

# BC WORKS!

## The City of Battle Creek's Department of Public Works Newsletter

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The City of Battle Creek tried out a new maintenance option - sheep! - for some of their stormwater ponds in September 2023. Sheep from Power Grazers, LLC, of Kalamazoo, were brought in as a pilot study to determine how effectively they could graze six selected storm ponds. The chosen ponds had existing fencing to keep the sheep within the grazing area and were of large enough size to satisfy the hungry grazers. The herds of 40 sheep spent about two days at each pond and were transported from pond back to their home turf by their owner when they had completed their task, and a new herd was brought in.

The project was initiated to see if the the sheep could help save the City money while also lessening the environmental impacts of power equipment. The sheep can navigate areas that mowing equipment can't safely reach and they will also eat invasive species and help control woody vegetation. The sheep cost \$2,250 for the one-time grazing while traditional mowing costs the City an estimated \$1,800 per month in staff time, equipment and gasoline. Storm ponds maintained by the sheep would be grazed 2-3 times per year. The City maintains over 30 storm ponds, though not all of them will be appropriate for grazing. Look for the sheep this spring at a storm pond near you!

### Contact us:

City of Battle Creek  
Department of Public Works  
150 S. Kendall St., Battle Creek, MI 49037  
269-966-3311  
[battlecreekmi.gov/publicworks](http://battlecreekmi.gov/publicworks)

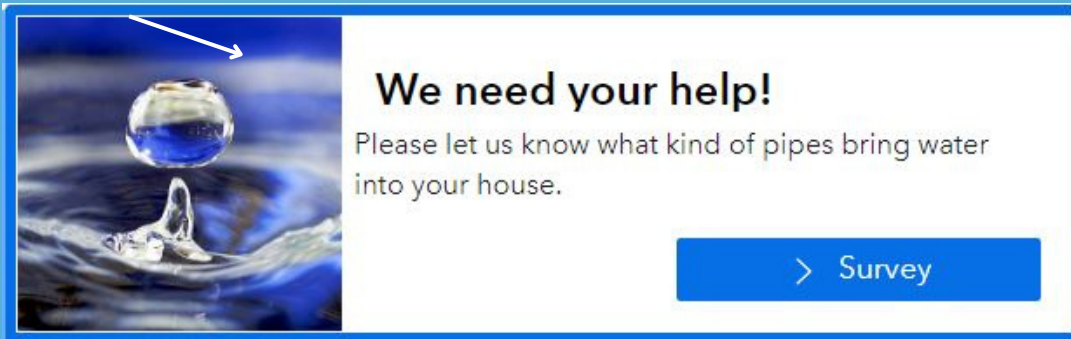


# Help the City "Get the Lead Out!"

If you live in the City of Battle Creek and are serviced with City water (not a personal well), the City would like to know what kind of service line is coming into your home. This information will help the Water Division prioritize and schedule lead service line replacements more efficiently. Additionally, this information will assist the City in meeting regulatory requirements for determining our system's drinking water service line inventory. This inventory is being required by the State of Michigan and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To report your service line material, please take a quick online survey at: [battlecreekmi.gov/Geographic-Information-Systems](https://battlecreekmi.gov/Geographic-Information-Systems) and click on **"Interactive Mapping"** at the top left and then you'll see the survey at the top left under **"We need your help!"** Residents can also call the City's Water Meter Shop at 269-966-3506 or use the QR Code below to report their service line materials.

While the presence of lead service lines can increase the chance of lead exposure, the City tests our drinking water daily and treats the water with an anti-corrosion product (ortho-phosphate) to keep the lead from leaching from the pipes. To add an additional level of safety to the City's drinking water supply, the Water Division collects 30 samples each year from homes throughout the City to confirm the effectiveness of the corrosion control.

Thank you for helping "GET THE LEAD OUT" of our drinking water!



