



Water Advisory Council

September 9, 2026

8:00 am

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments on Agenda Items
3. Approval of Minutes – July 8, 2026
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Updates
 - a. Lead Reduction Initiative for 3rd Ward (Healthy Homes)
 - b. Lead and Copper Rule – 2026 Testing (Jernberg)
 - c. State Drinking Water Advisory Council
 - i. Workshop (Contreras)
 - d. YTD Lead Service Line Replacements map (Jernberg)
 - e. Lead Service Line Construction Projects (Jernberg)
 - f. Water System Manager (Jernberg)
6. Public Comment
7. Next Meeting – November 4
8. Adjournment

Water Advisory Council

July 8, 2026

8:00 am

MINUTES

Members Present

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

Others Present

Kolene Allen (City of GR), Sam Mann (Healthy Homes), Jameela Maun (Healthy Homes), and Santiago Alvarado (Healthy Homes)

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 – March 10, 2026

Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. La Fave. Seconded by Mr. Fisher.

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED.

State Drinking Water Advisory Council Workshop – August 12

Mr. Jernberg reported that the workshop is scheduled for August 12. Ms. Contreras and Mr. Alvarado are planning to attend. Ms. Simmonds will also try to attend. The invite will be sent to the entire group in case anyone else wants to attend.

LSLR Collaboration Award

Mr. Jernberg showed the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative's Excellence in Community Engagement Award, which the City received at the American Water Works Association's Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The national award recognizes outstanding efforts to engage residents, build trust, and advance lead service line replacement.

The City will be issuing a press release within the next few days and will be shared with members.

The City plans to issue a proclamation during National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (October 25–31, 2026) recognizing the Water Advisory Council's contributions to the City's lead service line replacement program and highlighting the national Excellence in Community Engagement Award received from the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative.

Members will receive an invitation closer to the event. A presentation may also be given during the City Commission meeting to highlight the lead service line replacement program, recognize the contributions of Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan and other community partners, and showcase the collaborative efforts that contributed to the award.

Updates

Lead Reduction Initiative for 3rd Ward

Ms. Maun introduced Sam Mann, the new Program Director at Healthy Homes.

Mr. Mann reported:

- 450 water kits have been distributed from January 1 – June 30.
- Healthy Homes is looking to expand its partnering efforts to assist with kit distribution.
- Have attended approximately 55 tabling events.

Mr. Santiago added that canvassing continues to be the most effective outreach method, with an average of 30 kits distributed during each two-hour canvassing session.

Ms. Simmonds shared that when the Kent County Health Department distributed lead filters, they had the greatest success at the Sheldon Clinic within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) complex. She offered to reach out to the clinic to explore potential opportunities for Healthy Homes outreach.

Ms. Contreras presented the Lead Reducing Water Kits Distributed in the Third Ward map for October 2024 – June 2026.

Lead and Copper Rule Sampling

Mr. Jernberg stated that Grand Rapids is required to perform 50 sampling tests between June 1 and September 30. To date, 41 sampling kits have been delivered. 30 have been returned so far, with another 10 by the end of the week. One result was 11 ppb and the City has already started the process to replace the lead service line at that location. The next highest result was around 5 ppb. The goal is to have all tests completed by the end of August.

YTD Lead Service Line Replacements map

Mr. Jernberg reported 598 replacements have been completed from January 1 – June 30, 2026. This is slightly under what has been completed in years past. This is partially due to the reduction in state funding. The annual goal is 1900, but over 1000 is anticipated.

Lead Service Line Construction Projects

There are several projects occurring this fiscal year that are not represented on the map. The largest of these is the reconstruction of Burton Ave from Division to Kalamazoo. While the 1930s water main is being replaced, 141 lead service lines will also be replaced.

Another large project is on Oakwood between Knapp and 3 Mile. 89 lead service lines will be replaced.

On the private-side only projects, the City just extended the contracts with Brik and Groundhawg to finish up this work.

There are approximately 16,000 replacements left in the system.

Drinking Water Revolving Fund

Mr. Jernberg gave an update on the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF). He reported that the draft project plan was released the previous day and noted that the State revised its FY2027 scoring criteria used to rank and prioritize projects for funding.

Under the new criteria, Grand Rapids exceeds 80% of the Median Annual Household Income (MAHI) threshold and is therefore no longer classified as an overburdened community. As a result, the City's major drinking water projects are not currently being considered for DWRF funding.

Mr. Jernberg added that the City is evaluating a 10% grant opportunity that may still be available.

