



Water Advisory Council

January 14, 2026

8:00 am

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments on Agenda Items
3. Approval of Minutes – November 5, 2025
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Drinking Water Flushing Program presentation (Angie Goodman, Lansing Board of Water and Light)
6. Updates
 - a. Lead Reduction Initiative for 3rd Ward (Healthy Homes)
 - b. State Drinking Water Advisory Council (Jernberg)
 - c. YTD Lead Service Line Replacements map (Jernberg)
 - d. Lead Service Line Construction Projects (Jernberg)
 - e. Blood Lead Level presentation update (Jernberg)
7. Public Comment
8. Next Meeting – March 11
9. Adjournment

Water Advisory Council
November 5, 2025
8:00 am
MINUTES

Members Present

Izamar Contreras (City of GR), Nick Fisher (City of GR), Paul Haan, Wayne Jernberg (Chairperson, City of GR), Doug La Fave (East GR), Sara Simmonds (Kent County Health Department), Julius Suchy (Ada Township), and Jennifer Williams (GRPS)

Others Present

Kolene Allen (City of GR), Elyse Boardman (Healthy Homes), Jameela Maun (Healthy Homes), and Kristin Oldenberg

Call to Order

Mr. Jernberg called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes – September 3, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes with two minor changes made by Mr. Haan, seconded by Mr. La Fave.

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Ms. Simmonds, seconded by Mr. La Fave.

MOTION CARRIED.

Updates

Water Advisory Council Background and Membership Introductions

We have a new member, Rocio Rodriguez, from the Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association. Ms. Rodriguez is not in attendance today and we will provide background on the charge of the council when she is in attendance.

Lead Reduction Initiative for 3rd Ward (Healthy Homes)

Ms. Boardman reported that Healthy Homes has distributed:

- 56 kits
- 200 mailers
- 107 door hangers

Healthy Homes also participated in 12 community events, including:

- Trunk or Treat

- Family Futures Family Reunion
- Meet and Greet with Samaritas

An upcoming Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway is planned with Garfield Park.

Mr. Jernberg noted that he participated in an event last December at Baxter Community Center and requested that Healthy Homes notify the City if this event happens again this year. He would like to let staff share the information and possibly help out.

Staffing

- Still recruiting for a Third Ward Community Educator.
- A temporary employee has started and will focus on distributing kits door-to-door, with a goal of reaching 1,000 soon.
- Healthy Homes is promoting a Facebook post seeking volunteers to distribute water kits door-to-door and to table at events; they have already had 24 inquiries.

Mr. Jernberg noted that the Healthy Homes grant runs through December 2026, and the City is hoping to extend funding beyond that date. In the meantime, staff are planning contingencies to continue the partnership using Water Department funds.

He also shared that a new EPA rule may require the City to provide filters to all residents who receive lead service line replacements. If that requirement goes into effect, the City would like to partner with Healthy Homes to support filter distribution.

Ms. Williams asked if Healthy Homes needs help passing out kits. She can offer it to parents at their upcoming meeting. Ms. Boardman will email the information.

Annual Distribution System Materials Inventories

Ms. Contreras said that the State requires the City is to send notification letters to property owners who may have a lead service line. Around 17,500 letters have started to be distributed. The letters are being sent out in these batches:

- October 27 – 1st Ward
 - 7,387 notices
- November 10 – 2nd Ward
 - 5,442 notices
- November 24 – 3rd Ward & Outside City
 - 4,714 notices

These notifications are aligned with the DSMI deadline of 2024. The City has only received a few phone calls inquiring about these letters so far.

Mr. La Fave stated that East Grand Rapids also sent letters. Their letters have a QR code that links to a GIS map where recipients can look up their addresses.

YTD Lead Service Line Replacement map

Mr. Jernberg presented the latest Lead Service Line Replacement map. 1480 replacements have been done so far this year. That is slightly below our target. For our January meeting, we will try to get numbers by Ward of those we have left, which is around 17,000.

Lead Service Line Construction Projects

Mr. Jernberg reported on lead service line replacement projects. 51% agreements in hand for the 2026 construction season. The largest of these projects is Burton with 110 replacements. Only 37% of these agreements have been returned so far.

The Wealthy Street project may change due to conflicting feedback from residents and business owners regarding bike lanes and parking. These differing views may affect both the schedule and the scope of the project.

There are 711 lead service line replacements included in the DWRP resurfacing projects. To date, 78% of those contract agreements have been signed.

For private-only projects, 278 planned replacements, 62% agreements are in. These projects are near John Ball.

