



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
FINANCE DIVISION



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

March 3, 2026

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**
City of Highland Park, Wayne County
Sewer and Manhole Rehabilitation
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project Number 5976-01

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of a wastewater project planning document submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 53, Clean Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5301 to 324.5316 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires EGLE to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed wastewater project. EGLE has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project planning document containing information on environmental impacts was prepared by the municipality and reviewed by the State. EGLE has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

WHY IS AN EIS NOT REQUIRED?

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project planning document or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at Michigan.gov/SRF under "Environmental Project Reviews." The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted via email to EGLE-WIFFS@Michigan.gov or to me at EGLE, Finance Division, Stabenow Building, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957. We will not take any action on this project planning document for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider all comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by EGLE should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Chelsea Walsh, the project manager, at 517-599-7218; WalshC3@Michigan.gov; or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dan Beauchamp

Dan Beauchamp, Section Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
517-388-3380

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
Clean Water State Revolving Fund
City of Highland Park, Wayne County
Environmental Assessment
March 2026

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Highland Park

Address: 14110 Woodward Avenue
Highland Park, Michigan 48203

Authorized Representative: Damon Garrett, Water Department Director

Project Number: 5976-01

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The City of Highland Park (Highland Park) located in Wayne County, is comprised of 2.9 square miles of land and is encompassed by the City of Detroit and bordered to the southeast by Hamtramck (see Figure 1). The land use within Highland Park mainly consists of residential areas with some commercial and industrial developments occupying the remaining land throughout the area. According to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Highland Park's population was 8,725 people in 2022, and is projected to increase to 10,613 people by 2040.

Highland Park is applying for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to finance sewer and manhole rehabilitation and work associated with Highland Park's Asset Management Plan (AMP). The sewer rehabilitation will affect combined sewers and will include cured in place pipe (CIPP) lining and pipe replacement at various locations throughout Highland Park. Repairs will address structural defects such as collapsed, fractured, offset and broken pipes. The AMP work includes cleaning and closed-circuit televising (CCTV) of various sewer lines throughout Highland Park to identify the condition of the sewers and plan for future infrastructure improvements.

The total estimated project cost is \$3,000,000. The CWSRF loan will be paid back over a 30-year period. As a significantly overburdened community as determined by EGLE, Highland Park is eligible to receive a lower interest rate through the CWSRF program and 18 percent loan principal forgiveness not to exceed \$540,000.

Repayment of the project financing will be from an increase in user rates. The sewer system is comprised of 5,387 resident equivalent users. The current annual water and sewer cost for a typical resident is \$529. Highland Park is in negotiations with Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) regarding their water and sewer rates and are expected to settle on new sewer rates by early 2027. According to preliminary project cost estimates, sewer rates are anticipated to increase by \$42.60 annually for a typical residential customer to service the CWSRF loan debt.

The project is scheduled to begin in August 2026 and anticipated to be completed by September 2027.

EXISTING SYSTEM AND PROJECT NEED

Highland Park has an estimated 119 miles of sewer with 70 percent owned by Highland Park directly and the remaining 30 percent owned by GLWA, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) or private users. The combined sewer system directs wastewater to GLWA's Wastewater Recovery Facility. The oldest portions of the collection system were constructed over 100 years ago. Due to the age of the collection system, various portions are beyond their useful life and require rehabilitation or replacement. The condition of the system has resulted in sinkholes, sewer backups in streets and increased costs of maintenance and emergency repairs.

The proposed project includes lining, repairs and replacement of various sections of Highland Park's combined sewer system and manholes that have demonstrated significant structural deficiencies. The AMP work includes cleaning and CCTV of the sewer system along various streets throughout Highland Park, in an effort to identify the condition of the sewer lines and plan for future improvements. The project will improve efficiency and restore the structural integrity of the combined sewer system where structural defects have been identified.

PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Potential Alternatives

No-action Alternative

No action is not a feasible alternative for addressing the immediate needs of the combined sewer system. Without the sewer system rehabilitation, the identified structural deficiencies will go unrepaired. This would likely result in further deterioration of the sewer system and loss of service to significant portions of the service area. Failing to make these repairs would result in larger capital expenditure in the future.

