

# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION

**Evergreen Park Neighborhood  
aka Valley Drive Neighborhood  
aka Scioto Hills Neighborhood**

November 30, 2022

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# Demographic Poll



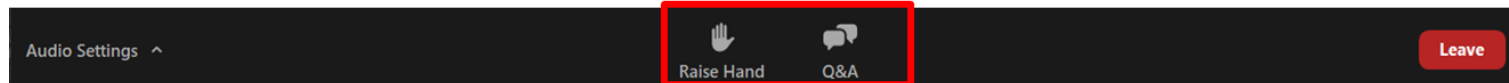
# Technology

## Computer

- Select **Raise Hand**
  - You will be identified by the name provided when you entered the meeting
  - Select **Lower Hand** if needed

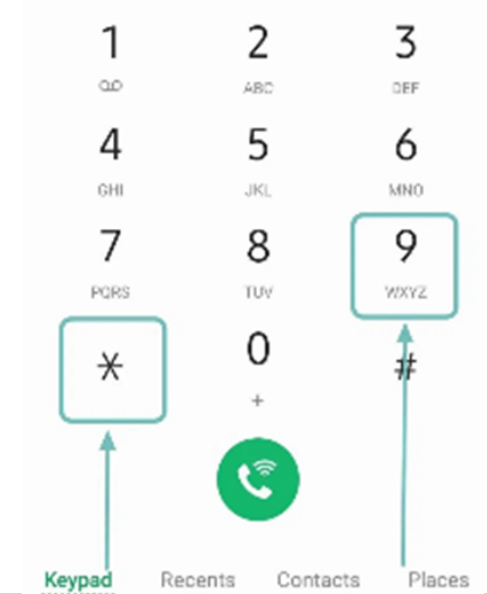
### Q&A:

Type your question  
Check **Send Anonymously** if you do not want your name to be publicly visible with your Question  
Click **Send**



## Phone

- Select \*9 to raise your hand
- You will be identified by the last 3 digits of your phone number



# Meeting Norms

Please remember the importance of rights and the dignity of others. With that, we ask that you:

- Commit to learning and avoid speculation
- Critique ideas, not people.
- Be thoughtful about your language so this can be a respectful forum for all participants
- Inappropriate written and/or verbal comment or language will result in the attendee being removed from the meeting.



# Introductions

- Brian Steglitz, Public Services Area Administrator
  - Jennifer Lawson, Water Quality Manager
  - Michelle Bennett, Community Engagement Specialist
  - Heather Seyfarth, Community Engagement Specialist
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- Ward 5 Council Member Briggs
  - Ward 5 Council Member Cornell



# Agenda

1. Why We Are Here Today
2. Stormwater Management Overview
3. Evergreen Neighborhood Drainage History
4. Comments from Attendees



# Why Are We Here Today?

At the request of CM Briggs, this neighborhood meeting was scheduled to:

- Provide information about the City's stormwater management program
- Give residents an opportunity to ask questions about stormwater management
- Set realistic expectations for next steps



The City plans, designs, constructs, and maintains a system to manage stormwater, sediment, and flood mitigation programs and projects to protect water quality and reduce negative impacts on people, property, and infrastructure.



## **What is Stormwater Management?**



# How We Plan For and Manage Stormwater

The City maintains a network of “grey” and “green” infrastructure, and public Rights-of-Way (roads) to provide stormwater storage and conveyance during and after a rainfall event. Stormwater infrastructure examples include:

## Gray Infrastructure

- Pipes
- Catch Basins
- Underground Storage
- Pervious Pavement

## Green Infrastructure

### Natural

- Creeks
- Streams
- Street Trees

### Built

- Detention Ponds
- Rain Gardens
- Infiltration Basins
- Bio-swales

## Public Right of Way

- Roads
- Ditches
- Curb Drains





# Examples

Gray Infrastructure



Green Infrastructure



Public Right of Way





# Design Criteria & Managing Expectations

Storm drains are not designed to pass all storms... there will always be a bigger storm