FY2027 Budget LSLR budget

Ms. Contreras reported that Healthy Homes has been a great partner and that its outreach and community engagement efforts help raise awareness not only about lead in drinking water, but also other potential sources, like paint, dust, and soil.

\$75,000 is included in the FY2027 Budget for funding beyond January 1, 2027. For FY2028, the Water System plans to request \$150,000 to continue funding the partnership for the full fiscal year and expand the program beyond the Third Ward.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Member Updates

- Ms. Maun reported that Healthy Homes has been busy with summer events. She also thanked Ms. Contreras for the assistance the GROW1000 students.

- Mr. Alvarado thanked the City for their partnership and extending the contract.
- Mr. Fisher reported the City's Water Pool-ooza events at the Lake Michigan Filtration Plant and Water Resource Recovery Facility were a success. At the Lake Michigan Filtration Plant, the carbon feed project is in progress.
- Mr. Mann said he looks forward to expanding services into the First and Second Wards.
- Ms. Contreras reported that notification postcards for the annual Water Quality Report had been mailed to customers. She noted that this year's notification was differed from previous years, when the information was included as a billing insert.
- Mr. La Fave reported that East Grand Rapids has less than 200 lead service line replacements left and should be done with all of them by the end of FY2027 or early FY2028. Once complete, their focus will shift towards lining old water mains.
- Ms. Williams reported that she is looking forward to working with Healthy Homes more and is gathering dates for upcoming football games, tailgating, vendor fairs, and open houses. She will email the information to Healthy Homes once it all comes together.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2026.

Adjournment

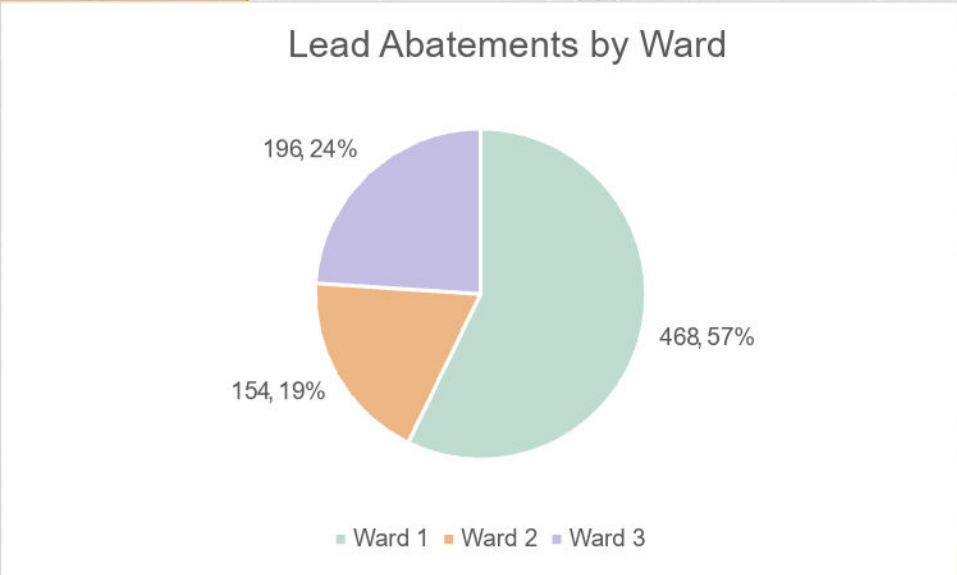
Mr. Jernberg adjourned the meeting at 9:08 am.

Water Kit Delivery Locations (1,340 Locations)