Ms. Simmonds noted that the Health Department could assist in disseminating information to help increase the number of contracts returned. City staff will follow up with her.

Ms. Contreras added that the Communications Department is working to rebrand the lead service line replacement program, with the goal of making all materials concise and cohesive. She also noted that, in the past, support from the county and Healthy Homes—particularly going door-to-door to residents with upcoming projects—has been very effective.

Lead and Copper Rule

Mr. Jernberg reported that the action level changed to 12 parts per million (ppm) this year and is expected to change to 10 ppm in 2027 or 2028. The City is has been strategically replacing anything that is 8 ppm or higher. 90th percentile will be around 7 ppm this year.

There has been little communication from the State in terms of what their plans are. We'll update the council when there is more information.

State Drinking Water Advisory Council

Mr. Jernberg reported that the State council met in October. He thanked members who completed the survey. Grand Rapids had six responses, and total for the state was 13. For reference, there are 36 councils.

As a result of the survey, there will likely be a collaborative effort with sections like Michigan Water Environment Association and American Water Works Association to develop a workshop aimed at the State councils. If that happens, members will get an invitation.

Grand Rapids council is the most active in the state. Lansing meets quarterly and while they don't have any lead lines, they have the Tommy Tap Water campaign to educate children on water-related topics and appoints classroom champions who flush water fountains.

The council continues to try to get more engagement and people involved. They asked EGLE for more funding and mini-grants. Working with the schools would be a good place to make inroads.

2026 Schedule

The schedule for 2026 was presented as:

- January 14
- May 13
- September 9
- March 11
- July 8
- November 4

Member Updates

- Mr. Jernberg said the City has started budget planning for FY2027 so if anyone has suggestions on how we can help, let us know and we can try to get funding for partnerships.
- Ms. Williams said that she would like to help find a way to support the lead replacement agreements and parents and is still thinking about solutions if anyone has ideas. Ms. Simmonds suggested collaborating on co-branded video content to help drive higher engagement. Ms. Contreras said the City usually publishes a year-end article to highlight milestones and project progress.
- Ms. Simmonds reported that Kent County Community Action is currently moving into the HUD space. She said the KCLEAR program (Kent County's Lead Evaluation and Reduction Program) offers zero- or low-interest loans to homeowners outside Grand Rapids for lead assessments. She added that Healthy Homes is also revamping the Lead Action Team, with goal setting next, so they are progressing in that area.
- Mr. Fisher gave a brief update on the Lake Plant, including a lightning strike that impacted the backup generators.
- Ms. Maun reported on Healthy Homes activities. She said that the Trunk or Treat event was very successful. She said that if anyone has community events they'd like Healthy Homes to promote, let her know.
- Mr. La Fave said that East Grand Rapids just wrapped up hydro-excavation of 4000 water service lines and is down to the final 400. All the water service lines were also GPSed so they have a record of those now. To date, 240 lead service lines have been replaced. They estimate that 400 left and will be completed in the next two years.