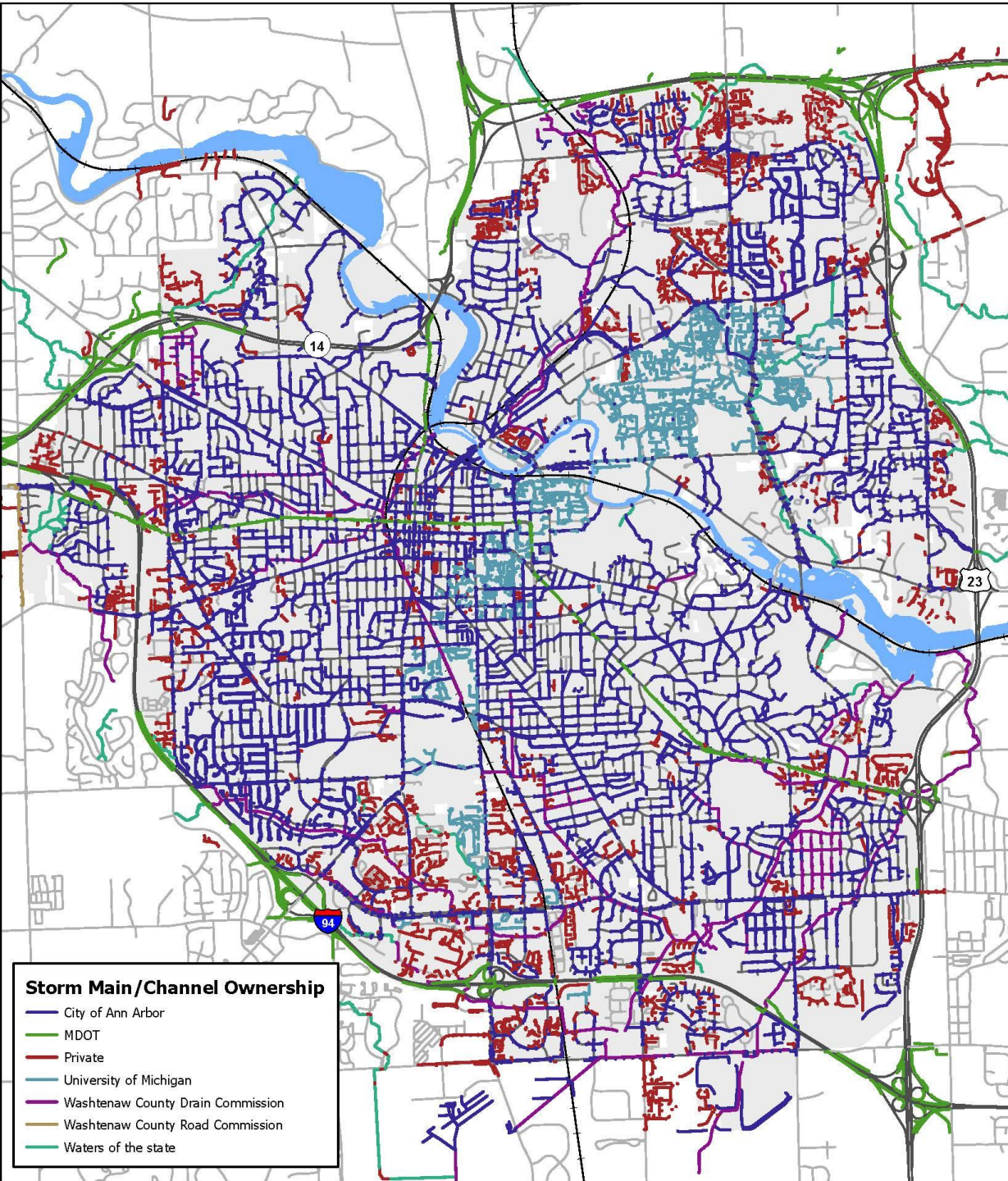
- Since the 1980's storm pipes constructed to pass the 10-year storm event\* (10% annual chance storm)
- Older storm pipes were designed to pass the 5-year storm event (20% annual chance storm)
- Surcharge (overflow) into streets & low-lying areas can be expected during major storm events
- Negative impacts on downstream properties and neighborhoods



