



CITY OF BUFFALO

BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR



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MAYOR BROWN ANNOUNCES CITY WILL INVEST MORE THAN \$27 MILLION ON WATER SERVICE PROJECTS TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE DELIVERY OF SAFE, CLEAN WATER TO BUFFALO RESIDENTS

The list of improvements includes the continuation of water main and service line replacements across the City and installation of an energy-efficient water pump at the Col. Ward Pumping Station, as well as extensive water main cleaning in the Fruitbelt neighborhood, and installation of a new water main in the bedrock beneath the City Ship Canal

Buffalo, N.Y. – Mayor Byron W. Brown today announced the City will invest more than \$27 million in 12 water system projects to enhance the delivery of safe, clean water to Buffalo residents. That list includes \$8.2 million for replacement of water mains and service lines throughout the City and \$6 million to complete installation of an energy efficient pump at the Col. Ward Pumping Station.

“Our continuing water line replacement work, and the other projects our Department of Public Works and Buffalo Water are undertaking in 2017, are part of my Administration’s continuing effort to improve the capacity and efficiency of Buffalo’s water system. Once again, we are making a significant investment to further enhance the delivery of clean and safe drinking water to our residents,” Mayor Brown said

While Buffalo’s water has been certified lead-safe, the replacement of antiquated service lines will further reduce the potential lead exposure.

Today’s announcement of 12 water projects for 2017, wraps up a series of capital project announcements to mark National Public Works Week in the City of Buffalo.

“Our list of 2017 public works projects totals \$54 million, bringing the total investment my Administration has made in our streets, sidewalks, parks, water system, buildings and other critical infrastructure to \$343 million. Our continued investment and enhancement of infrastructure not only improves the City’s physical connections, it also improves the quality of life for all our residents,” Mayor Brown said.

Since 2006, the City has invested \$103.3 million on its water system, including \$31.4 million over the past five years.

“We have a highly effective and dedicated workforce that touches the lives of Buffalo residents, business owners and visitors every day. Our project schedule is very robust, but we’re up to the task,” said Public Works Commissioner Steven J. Stepniak.

The new, higher capacity water mains will be installed throughout the City. Buffalo Water will be mailing letters to residents and businesses located along streets getting new water lines, detailing the water line work, and will follow up with door hangers.

“We know residents will have many questions about how the water line replacements will impact their service. We’ve developed a series of letters and door hangers which will answer many of those questions and also remind residents with lead concerns, they can receive free water testing by calling the Mayor’s Call & Resolution Center at 3-1-1,” said Buffalo Water Board Chairman Oluwole A. “OJ” McFoy.

Crews doing the service line replacements will also be checking private connections for presence of lead pipes or connectors.

“If the crews spot what appears to be lead plumbing, we will send out a letter and place a special door hanger at the residence or business notifying the owner, and urging them to take advantage of the City’s free water testing program,” McFoy added.

The Department of Public Works will also complete the \$6 million installation of a new, energy-efficient pump at the Col. Ward Pumping Station.

Other key project include a \$3 million effort to improve the efficiency of water mains on several streets in Buffalo’s Fruitbelt neighborhood.

“This is part of our planned maintenance program to bring our water mains to peak efficiency. We will be cleaning mineral deposits out of the mains and relining them with cement to improve water quality and capacity. These mains service several hundred of Fruitbelt residents and businesses,” DPW Commissioner Stepniak said.

Another major Water Division project is the replacement of the Michigan Street water main which runs through the City Ship Canal. The \$1.5 million project includes the drilling of a 1,000-foot-long tunnel through the bedrock under the canal to accommodate the new water main. The new main replaces a circa 1924 line which was laid on the bottom of the canal.

A total of \$4.7 million will be spent on asbestos abatement at Col. Ward, new roofs for the Col. Ward and Massachusetts Avenue pumping stations, and rehabilitation of the Manhattan Pumping Station.

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