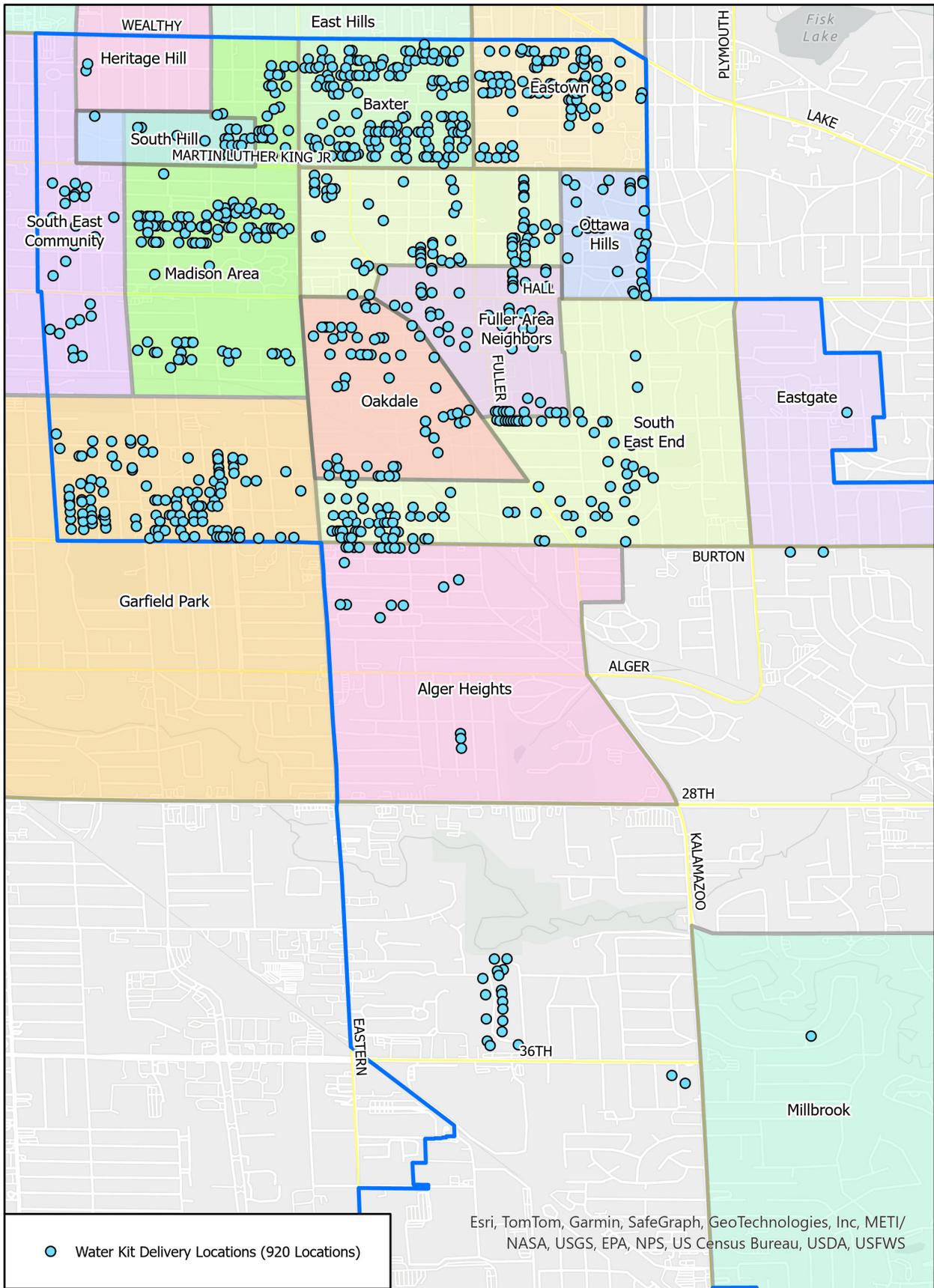
Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2026.

Adjournment

Mr. Jernberg adjourned the meeting at 9:11 am.

Lead Reducing Water Kits Distributed in the Third Ward October 2024 - December 2025