# BC Works Puzzle - Drinking Water



AQUIFER  
 TAP  
 CLEAN  
 WELL  
 DRAIN  
 PIPES  
 DRINK  
 WATER  
 WELLS  
 QUALITY  
 CONSERVE  
 SAFE  
 HYDRATION  
 BOTTLED  
 THIRST  
 HEALTHY  
 NUTRITION  
 COLD  
 ICE  
 BACTERIA  
 GROUNDWATER  
 FRESH  
 WASH  
 FAUCET

# 2024 RECYCLING COLLECTIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

## Polystyrene #6 (Styrofoam) Recycling - City of Battle Creek residents only

### ACCEPTED:

- ✓ Egg cartons, take-out food containers, meat trays, drink cups, disposable coolers and packing materials. All materials must be clean and dry.

Pre-sort items into food containers and coolers/packing material to help volunteers process materials more quickly.

### NOT ACCEPTED:

- ✗ Packing peanuts, insulation sheets, flexible foam wrap



Department of Public Works  
150 S. Kendall St., Battle Creek



Wednesday, March 20  
4 - 6 p.m.

## Scrap Tire Recycling - City of Battle Creek residents only

### ACCEPTED TIRES:

- ✓ Lawn mower; Residential passenger vehicles (cars/trucks); Semi tires; Motorcycle tires

### NOT ACCEPTED:

- ✗ Tractor tires; Tires with rims; **NO COMMERCIAL TIRES**

Department of Public Works  
150 S. Kendall St., Battle Creek



Wednesday, May 8  
4 - 6 p.m.

Residents are allowed a maximum of 10 tires per visit.

## Electronics Recycling - City of Battle Creek residents only

### ACCEPTED:

- ✓ Computers, Computer equipment, Laptops, LCD monitors, CRT monitors, Printers, Wires and cords, Computer peripherals, Copy/fax machines, Audio-visual equipment, Plasma televisions, LCD televisions, Tube televisions, Game consoles, Stereo equipment, Lamps, Small kitchen appliances and electronics, batteries, string lights

### NOT ACCEPTED:

- ✗ Scrap metal, large household appliances and those containing Freon.



Department of Public Works  
150 S. Kendall St., Battle Creek



Wednesday, May 22  
4 - 6 p.m.

## Other Events

### 2024 Calhoun County Recycling Events (Free to all Calhoun County residents)

Electronics, Tires, and Household Hazardous Waste

Visit the Calhoun County website for current information.

[https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/departments/recycling\\_and\\_solid\\_waste/events.php](https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/departments/recycling_and_solid_waste/events.php)



#### Earth Day/Linear Park Cleanup

April 22-28



#### Photo Contest Deadline

July 31



#### Krazy for the Kazoo River Cleanup

Saturday, October 5, 9 - 11 a.m.

Pre-registration is required for cleanup events.

Visit: [bcwater.org/events](https://bcwater.org/events) or contact Bessie Stears at [bestears@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:bestears@battlecreekmi.gov) or (269) 966-3355 ext. 1889 for more information.



**\*All events are subject to change.**  
**For an updated listing, visit: [bcwater.org/events](https://bcwater.org/events)**



# Prevent Clogged Sewer Pipes

The City of Battle Creek is asking for your help to keep the City's sanitary sewer system working properly. The drains in your home are designed to handle **ONLY** used water, human waste and toilet paper. Dispose of other items in the trash - to stop the clog.

**FROG - Fats, Rags, Oils and Grease** are the leading causes of sanitary sewer clogs, backups and overflows.

- FROG causes the City costly maintenance and repairs
- FROG can create health hazards, home damage and environmental harm
- Sources of FROG include:
  - meat fats
  - cooking oil
  - butter
  - food scraps
  - paper towels
  - feminine hygiene products
  - "flushable" wipes of all kinds (Wipes marketed as "flushable" will not break down like toilet paper, resulting in clogged sewer lines.)