Without cleaning and televising the sewer system as part of the AMP, Highland Park could not determine the condition of the sewers which could result in ongoing deterioration in these areas. This work will provide useful information regarding current pipe conditions and allow Highland Park to plan for potential breaks and future repairs.

Regional Alternative

The defects identified within the sewer system are limited to the local service area in Highland Park. Therefore, regionalization is not considered viable or practical for the deficiencies evaluated in Highland Park's project plan.

Optimization of Existing System

Optimizing performance of the existing system includes operational changes, the addition of new equipment, and training of operating personnel. As this alternative would not achieve the objective of repairing or rehabilitating the sewer system, this alternative was not further considered.

Construction Alternative

Highland Park conducted National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO) Pipeline Assessment Certification Program and Manhole Assessment Certification Program inspections of the city's combined sewer system to better understand the condition of the sewer pipes and manholes. The project would include CIPP lining or replacement of segments of pipes and manholes with structural defects rated Significant (grade 4) or Most Significant (grade 5). When CIPP lining is not possible due to the

extent of structural issues such as broken or collapsed pipe segments, replacement of the affected sewers and manholes with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipes would take place via open cut methods.

B. Selected Alternative

The construction alternative has been selected as the most cost-effective alternative for Highland Park. Segments of combined sewers and manholes that have identified NASSCO structural grade of 4 or 5 will be lined utilizing CIPP lining techniques. When lining is not possible due to significant structural issues, the pipe segments will be replaced via open cut repairs. These efforts will provide reliable sanitary service for the area and reduce the need for continuous monitoring and repairs. As the majority of the combined sewers are located within alleys, the selected alternative will include sewer and manhole construction throughout Highland Park's alleyways in the southern half of the city, south of Manchester Street and Manchester Parkway (Figure 2). Cleaning and CCTV work will affect sewers that have not yet been inspected and will take place throughout Highland Park.

C. Project Cost and Implementation

The estimated cost of the project is \$3,000,000. The anticipated cost for sewer and manhole rehabilitation and lining is \$2,780,000 while the remaining \$213,000 is associated with cleaning and CCTV of the sewer systems as part of AMP activities. The project financing, along with the financing repayment through user rates, is discussed on page 1. Construction is anticipated to begin in August 2026 and be completed by September 2027.

PROJECT IMPACTS

A. Water Quality Impacts

The rehabilitation involved with this project is limited to previously disturbed areas and rights-of-way where the combined sewer system already exists. These areas of Highland Park are entirely developed; therefore, no water quality impacts are anticipated.

B. Construction Impacts

The proposed project involves trenchless installation of CIPP lining for sewer mains and manholes and open cut repairs. Construction of the project will result in typical short-term impacts associated with sewer rehabilitation such as dust, construction traffic, and noise.

There are several districts and buildings throughout Highland Park listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as local historic districts. Highland Park has determined there will be no historic properties (districts or buildings) affected or adversely impacted as part of this project. All construction, including excavation, will take place within the public right-of-way such as streets and alleys. All necessary measures will be taken to ensure sewer rehabilitation will not impact the aesthetics of the community or result in damage to property or tree removal, and any sidewalks or streets impacted by construction will be restored to existing conditions. If any cultural or historical artifacts are discovered during construction, the proper authorities will be contacted so they can be immediately investigated prior to continuing construction.

According to a review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey, several endangered and threatened species are found within Wayne County. This includes Indiana bat and

Piping plover. However, there are no critical habitats within the project areas and therefore no species are expected to be within the proximity of the project sites. No negative impact on endangered wildlife habitat is anticipated.

C. Secondary Impacts

No significant adverse secondary impacts are anticipated for this project. The project is designed to address structural defects in the combined sewer system. This work will neither expand the sewer system service area nor increase capacity.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public hearing notice was advertised in the Michigan Chronicle for Public Hearings, and a copy of the project planning document was made available on March 29, 2023. A public meeting was held on April 17, 2023. Members of the public were in attendance during the meeting. There were various comments regarding the scope of work, locations, sewer separation, and project costs. After answering these questions during the public meeting, Highland Park passed a resolution adopting the final project plan on April 17, 2023.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project is expected to have a positive impact on Highland Park as it will improve the reliability of the combined sewer system for residents and businesses. No adverse impacts are expected as a result of the project. Therefore, a finding of no significant impact has been made.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Chelsea Walsh, Project Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, Michigan 48909-4957
Telephone: 517-599-7218
Email: WalshC3@Michigan.gov