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*\*The definition of what a 10-year storm event looks like has changed over the years due to climate change.*



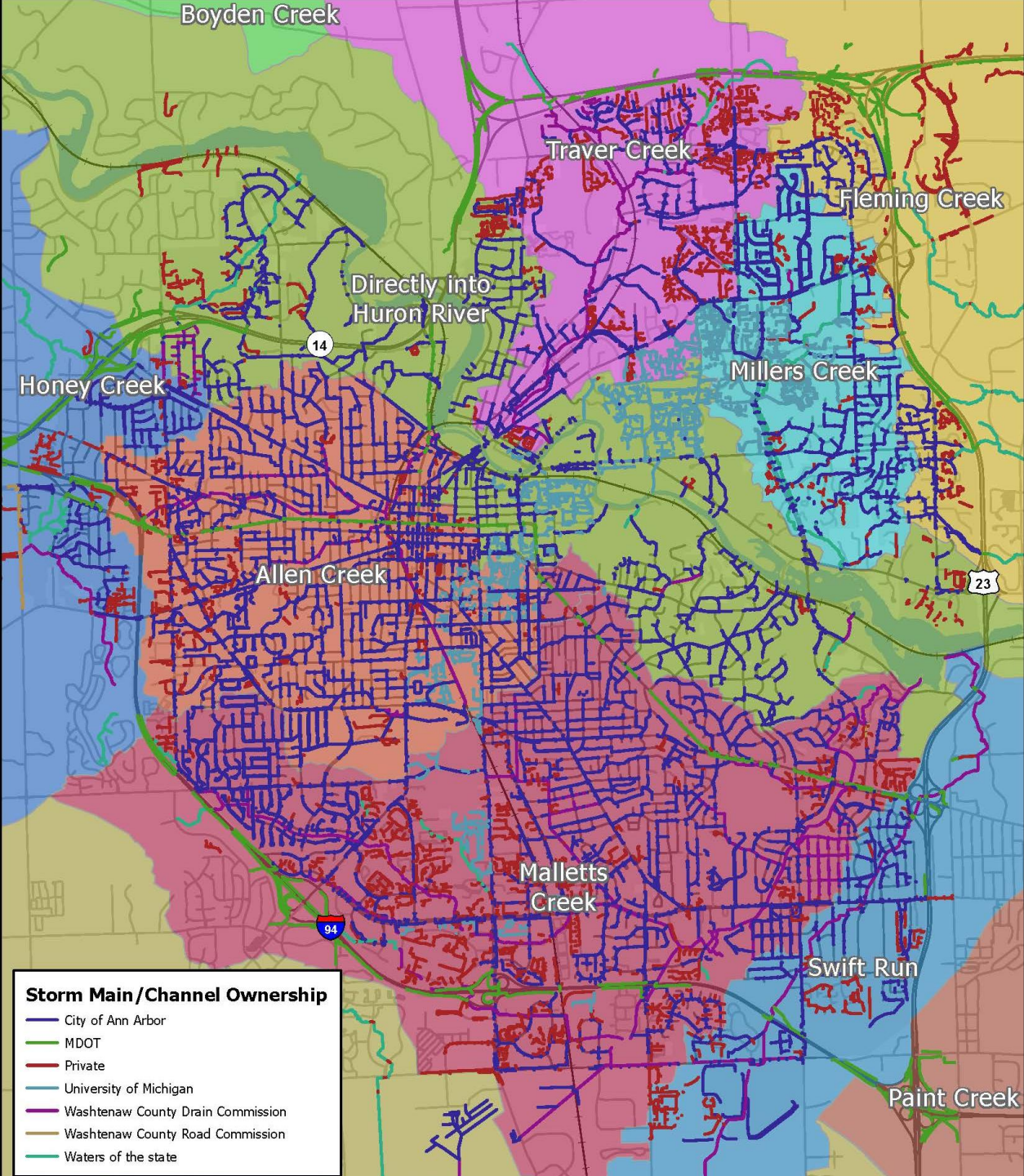


# Stormwater Assets

The City's Stormwater assets are only part of a larger stormwater infrastructure network.



