by the township board based on the sewer budget for the upcoming year.

What about my trees, landscaping, etc.? Trees, landscaping, etc., in the public road right of way will be avoided as best possible and removed where necessary as determined by the engineering company and construction companies.

Is financial assistance available? Yes, currently there are USDA grants available for qualifying applicants. Deferments may also be applied for through the State of Michigan. Worth Township is working with the USDA to have a workshop at our Township Hall to help with the application process. This workshop will be held sometime after our public hearing.