## Tips to avoid clogged sewer pipes:

- Scrape grease and food scraps into garbage
- Dispose of diapers, wipes and personal hygiene products in the trash
- Don't flush paper towels, rags or wipes of any kind - none are actually "flushable"



These materials stick to the inside of the pipes and can eventually block the entire flow of water. Please help us keep the sewers flowing - and stop the clog!

Keep up with the Battle Creek Area Clean Water Partners events and news at [bcwater.org](http://bcwater.org) or on their Facebook page.



## Department of Public Works Open House



Come by the Department of Public Works on Wednesday, **May 15\***, to learn more about what we do for the City of Battle Creek! We will be hosting a **FREE** Open House for all to see our trucks and equipment, meet our staff and learn about some of our ongoing projects. We will have some hands-on demonstrations, a chance to sit in the trucks (and honk the horns!), free giveaways, fun kids' activities and more. We hope to see you there!

*\*Rain date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024*

**Date:** Wednesday, May 15, 2024

**Time:** 4 - 6 p.m.

**Location:** 150 S. Kendall St., Battle Creek, MI 49037

**More information:** (269) 966-3355







# Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Inventory Underway

A community-wide greenhouse gas inventory for Battle Creek is underway thanks to assistance from a grant from the Battle Creek Community Foundation. While the inventory represents a snapshot in time, it will serve to establish a baseline for the community's energy consumption and emissions. This information will then help us identify where we, as a community, can make improvements.

The City contracted with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), which is an organization that has conducted similar inventories and sustainability-related plans and documents for many municipalities throughout Michigan, the United States and the world. ICLEI is using local energy use data from a number of sources including the City of Battle Creek facilities, Consumer's Energy, and SEMCO Energy, to determine the most accurate inventory for our community. The data will be presented by different sectors (residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, solid waste) and fuel/source types. Energy reduction goals will be established and ultimately tracked based on the inventory findings.

The report is expected to be completed by fall of 2024.

## Free Compost Available



Free **Battle CreEQ Gold** compost is available for pickup at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), located at 2000 W. River Road, Battle Creek. The compost is made from carefully-processed biosolids (nutrient-rich organic materials which remain following treatment of domestic sewage) from the City's WWTP. The compost, called Battle CreEQ Gold, has satisfied a number of criteria required by the State of Michigan to assure that the material is safe for use as compost. These approved biosolids can be applied to flower beds, lawns and even vegetable gardens.

The benefits of using compost include:

- Helping the soil retain moisture and nutrients
- Attracting beneficial organisms to the soil and reducing the need for pesticides and fertilizers
- Reducing the potential for soil erosion
- Sequestering carbon in the soil

Those interested in getting some free Battle CreEQ Gold compost will need to call in advance for a pickup time and bring their own containers. Residents are allowed up to one metric ton (roughly a standard pickup truck bed load) per visit.

Please contact Rodney Clifton, Wastewater Superintendent, at **269-966-3513** to schedule a pick up.

**CAP ON**



## Recycling Tip:

**LID OFF**

- Keep plastic caps **on** empty/clean plastic water bottles and plastic milk jugs.
- Take metal lids **off** empty/clean glass jars and put in the recycling cart separately. Metal and glass go to different processes at the recycling facility.





# Public Works Services Funding

**Do you ever wonder how different public works projects and services are funded in the City of Battle Creek? Well, the answer is - it depends. City services are funded by a variety of sources.**

## **Public Streets:**

Michigan Transportation Fund "Act 51" dollars are used for the maintenance of public streets including road and bridge construction projects, pothole repairs, snow plowing and other roadway maintenance. The dollars are split between the local and major streets. Act 51 revenue is generated from State of Michigan motor fuel taxes and vehicle registration taxes. Act 51 revenue is divided between local road agencies and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Additionally, the City can apply for federal aid distributed through the state. Those funds are applied for by our Municipal Planning Organization (MPO) – the Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS). Other members of BCATS are the City of Springfield, Calhoun County Road Department, Michigan Department of Transportation, and Pennfield, Emmett, and Bedford Townships. Federal aid funds are distributed between all the MPO partner agencies.

