



DPW WATER RESOURCES ACTIVATES TEMPORARY SEWER BYPASS

All wastewater flows from broken line being redirected for treatment

Immediate Release

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July 25, 2023

Burlington - As of approximately 11 AM on July 25th, DPW's Water Resources team activated a temporary bypass sewer, effectively rerouting all wastewater flows from a broken sewer line that runs under the Winooski River directly to North Plant for treatment. This line is expected to handle 100% of wastewater flows with the possible exception of large rain events. Evaluation and monitoring of the new system is underway to test its performance and re-calibrate pumps, as needed. We expect to reduce our enhanced conservation request for New North End residents soon, updates on this can be found on burlingtonvt.gov/water.



Photos show pump and backup pump arriving on-site, along with valve configuration as system was being constructed.

REDUCING + REROUTING WASTEWATER FLOWS:

Upon learning about the Winooski River sewer break on July 12th, DPW Water Resources mobilized immediately to begin mitigation and repair plans. DPW, along with their contractor BP Wastewater, began pumping and hauling wastewater 24/7 from the broken line to North Plant for full treatment - one day after the sewer break. This increased treated flows to 75% of average North Plant flows.

DPW'S other contractor, ECI, then began mobilizing to build a temporary sewer bypass system on Friday July 14th - 2 days after the sewer line break - and began construction on Monday July

17th. The system includes over 5,000 linear feet of pipe running on-ground from the interceptor point just north and west of Plattsburg Ave and south of the Winooski River – directly to North Plant. The wastewater is now receiving full treatment. To overcome gravity and terrain changes, a bypass pump is in place at the flow interceptor point. This system is outfitted with a backup pump, sensors and real-time alarms that alert staff if wastewater levels were to exceed the capacity of the system to fully reroute this water.

DPW leadership briefed the Burlington Board of Finance on July 17th and the full City Council on July 24th. At this time, costs related to the pump & haul operation and the temporary bypass project are expected to exceed \$750K. The City is working closely with state, federal and general partners to secure all available disaster relief funds.



This photo shows the temporary on-ground sewer alignment as well as the location of North Plant and the flow interceptor point.

REPAIRING THE PIPE:

DPW has inserted non-toxic dye into the broken sewer line to help determine the extent and location of the break. They are conducting another dye test later this week while also awaiting confirmation from a dive team when they can safely inspect the pipe. Water levels have been too high and water clarity has been too murky for a safe physical inspection of the pipe in the River. Following these steps, DPW will continue planning for short and long-term repairs.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SWIMMING?

Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront (BPRW) conducts E. coli testing twice a week at its public beaches. Thus far, they have not had to close these beaches for high E. Coli since the July 12th sewer line break. Visit enjoyburlington.com for updates and sample results.

DPW expects to sample the North Shore Access Areas in Burlington and will share those results. Once tests show E. coli levels below the EPA standard - and at least 48 hours from today's rerouting of wastewater flows from the Winooski River - DPW and BPRW will re-open swim access to these areas. Results will be available at burlingtonvt.gov/water. The public can also visit <https://colchestervt.gov/> for more information on Colchester's public beaches, some of which have shown higher E. coli results after the deluge of recent rains and shortly after this break.

While the temporary bypass project is expected to handle 100% of wastewater flows during most circumstances, there is potential that during anomalous rain events it won't be able to capture all flows. In these cases, it is likely that public access areas will need to be closed for at least an additional 48 hours following any of those discharges.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WASTEWATER CONSERVATION?

It is always a great idea to conserve wastewater and use thoughtful practices, though we expect to reduce our enhanced conservation request for New North End residents soon.

We will be monitoring and evaluating the performance of this temporary bypass system. If it performs as expected, we will likely reduce our conservation request, but still strongly

encourage these practices during high rain events and peak periods of 6-8AM and 6-8PM until the sewer is back in service. Updates on this can be found on burlingtonvt.gov/water or on your local Front Porch Forum.

STAY INFORMED

We encourage the public to visit burlingtonvt.gov/water where they can review the incident response page. This page has maps, updates and FAQ's that will help address common questions and concerns. More information on the performance of the temporary bypass project and future repair plans will also be forthcoming.

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