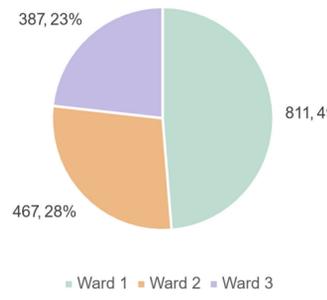


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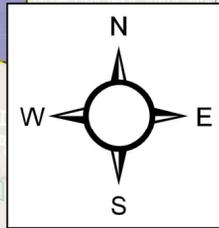
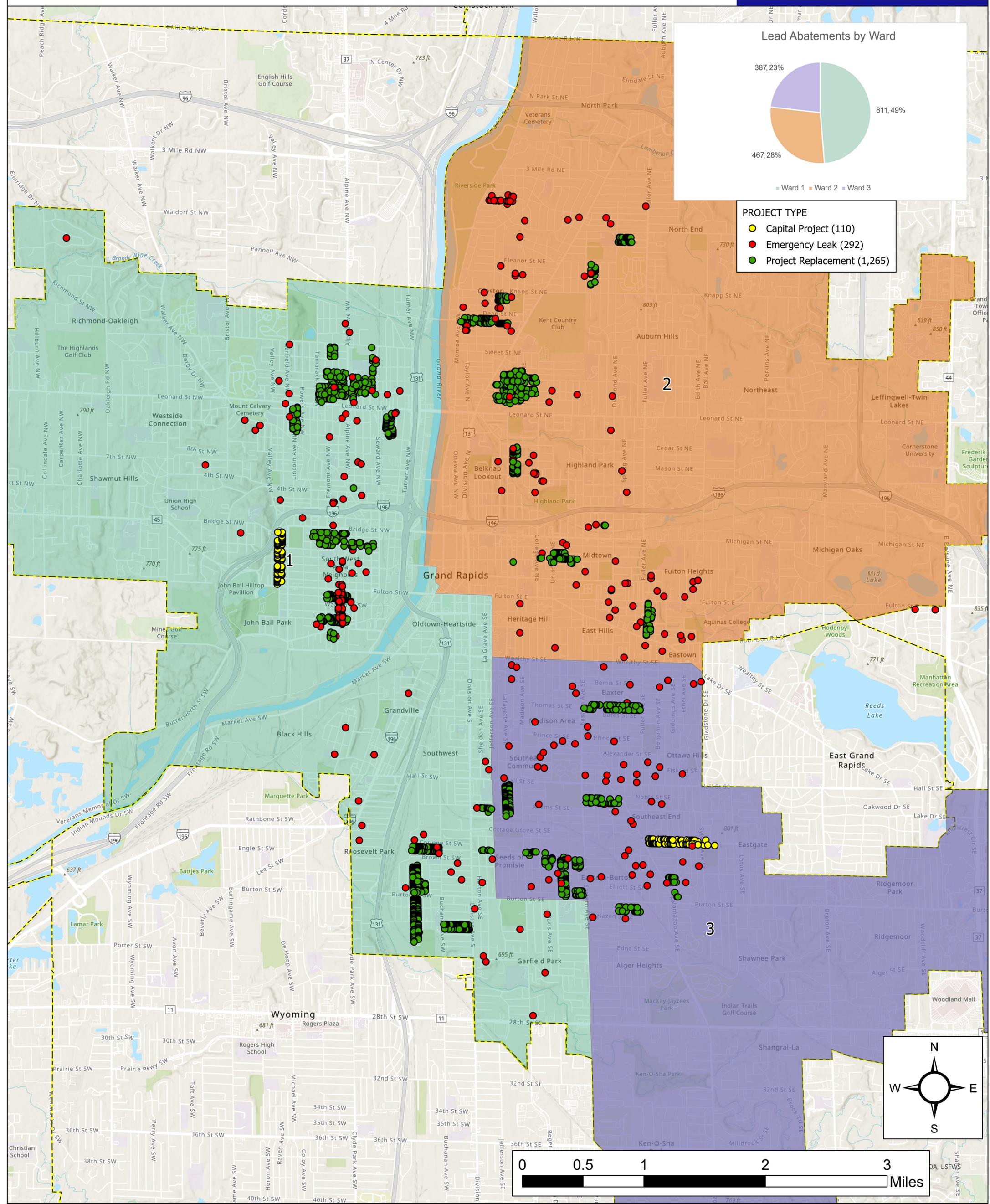
January 1st - December 31st, 2025 Lead Service Line Replacements



Lead Abatements by Ward



- PROJECT TYPE**
- Capital Project (110)
 - Emergency Leak (292)
 - Project Replacement (1,265)



Lead Service Line Replacements

December 31, 2025

Project	Fiscal Year	Private-side LSLRs	Agreements in Hand	Outstanding Agreements	% Agreements in Hand	Contacts per Agreement	Total LSLRs	Neighborhood	Ward	Contractor/Notes
Capital Projects										
2026 Construction Season										
Buchanan (Corrine to Hall)	2025	6	5	1	83%	8.60	8	Southwest, Garfield Park	1	
Burton (Division to Kalamazoo)	2025	110	42	68	38%	0.00	141	Garfield Park, East Burton, Alger Heights, Southeast End	1,3	Kammaing & Roodvoets Inc
Cesar E Chavez (Hall to Tenhaaf)	2025	22	22	0	100%	2.00	25	Grandville	1	
Garfield (Butterworth to Fulton)	2025	14	14	0	100%	0.00	22	John Ball Park	1	
Valley (Bridge to 4 th)	2025	18	15	3	83%	1.61	21	Shawmut Hills, John Ball Park	1	
Wealthy (Richard Ter to East City Limits)	2025	16	10	6	63%	2.9	18	Eastown	2,3	
TOTAL		186	108	78	58%		235			
DWRF Resurfacing Projects										
Resurfacing Public CY2025-1	2025	375	287	88	77%	1.92	411	Various	1,2,3	SPS Pro
Resurfacing Public CY2025-2	2025	323	254	69	79%	1.72	361	Various	1,2,3	Miller Pipeline
TOTAL		698	541	157	78%		772			
Private-Only Projects										
LSLR CY2025-3 Private-Only	2025	145	116	29	80%	1.22	145	John Ball Park	1	Brik Plumbing
LSLR CY2025-4 Private-Only	2025	133	114	19	86%	1.60	133	John Ball Park	1	Groundhawg
TOTAL		278	230	48	83%		278			