## **Water and Sanitary Sewer Services:**

Water and sanitary sewer (waste water) services are funded through water and sewer utility rates. These funds are used for operating the water and wastewater plants, maintaining the water distribution and wastewater collection systems, as well as capital construction projects. Rate studies are completed every five years to ensure that the rates are adjusted to cover the costs for maintaining the water and sewer systems. Additionally, the state offers State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans, which municipalities can apply for to help pay for water and sewer projects. These are low interest loans that occasionally come with principal forgiveness for critical projects. The City is currently in the process of receiving an SRF loan for lead service and well replacement, with a significant portion of that cost being forgiven.

## **Storm Sewer Services:**

The City's storm sewer system, a network of inlets, underground pipes and storm ponds designed to quickly move rain water off of developed areas, currently does not have a designated funding source. Storm system maintenance needs to be funded from a number of different sources. These funds include Act 51, small contributions from sanitary sewer funds when linked to sanitary projects, occasional grants, MDOT funds when in the road right-of-way, minimal assessments from the Calhoun County Water Resources Commissioner and other funds. The State of Michigan is considering legislation which would help municipalities implement stormwater utility fees for maintenance of this vital service.

## **Park, Open Space and Cemetery Maintenance:**

Maintenance of the parks, open spaces and cemeteries are paid for through the "General Fund." The General Fund dollars come from property taxes.

## **Other funding:**

Whenever possible, City staff try to identify and seek grants to offset costs for all types of public works projects. Grants can typically come from either the state or federal government. Recent grants received include state-funded Wellhead Protection for safety of our drinking water supply, State Revolving loan funds for well replacement, and federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for improvements and maintenance of Monument Park.





# ROAD CONSTRUCTION 2024



Pending approval from the City Commission, the Engineering Division is preparing the following projects to be completed during the 2024 construction season.

## The following roads will be **chip sealed**:

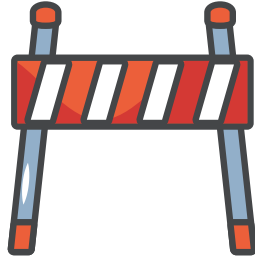
- Morgan Ave. – Mason Ave. N to Bedford Rd. N
- Taylor Ave. – Lamora Ave. to Sigel Ave.
- Kellogg St. – Lamora Ave. to Bedford Rd. N
- Spaulding Ave. W – Mason Ave. N to Bedford Rd. N
- Mason Ave. N – Michigan Ave. W to Morgan Ave.
- Cedar Ave. N – Kellogg St. to Morgan Ave.
- Woodlawn Ave. N – Michigan Ave. W to Morgan Ave.
- Broadway Blvd. – Michigan Ave. W to Morgan Ave.
- Kendall St. S – Dickman Rd. to Michigan Ave. W
- Hamblin Ave. – Washington Ave. to Division St.
- Territorial Rd. – Helmer Rd. to Capital Ave.
- Helmer Rd. – Columbia Ave. to Gethings Rd.



What is **chip seal**? Inexpensive, effective method to extend pavement life, by applying small chips in a liquid asphalt. The road is swept to remove dust, a liquid layer is sprayed onto the road, and chips are applied and rolled over.

## The following roads will be **resurfaced**:

- Michigan Ave. – Washington Ave. to Carlyle St.
- Capital Ave. – Van Buren St. to Rebecca Rd.
- Porter St. – Michigan Ave. to Raymond Rd.
- Chapel Hill Dr. – entire road
- Enlow Ct. – entire road
- Timberland Dr. – entire road
- Knollwood Dr. – entire road
- Greenridge Dr. – entire road
- Cambridge Dr. – entire road
- Morningside Dr. – entire road
- Doverdale Dr. – entire road
- Meadow Dr. – Riverside Dr. to Morningside Dr.
- Glencroft Ln. – entire road
- 20th St. – Goguac St. to Columbia Ave.
- Sonoma Rd. – Beckley Rd. to City limit
- E Michigan Ave. – Porter St. to Columbia Ave. (MDOT project)



What is **resurfacing**? A quick process in which 1.5 to 2 inches are milled off the top, enough to remove defects, after which a new layer of asphalt is laid. Prior to resurfacing, road work crews will also perform lead service line replacement.