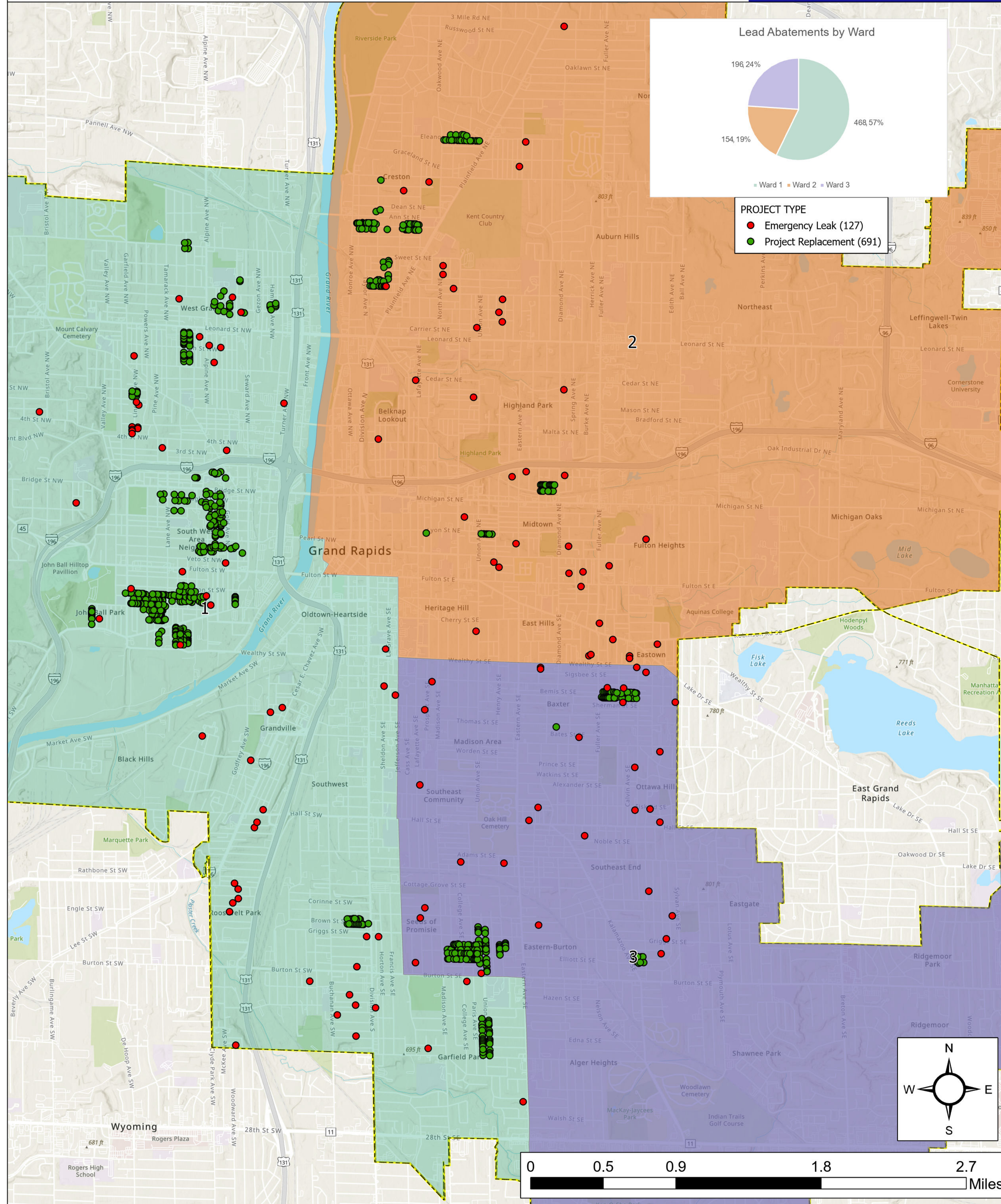
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc., METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS



January 1st - August 31st, 2026 Lead Service Line Replacements



- PROJECT TYPE
- Emergency Leak (127)
 - Project Replacement (691)



Lead Service Line Replacements

September 02, 2026

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)	2026	6	5	1	83%	8.60	8	Southwest, Garfield Park	1	Diversco
Buchanan (Stewart to Corrine)	2026	24	22	2	92%	6.00	34	Garfield Park	1	
Burton (Division to Kalamazoo)	2025	107	97	9	92%	2.88	141	Garfield Park, East Burton, Alger Heights, Southeast End	1,3	Kamminga & Roodvoets Inc
Jefferson (MLK to Logan)	2026	4	4	0	100%	3.25	4	Southeast End	1,2	
Oakwood (Knapp to 3 Mile)	2026	41	37	4	90%	2.44	89	Creston	2	C&D Hughes
TOTAL		182	165	17	91%		276			
DWRf Resurfacing Projects										
Resurfacing Public CY2025-1	2025	387	325	62	84%	2.05	422	Various	1,2,3	SPS Pro
Resurfacing Public CY2025-2	2025	340	286	54	84%	1.74	380	Various	1,2,3	Miller Pipeline
Resurfacing Public CY2026-1	2025	237	152	88	86%	0.65	319	Various	1,2,3	Groundhawg Excavating
Resurfacing Public CY2026-2	2025	264	164	100	62%	0.96	330	Various	1,2,3	Groundhawg Excavating
TOTAL		1228	927	301	75%		1451			
Private-Only Projects										
LSLR CY2025-3 Private-Only - Extension	2026	223	118	105	53%	2.22	223	Various	1,2	Brik Plumbing
LSLR CY2025-4 Private-Only - Extension	2026	154	33	121	21%	0.00	154	Various	1	Groundhawg
TOTAL		377	151	226	40%		274			