

# **Resident Guidance for Gravity Sanitary Sewer System Connection to Oronoco Phase 1A - Wastewater System & Water Distribution Improvements**

**Updated March 2024**

The City of Oronoco is nearing completion of constructing the Phase 1A municipal sanitary sewer collection and wastewater treatment system improvements. Operation of the municipal wastewater system is scheduled to begin on March 27, 2024 and service to all areas served by the wastewater project will be complete and fully operational by ~June 2024.

Property owners that are to receive a gravity sewer service as part of the Phase 1A improvements will need to hire a contractor to extend the gravity sewer service from the property line to the home / business and pump / abandon the existing septic system. Parcels that will receive a gravity sewer service are illustrated on the attached figure.

### **Property owner responsibilities to complete gravity sanitary sewer service construction:**

Oronoco's Public Utility Code Ordinance discusses property owner sanitary sewer connection requirements. City Code requires property owners to complete construction of the sanitary sewer service and abandon their existing septic system within 12 months of when the wastewater system becomes operational and available for connection. All costs for these activities shall be paid for by the property owner. Property owners who fail to comply with the City's Utility Code connection requirements will be charged a monthly fee in an amount of approximately \$75/month. This monthly fee typically exceeds the monthly wastewater utility use charge.

**Step 1:** Complete a Gravity Sewer Connection Permit Application and submit it to the City of Oronoco at City Hall along with the required permit fee. Permit applications are available at City Hall or on the City's website at <https://www.oronoco.com/index.asp?SEC=690F7572-6653-4C53-92A0-F890DB6633AE&DE=5532B3C2-5DC8-49B5-8F2F-C304EC13E058> Residents may choose to have their contractor complete this step if desired.

**Step 2:** Contract with a licensed sewer and drain contractor or licensed plumber to construct the gravity PVC sewer service pipe from the gravity sewer pipe stub (located near the property line) and the home / building to be served by City sewer. Please note the following:

- Sanitary sewer gravity piping shall be constructed with Schedule 40 PVC service pipe and comply with State Plumbing code.
- The City's sanitary sewer project constructed a 4-inch diameter sewer service pipe to most properties included in the project limits. Some businesses and residential properties (with homes set back further from the street more and / or lower in elevation) may have a 6-inch diameter sewer service pipe extended to their property. Please match the sewer service pipe diameter stubbed to your property unless approved by the City Engineer.
- City of Oronoco Public Works staff must inspect the entire sanitary sewer service installation prior to the contractor burying any portion of the gravity sewer service pipe. In addition, City staff must perform an inspection of the sewer plumbing within each home / structure to ensure that there are no illegal connections to the municipal sanitary sewer system such as sump pumps, drain tiles, roof drains, etc. The contractor installing the sewer service must contact Oronoco Public Works Staff at (507) 367-2281 to schedule the inspection and at least 24-hours prior to the day / time the inspection is desired.

- The connection or reuse of existing sewer pipe beyond 5-feet of the home / structure is prohibited. Note: All sewer connections must be watertight and shall conform to Minnesota Plumbing Code and City Utility Code requirements.
- The City does not guarantee that the gravity sewer stub provided to each lot will be deep enough to serve the lowest level of every home. In some instances, a low floor lift pump may be required to serve basement drains. Contact the City Engineer (Joseph Palen) at [joseph.palen@stantec.com](mailto:joseph.palen@stantec.com) if you have questions about the elevation of your sewer service stub.
- Local Contractors who have expressed interest in construction of gravity sewer and water service improvements are listed below. Residents may choose a licensed and qualified contractor to do work on private property regardless of whether the contractor is listed below:
  - Ottman Excavating - 725 Territory Lane NW, Oronoco MN 55960  
Contact: Jason Ottman, Phone (507) 254-7570, Email [ottmans@bevcomm.net](mailto:ottmans@bevcomm.net)
  - Schumacher Excavating, Inc – 50 Warren Ave., Zumbrota, MN  
Contact Scott Schumacher:, Phone (507) 732-5043,  
Email [scott@schumacherexcavating.com](mailto:scott@schumacherexcavating.com)
  - Hofschulte Backhoe & Septic - 62 E Main St, Elgin, MN 55932  
Contact: Daren Hofschulte, Phone (507) 876-2700,  
Email [hofschulteoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hofschulteoffice@gmail.com)
  - Fitzgerald Excavating and Trucking Inc. - 20865 390th St. Goodhue, MN 55027  
Contact: Luke Safranski – Phone (507) 676-3062,  
Email [Luke@Fitzexcavating.com](mailto:Luke@Fitzexcavating.com)
  - Water Works Plumbing - 230 N Min. Ave, Oronoco, MN 55960  
(Inside plumbing only)  
Contact: Mike Muller, Phone 507-273-4257  
Email [mike@waterworksplumbing.com](mailto:mike@waterworksplumbing.com)
  - Hawk’s Services 710 Minnesota Avenue S  
Contact: Pat Hawkins – Phone (507)-710-3268

**Step 3:** Contract with a licensed contractor to pump and abandon the existing subsurface treatment system (SSTS) after connection to the municipal sanitary sewer system in accordance with Olmsted County requirements and as summarized below:

- A licensed professional must remove and dispose of all septage (solids and liquids) in accordance with Minn. R. 7080.2450, subp. 6 as part of SSTS abandonment.
- All mercury-containing and electrical devices must be removed and disposed of according to applicable regulations.
- Abandoned tanks or other underground cavities must be removed or crushed and the remaining cavity filled with soil, gravel, or grout.
- The drain field can remain in place. Inspection pipes may be removed, backfilled, and disposed of in a mixed municipal solid waste landfill.
- Contractor must complete MPCA SSTS Abandonment Reporting Form (wq-wwists4-03) and submit it to the City of Oronoco. Form is available at Oronoco City Hall or on the MPCA website.