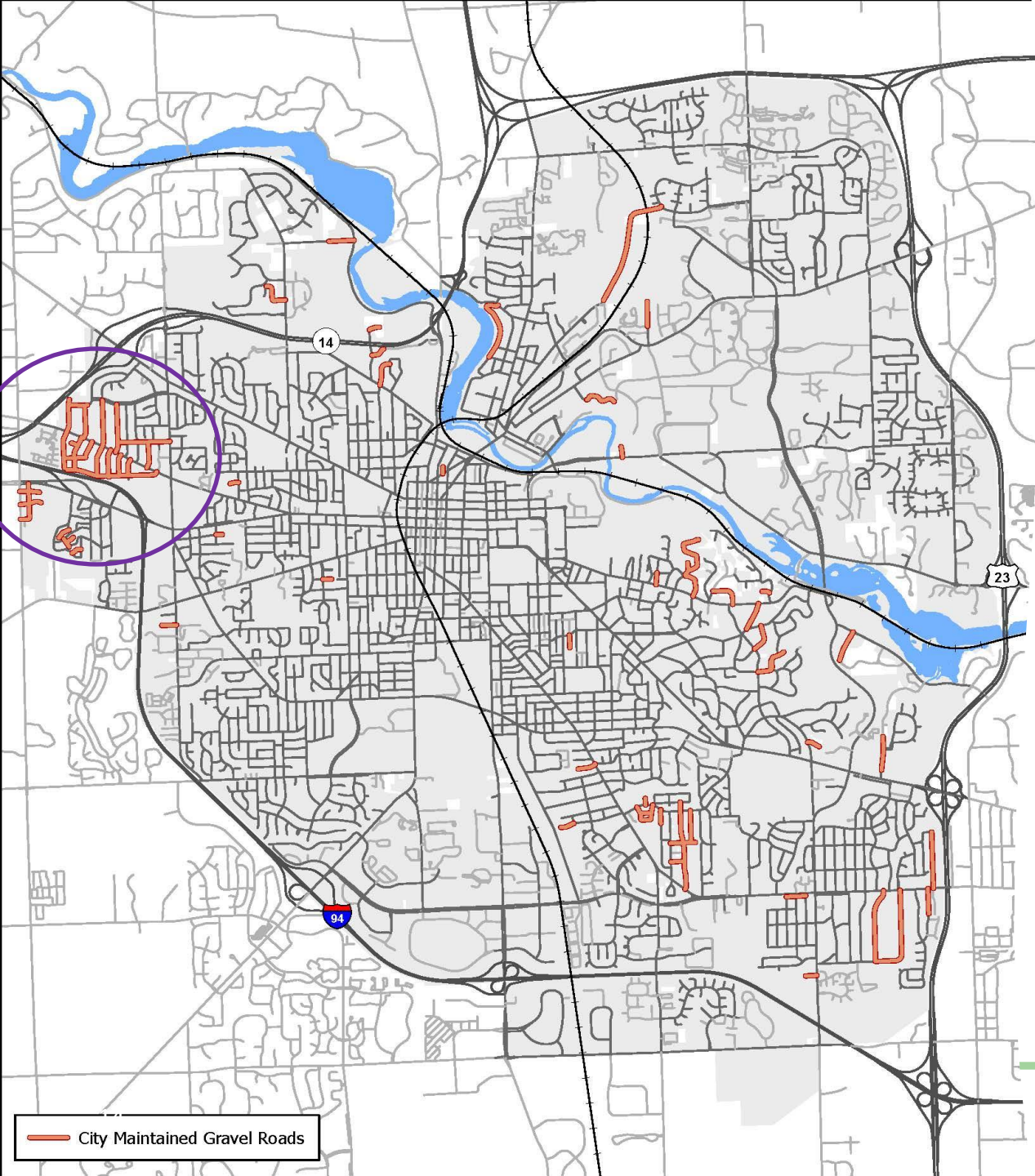




# Creeksheds (drainage areas)







# Unpaved Roads

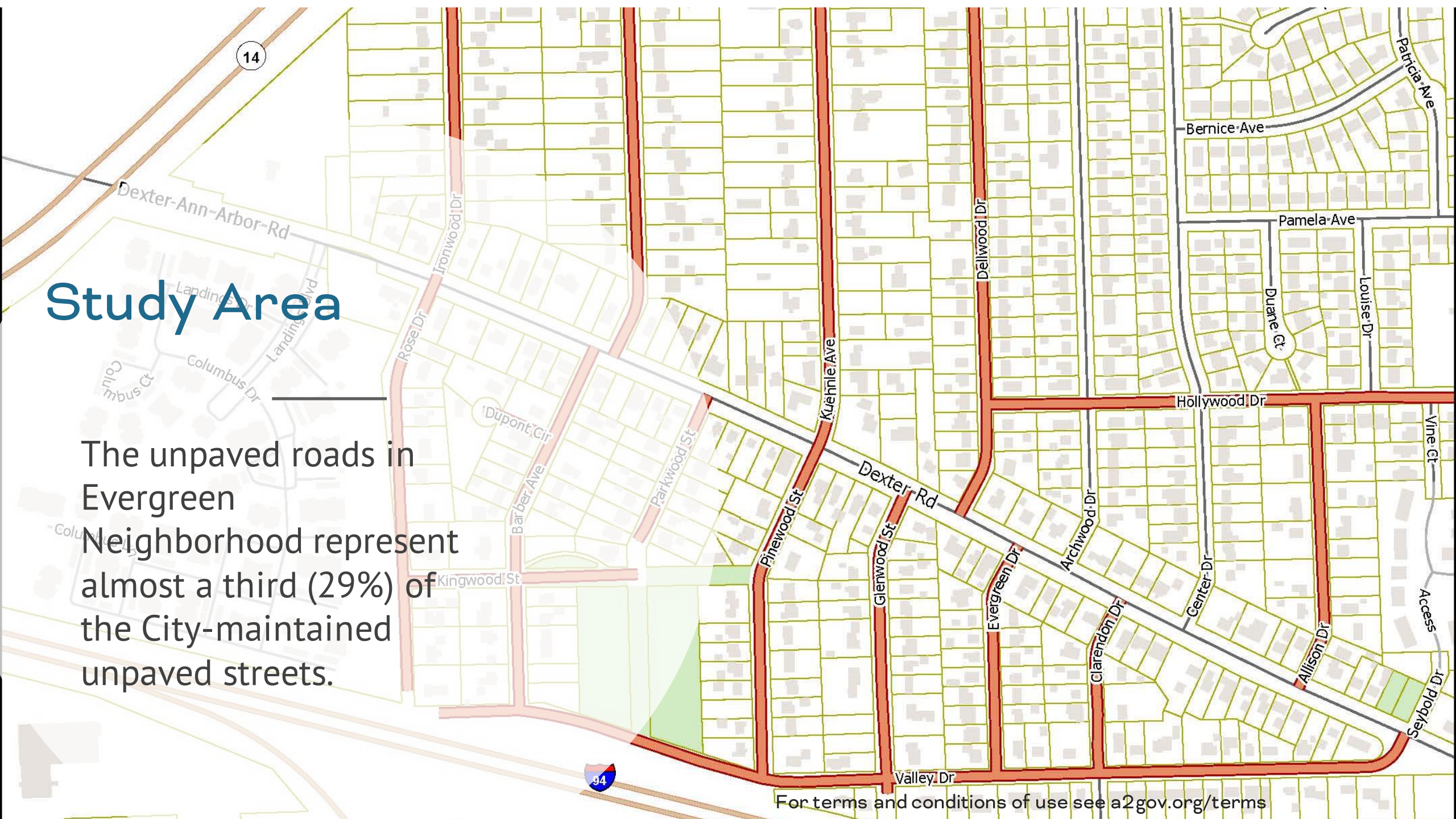
- 12.5 miles of unpaved roads maintained by the city
- Additional miles of unpaved roads maintained by the County or maintained privately