Figure 1

Location of Highland Park

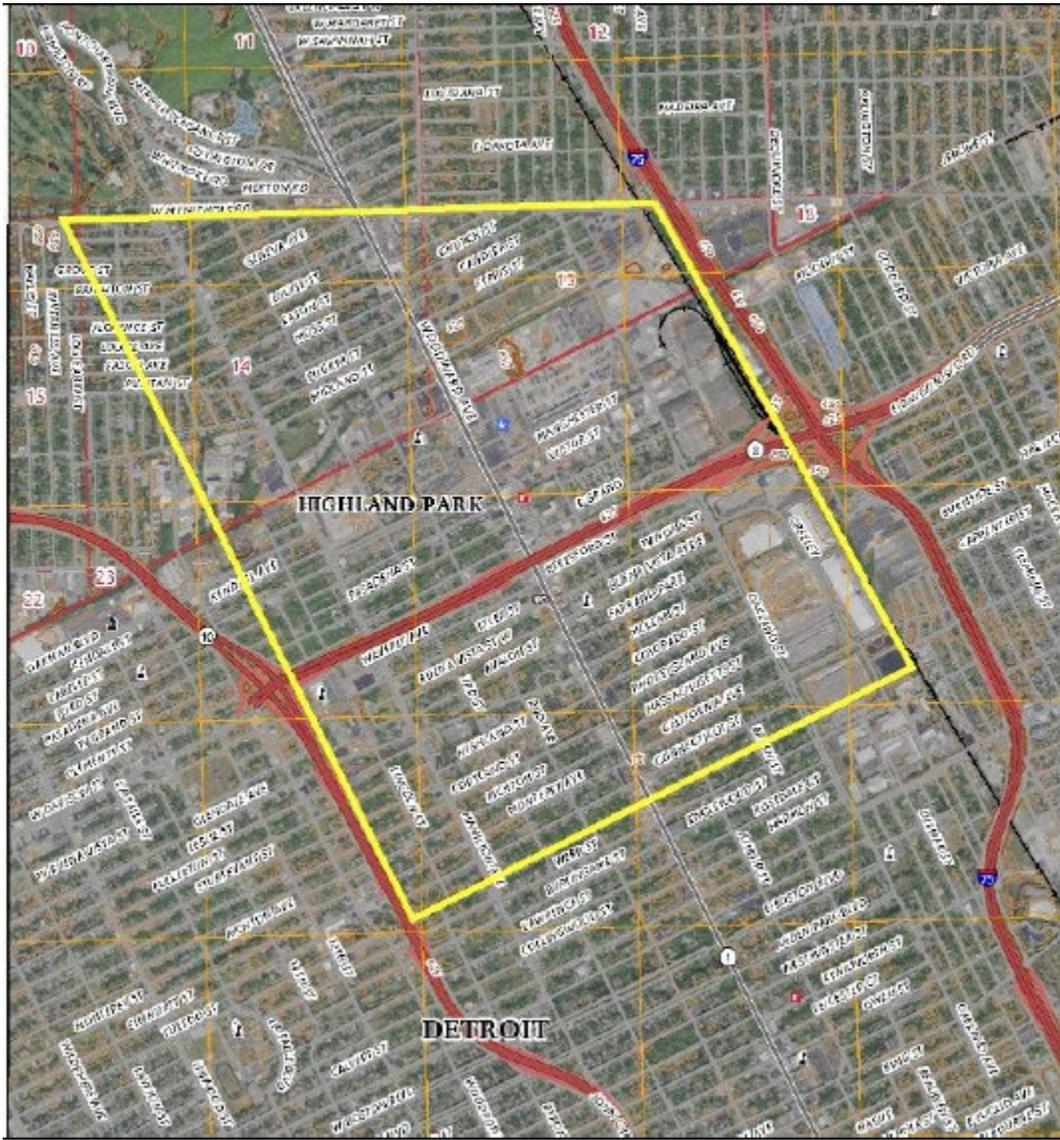
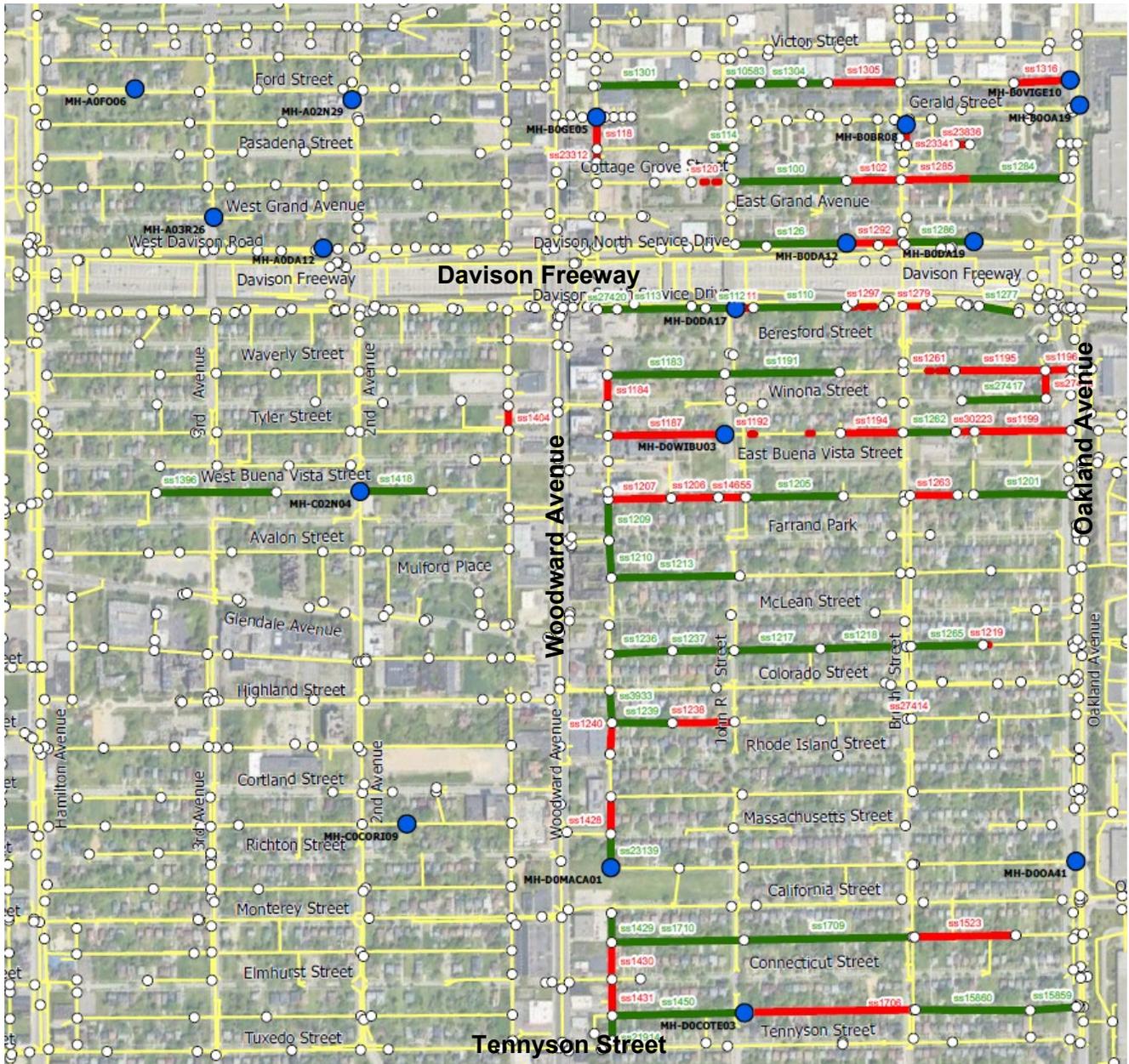


Figure 2

Highland Park CWSRF 5976-01 Sewer and Manhole Improvements



LEGEND

- Manhole
- Manhole Replacements (17)
- Cured-in-Place Pipe Repairs (14,994 LF)
- Pipe Replacement (Open-Cut Repair) (8,002 LF)
- Sewer

