

Flow meters yielding valuable data for fixing ongoing Fairview flooding issues

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Flow meters installed under manhole covers throughout Fairview Park are yielding data that will help city officials determine fixes for persistent flooding on residential properties.[File photo](#)

FAIRVIEW PARK, Ohio – Working toward the goal of instituting lasting solutions to decades-old flooding problems, Fairview Park city officials recently learned that ultrasonic flow meters installed in the storm sewers already are yielding vital data.

Director of Public Service and Development Rob Berner told **city council members** at their Monday committee meeting the 20 flow meters installed throughout the city are doing their job. In fact, one of the meters under West 222nd Street yielded readings, he said, that were "off the charts." It was indeed a leak causing water to be pushed directly into the storm sewer. That problem was fixed Thursday.

Elsewhere in the city, two other flow meters have indicated signs of possible infrastructure issues. "They showed readings that were opposite of what they should be," Berner explained. "That leads us to believe there is a problem with the way the system is operating. The monitors show higher readings upstream than downstream. We definitely know we have some structural problems that we're going to need to fix."

He also said the city is analyzing pump stations as data continues to be collected through the end of May.

Fairview Park contracted in January with engineering firm Black and Veatch to coordinate data collection and to create a skeletal model of the city's storm water flows. Berner said the consultants are reviewing dye testing data from last fall and digitizing the sewer information. The firm will create a digital map that shows pipe locations, heights, diameters and inverts at the manholes.

In an interview Thursday, Berner said the entire scope of the problems won't be known until the Black and Veatch study is complete, likely sometime in the fall.

"The study is doing exactly what we were hoping it would do," Berner said by phone. "We're going to have a legitimate plan of action when this is all done that's going to address these issues in a very positive way. Based on the feedback I'm getting from our consulting engineers and results we're seeing so far, it looks like we're going to be able to come up with some solutions that will actually pay off."

After Black and Veatch generates a final report, city council will review it and then schedule **a special public meeting for residents** who have been affected by flooding.