# Study Area

The unpaved roads in Evergreen Neighborhood represent almost a third (29%) of the City-maintained unpaved streets.

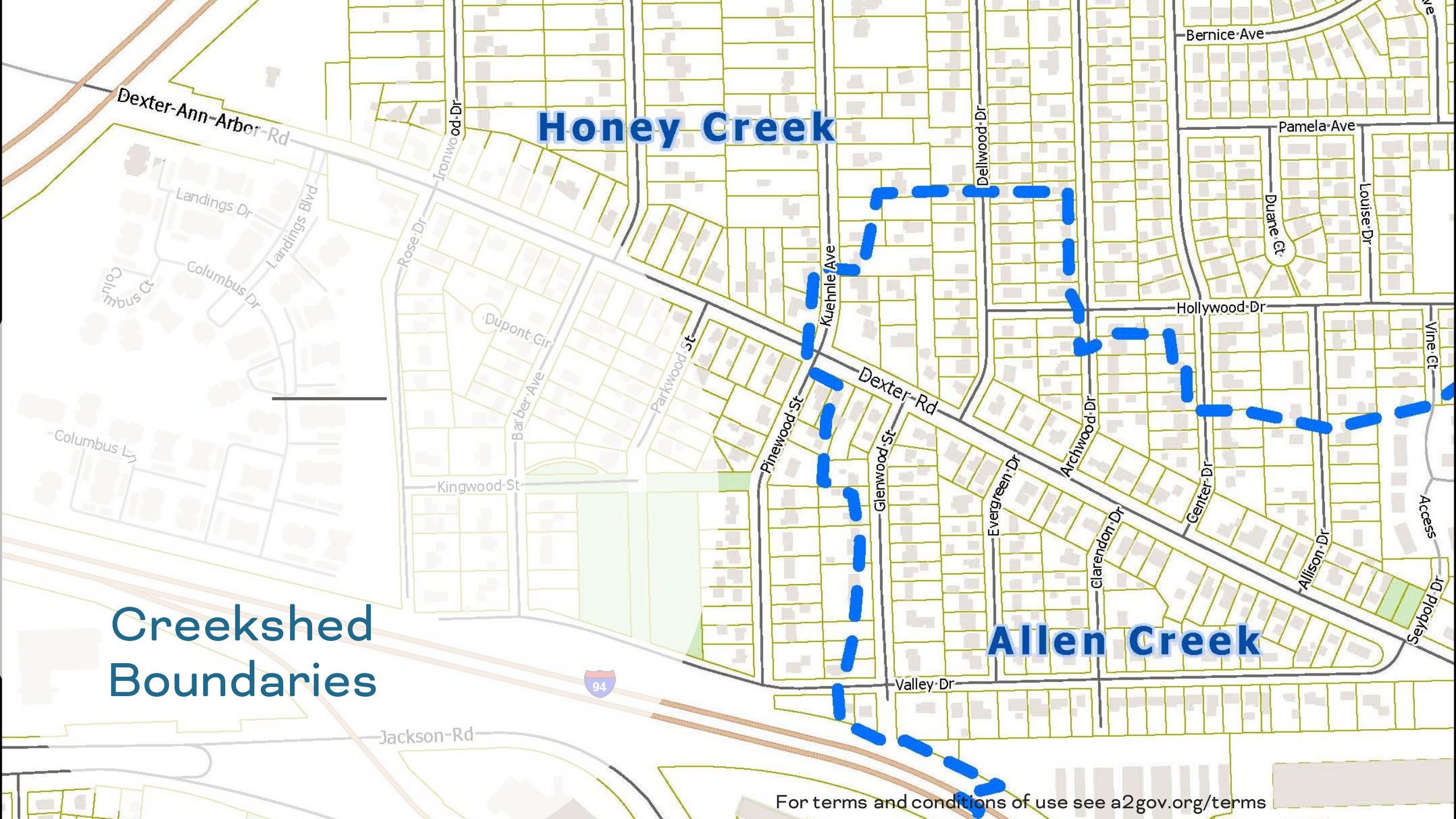




**Honey Creek**

**Allen Creek**

**Creekshed  
Boundaries**





# Evergreen Stormwater History

Late 1960s

- Drainage issues are first brought to the attention of the City.

1970s

- Design of a stormwater system initiated by City Council, outlining drainage into First Sister Lake as the “most viable route.”
- City Council directed the design work to halt when this plan received opposition from the Sister Lakes Association.

1980s

- Much of the land in this area had not yet been annexed into the City of Ann Arbor, so consideration of the installation of a full (grey) stormwater system was not viable, due to high unrecoverable costs.
- Temporary solutions were put forward in an attempt to address specific residents’ complaints, although it was not clear from City records what those temporary solutions consisted of.

Nov 1992

- A Consultant is hired by the City to perform a drainage outlet study in the area.

# Evergreen Stormwater History (cont'd)

Oct 1993

- The drainage outlet study for the area is completed, with three options for creating a storm outlet from the neighborhood.
- The recommended option would create two sub-drainage areas by constructing of two detention basins, utilize the existing 24" outlet for the west portion of the area, and construct a new outlet for the east portion of the area.

Fall 1996

- Public meetings are held with residents to share the possible solutions. Feedback about the viability and desirability of such solutions is obtained from the public meetings and from a mailed survey.
- **Survey responses received expressed an overwhelming desire to discontinue pursuit of the installation of a standard storm sewer**, citing a variety of reasons, including:
  - The majority of people are **not experiencing** a significant issue with flooding
  - The expense of the alternatives
  - Some residents perceived that the problem did not exist at all or could be solved on a case-by-case basis (putting the responsibility on the residents experiencing the issues)

Sept 1996

- **A petition was also received from approximately 190 residents in or near the Evergreen / Scioto Hills Subdivision outlining the desire of these residents that the stormwater project should not be pursued.**
- *"We the undersigned residents of the Evergreen/Scioto Hills Subdivision, are **opposed to the storm sewer alternatives***
- *"We do not want storm water discharged into the Sister Lakes, we do not want detention ponds in our neighborhood, we do not want storm sewers installed, and we do not want our dirt roads paved. **We prefer that our neighborhood be left as it is.**"*

Oct 1996

- Based on feedback from the public meetings and surveys, the City requested information about regulations for the use of dry wells to manage stormwater from the MDEQ.
- MDEQ expressed concern about the use of dry wells for managing the stormwater in the area, due to increasing regulations to prevent groundwater contamination.

# Evergreen Stormwater History (cont'd)

Oct 1997

- City Council passes resolution directing the City Administrator to put aside the proposed solutions and work with property owners to pursue individual solutions to the drainage problems.

Summer/Fall 1999

- Plans were developed to create an additional stormwater outlet from the Evergreen Subdivision.
- The project installed storm sewer along Glenwood Street to Valley Drive and then east to Evergreen Drive. The system then exited the neighborhood to the south, to a detention pond constructed on the Maple Village site. Construction of this project was completed in November of 1999.