## The following locations will receive **water main replacement**:

- Douglas St. - Cliff St. to Post Ave.
- Highway St. - Lathrop Ave. to Kingman Ave.
- Illinois St. - Cliff St. to City limits
- Euclid Ave. - Cliff St. to City limits
- Grenville St. - Cliff St. to City limits
- Inn Rd. - Cliff St. to City limits

Full replacement of water infrastructure along with associated road improvement including road surface.

To view the 2024 Street Treatments Map go to [battlecreekmi.gov/publicworks](https://battlecreekmi.gov/publicworks), click on "Engineering" and scroll to "2024 Street Treatments."

## The following locations will receive **water main extension**:

- Sonoma Rd. – Beckley Rd. to north end

This work will allow the City to service additional neighborhoods while also creating a loop that will help keep residents in service in the event of a break.

## The following locations will receive **sanitary sewer extension**:

- N Cedar Ave. – Michigan Ave. to Spaulding Ave.

This work will allow the City to connect additional neighborhoods to sanitary sewer services.

**Questions/concerns should be forwarded to Jarret Geering, City Engineer, at 269-966-3343 or by email at [jtgeering@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:jtgeering@battlecreekmi.gov)**

**Customers can also get information on these projects and others (water main breaks, garbage delays, City closures, etc.) by signing up for alerts: [battlecreekmi.gov/notifyme](https://battlecreekmi.gov/notifyme)**

In addition to the work listed above, the intersection of **Riverside Drive and Golden Avenue** will undergo a **signal modernization project** this summer. The project will introduce left-turn phasing, modern vehicle detection and additional camera capabilities. Updated features include: new poles for the infrastructure, cabinet and signal controller; pedestrian pushbuttons and signals; refreshed pavement markings; sidewalks and optimized signal timing. This project is federally funded through the *Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program* and the *Carbon Reduction Program*. These programs provide funding for signal modernization projects that aim to improve air quality by reducing vehicle delay through optimized signal phasing and timing. When vehicle delay is lowered, cars spend less time sitting idly at an intersection generating carbon emissions. An average of 12,000 vehicles travel through the Riverside/Golden intersection per day. This project is scheduled for summer 2024.





## Monument Park Improvements

Monument Park, located on East Michigan Avenue, got some sprucing up in 2023. The "Welcome to Battle Creek" sandstone wall and fountain was constructed in 1997 as part of the Monument Park project, and the Sojourner Truth memorial was constructed in 1998, with the 12-foot high sculpture placed in 1999. Since that time, only minor repairs have been performed on each of these structures. Over the last few years, it became apparent that a more substantial renovation was necessary to keep each of these structures preserved. Bids were accepted in March 2023, with Building Restoration, Inc. of Kalamazoo being awarded the contract for \$163,755. Though the Sojourner Truth sculpture, amphitheater and "Welcome to Battle Creek" wall are each unique structures, they had shared maintenance needs including:

- Complete power washing
- Removing and replacing all caulking
- Cleaning and recoating all parge coatings
- Refinishing bronze plaques
- Upgrading all lighting to LED

The following work was also completed:

- Iron deposits in sandstone in the "Welcome to Battle Creek" wall were removed and replaced with new sandstone
- Pools for the fountains were cleaned and waterproofed
- Landscaping updates at each of these structures to further enhance their appearance performed by City crews

These improvements were paid for with American Rescue Plan Act funds. While not included in the original scope of the project, the City added an additional \$8,800 treatment to the sandstone. While sandstone will deteriorate over time, this treatment should dramatically delay the process, allowing residents and visitors to our city to enjoy the "Welcome to Battle Creek" wall for years to come. Come by and see the updates!

