Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing

February through April, 2011

Why Are We Doing This?

The City of Troy is conducting a manhole inspection program on the City's sanitary sewer system. This is required in order to determine if the City is contributing excess flows to the sanitary sewers. These excess flows could be storm (rain) water entering the sanitary sewers through cracks in sanitary pipes, manholes or through sanitary/storm sewer cross connections. This storm water flow is then unnecessarily sent through the sanitary sewers to the Detroit wastewater treatment plant where it is treated as if it were sanitary flow.

What is Smoke Testing?

Smoke Testing involves blowing smoke through the sanitary sewer to locate deficiencies in the system. You may see smoke coming from vent stacks on buildings or holes in the ground. The smoke varies in color from white to gray depending on density and lighting. The main effects of the smoke are some minimal irritation of the throat, an awareness of an odd odor, and the appearance of smoke. These effects act as a warning and are desirable to prevent voluntary overexposure. It is **NON-TOXIC, NON-STAINING, AND CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD**. The smoke should not enter your home or business unless the plumbing is not functioning properly. If you have any seldom used drains and floor drains please pour water in the drain to fill the trap prior to the test. Should smoke enter your home or business, leave the area, ventilate well to dissipate the smoke and please call one of the numbers listed below (preferably the HRC Field Manager).

Who is Doing The Testing?

Smoke testing was authorized by the City, and will be conducted by Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. (HRC), the City's consulting engineering firm. Crews will be in marked vehicles and have identification.

Where Will The Smoke Testing Take Place?

The smoke testing will occur in the area between Wattles and Long Lake, west of Crooks Road and east of Adams Road (see Map).

What Should Residents Do?

The testing should not affect your home or business, or your sanitary sewer service. Homeowners or business owners do not need to be present during the investigation, which will be conducted during normal business hours. However, you **MUST POUR WATER DOWN SELDOM USED DRAINS PRIOR TO THE TESTING**, especially floor drains in your home or business. This should prevent smoke from entering your home and setting off smoke alarms unnecessarily. Residents should be aware that some smoke may enter your home/business if the vent stack is blocked or a sewer tap is dry. If you detect smoke, don't be alarmed, the smoke is harmless and will dissipate after several minutes. If you do find or see smoke in or around your home/business, please notify the HRC Field Manager.

Who do I Contact for More Information and/or a Problem?

If there is an immediate problem or concern, contact:

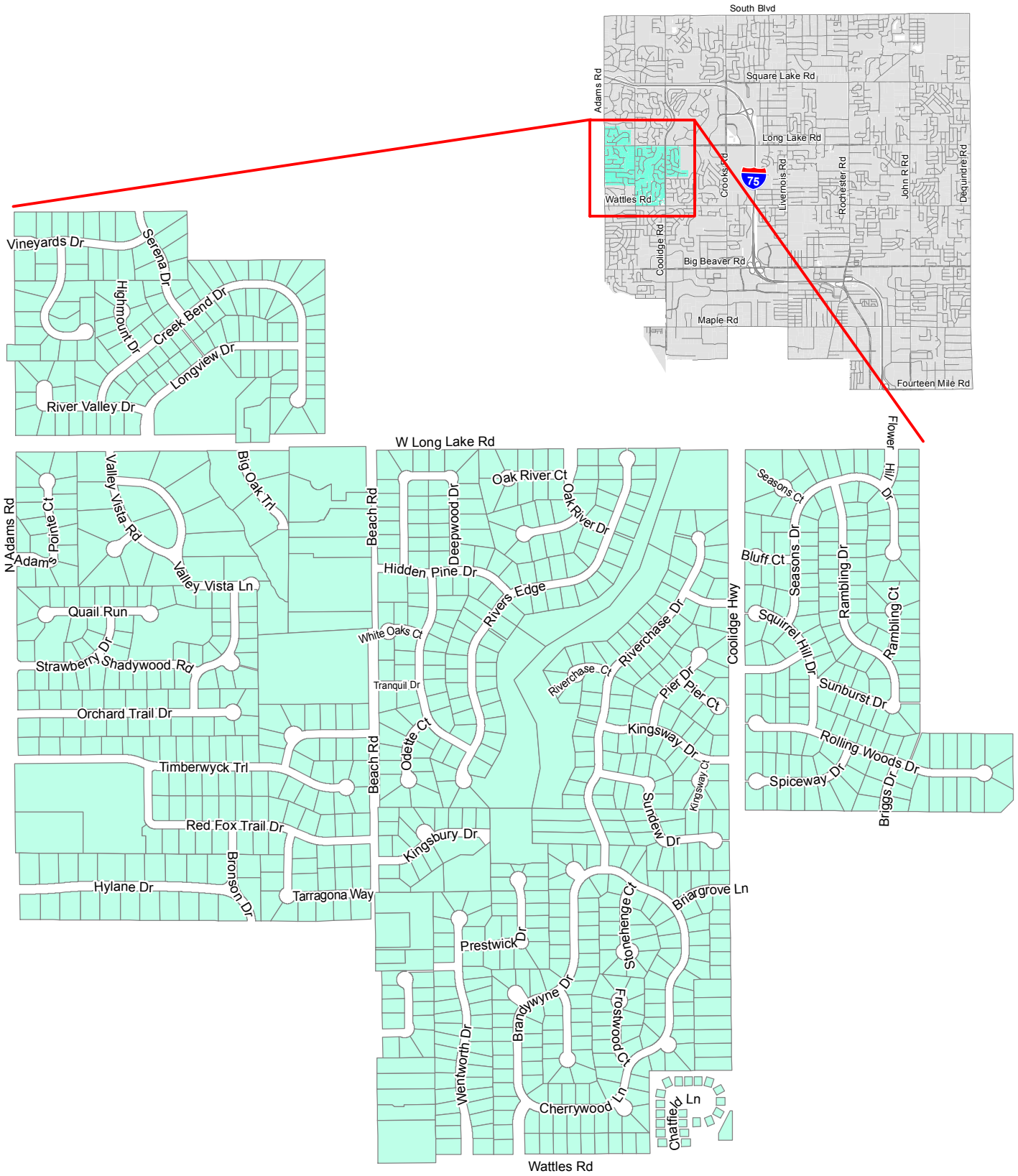
Marty Garrison, HRC Field Manager, 248-535-3463.

If you have additional concerns or comments, you can contact the following people:

Jennifer Morreale, P.E.
HRC Project Manager
(248) 454-6828

Rick Shepler
City of Troy
Water and Sewer Superintendent
(248) 524-3395

Tim Richnak
City of Troy
Public Works Director
(248) 524-3396



CITY OF TROY - EFSDS Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Project

Sanitary Manhole Inspection and Smoke Testing Location

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W E
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1 inch = 1,000 feet

JOB NO. 20100444	**HUBBELL, ROTH & CLARK, INC.** CONSULTING ENGINEERS	FIGURE **1**
DATE JANUARY, 2011	555 HULET DRIVE BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303	