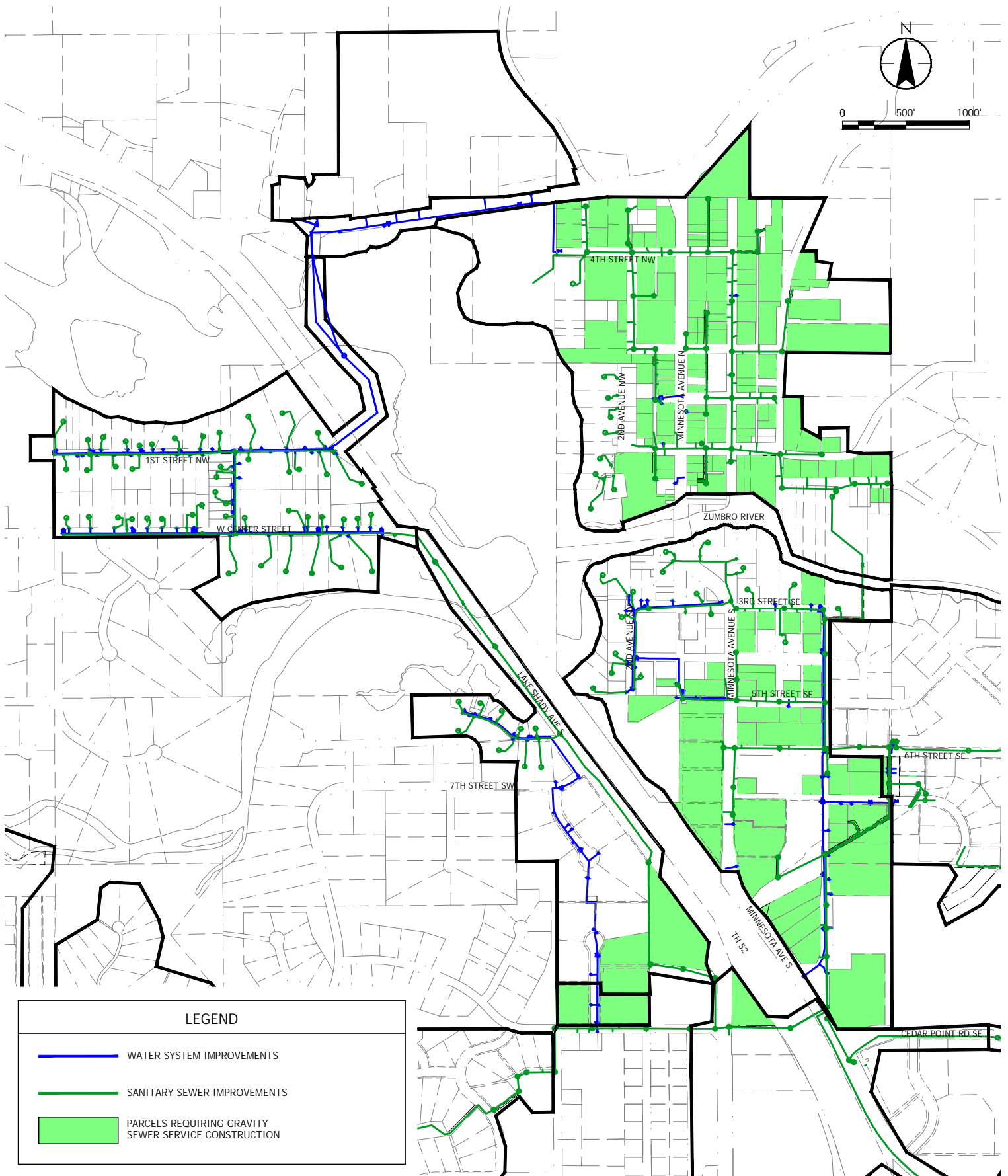
## **Funding Assistance for Private Gravity Sewer Service Construction and Septic System Abandonment:**

Funding assistance is available for private water service construction and well sealing for individuals who meet certain requirements. The City of Oronoco has identified two programs that may be of assistance to certain residents. These programs include:

- **Olmsted County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) -**  
Rehabilitation Loan Program to assist in financing sewer / water connection costs for property owners at or below 80% of Olmsted County Average Median Household Income. The loan program has a 2% interest rate with a 15-year maximum term and no payments until the parcel is sold or transfers ownership through an estate transfer.  
Contact Luke Tessum – Olmsted County Housing Rehab Coordinator for additional information. Email: [luke.tessum@olmstedcounty.gov](mailto:luke.tessum@olmstedcounty.gov) or Phone (507)-328-7124
- **USDA - Rural Development's Section 504 Loan and Grant Program -**  
provides grants to very low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes at 1% interest, repaid over 20 years. The program also provides grants to elderly, very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards. Both are administered by USDA working directly with the property owner. For additional information contact Rural Development at Phone (507) 332-7418 Ext. 4 or online via the following USDA-RD link <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-programs/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants/mn>

If you are interested in funding assistance through these programs, we recommend you contact the agency and complete an application before beginning any construction work. Additional information on these programs is also available at Oronoco's City Hall (507) 367-4405.

Additional information about sewer and water service connections is provided within the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents previously provided or available on the City of Oronoco website under the "Community" heading – "Wastewater Project". You can also contact City Engineer Joe Palen directly at Stantec Phone (507) 529-6036 or Email: [Joseph.palen@stantec.com](mailto:Joseph.palen@stantec.com) with your questions.



CITY OF ORONOCO, MINNESOTA  
 WASTEWATER AND WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS



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