

JULY 2024
CITY OF TWO RIVERS



TWO
RIVERS
WISCONSIN

NEWSLETTER

SwimSmart Beach Alert System at Neshotah Beach

The City of Two Rivers is proud to announce the installation of the new SwimSmart Beach Alert system at Neshotah Beach.

This state-of-the-art system aims to enhance beach safety by providing real-time updates on water conditions, directly from the National Weather Service. Three alert displays were installed, one at the intersection of Pierce St. and Zlatnik Dr., one along Neshotah Beach, and another at the beach next to the North Pier and Coast Guard Station.

Funding for the system was provided by the City's Room Tax Commission, which recognizes Neshotah Beach as one of Two Rivers' primary visitor attractions.

The SwimSmart Beach Alert system utilizes advanced technology to monitor water conditions and display hazard alerts in a clear and understandable manner:

Red – High Hazard: Indicates high waves and/or strong currents. These are high-risk days when life-threatening conditions are expected to develop at local beaches, and we urge people to stay out of the water. The city will NOT close the beach. It is the responsibility of visitors to know the risks.

Yellow – Medium Hazard: Indicates moderate waves and/or low currents. On these days, visitors are advised to keep weak swimmers and children out of the water and to always wear a life jacket if swimming.

Green – Low Hazard: Indicates calm conditions, but visitors should still exercise caution. Even on low-risk days, inherent risks nearby could cause dangerous conditions to develop.

Absence of Lights: Does not indicate safe waters. Visitors should always check the forecast and stay informed about conditions and safety measures.

There are no lifeguards on duty at Neshotah Beach and no city enforcement on Lake Michigan waters. It is the responsibility of the visitor to know the risks. For more information about forecasts, visit <https://www.weather.gov/greatlakes/beachhazards>.



Lead Water Lateral Replacement Program Moving Forward

The City's water utility continues to move ahead with replacement of lead water service laterals throughout the system.

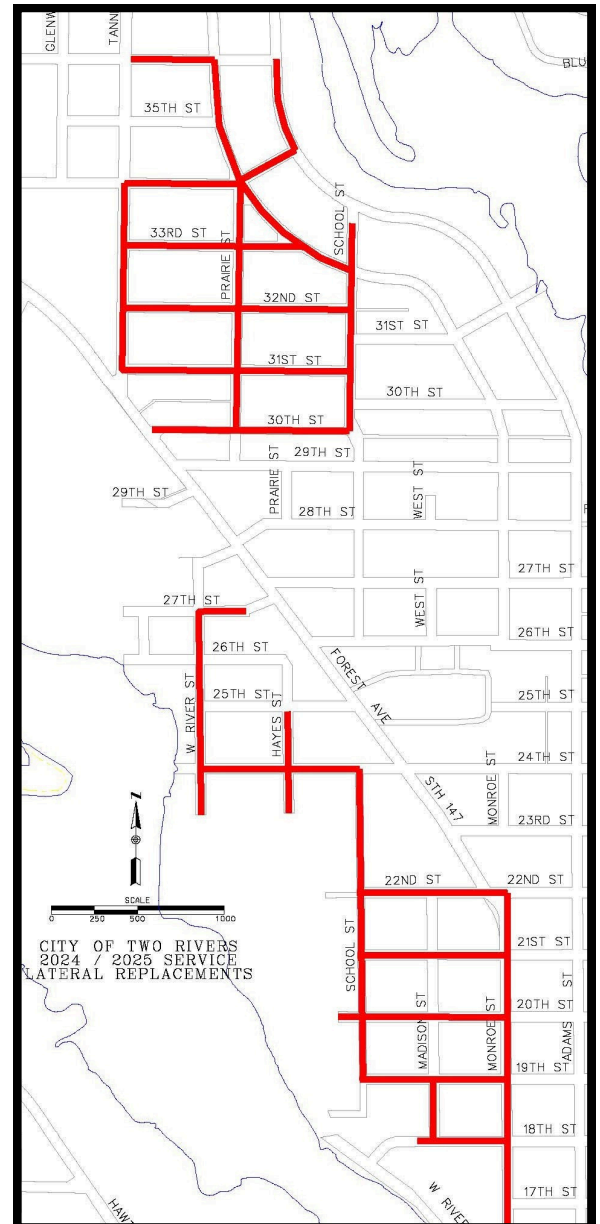
Over the past 7 years, 663 lead service laterals have been replaced: 315 in conjunction with street reconstruction projects, 348 at "scattered" locations, where property owners requested to have their lead laterals replaced.

That still leaves about 1,500 lead laterals in use throughout the City (out of 5,100 total water customers).

For the health of water system users, and to stay ahead of anticipated Federal and State mandates to "get the lead out" entirely, the City is now making the replacement of lead water services mandatory, with a goal of eliminating all such services within the next 10 years.

While lead services will continue to be replaced as part of street reconstruction projects (like this year's Roosevelt Ave. project, where 50 services will be replaced) and in instances where property owners request such replacement, it is now necessary to require "scattered site" replacements, not in tandem with street work, to get the job done.

A contract was recently awarded for the replacement of 300 lead water services over the course of the 2024 and 2025 construction seasons, in areas west of downtown and on the city's "near north side" as shown on the map at right. Property owners in that area with lead water services (based on utility records) have received letters notifying them of the City's intent to replace their water services.



As in nearly all Wisconsin cities, the water utility takes financial responsibility for that portion of the water service lying in the street right-of-way. The property owner is responsible for that portion lying on private property (typically from the sidewalk to the meter).

To date, the City has been able to provide grants of up to \$2,500 to offset the cost of the "private side" lateral replacement. Sometimes that amount covers the full cost of private side replacement. If the cost exceeds \$2,500, it is the responsibility of the property owner. If that exceedance is less than \$250, payment to the City is due within 90 days of billing. If the cost exceeds \$2,500 by more than \$250, the property owner has the option of either paying in full or in five annual installments, with a current annual interest rate of 2.25%.

These are the terms being offered to the property owners included in the 2024-25 lateral replacement program. The City anticipates being able to offer similar terms in the next area scheduled for mandatory lead lateral replacement: an area on the south side where 150 to 180 lead laterals will be replaced in 2025-2026. Letters will go out to property owners in that area in early 2025.

For more information on the City's lead water service replacement program, contact the City Engineer's Office at 920-793-5539.