2008-2009

- City crews improved ditching and installed several dry wells in an attempt to promote infiltration.

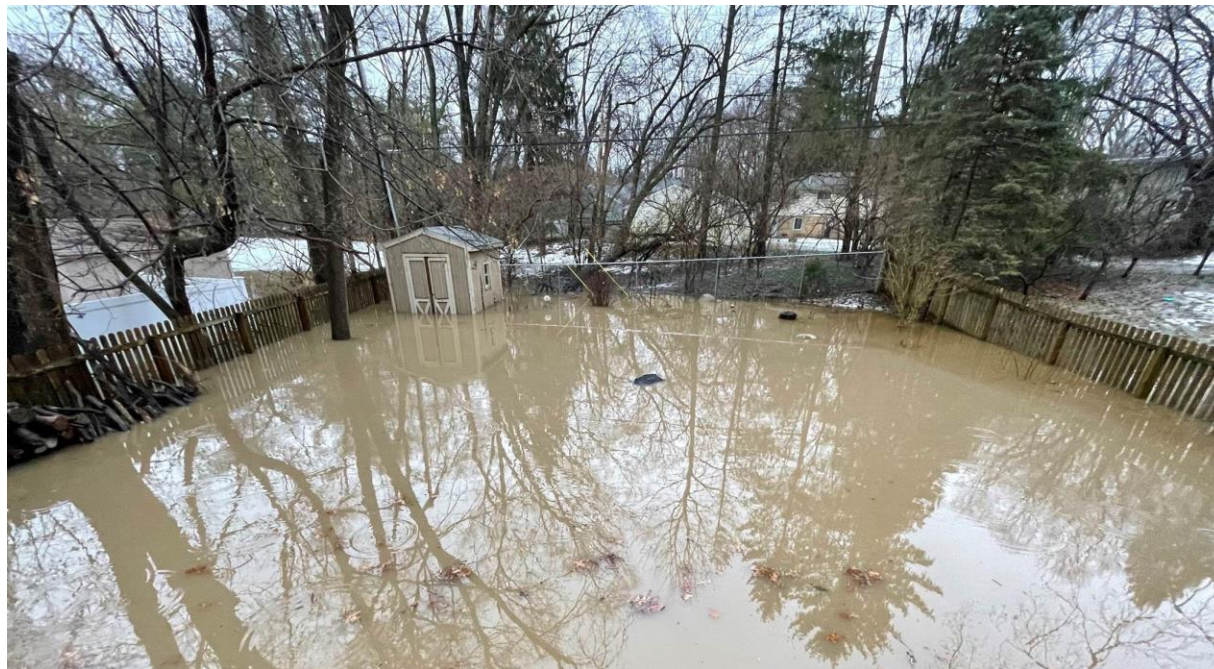
2018

- City Administrator requests analysis from staff recommending further improvements to address remaining localized drainage issues
- Memo acknowledges that while additional outlet was created in 1999, the gravel roads and neighborhood topography do not optimally convey stormwater to the outlets. Certain areas of the neighborhood will continue to experience localized drainage issues.
- Also acknowledged that solutions involving installation of new infrastructure and paved roads to resolve these drainage concerns have received substantial opposition in the past.















# What Can You Expect From Us?

Staff intends to request funds for a new drainage study for this neighborhood during the upcoming budget cycle. If approved, funding would be available as soon as July 2023.

- Identify areas of known concern
- Identify areas for recommended solutions
- Some solutions may include paving of the gravel roads



# We Want to Hear From You

- What are the questions you want answered in the study?





# What do you want to know from us...

- Stormwater Management?
- Drainage Studies?
- Green Infrastructure?



# Closing Comments from Council Members



Check for updates and more information to come here:

[www.a2gov.org/drainagestudies](http://www.a2gov.org/drainagestudies)

