



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC
WORKS**

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 27, 2026
To: Utilities Committee
From: Laura Jungwirth, Director of Public Works
Pete Neuberger, Deputy Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Subject: Request to Authorize Preliminary Engineering for Initial Northland – Bellaire
Flood Study Improvements, and Study Update #4

On November 20, 2024, The Appleton Common Council authorized the Department of Public Works (DPW) to contract with stormwater consultant Brown and Caldwell (B&C) for the 2024D Northland Creek and Bellaire Watersheds Stormwater Evaluation in response to significant flooding that occurred following severe rainfall events in July 2024. The study limits are approximately bounded by I-41 to the north, STH 441 to the east, Mason Street to the west, and Packard Street to the south.

Since the last update to the Utilities Committee, B&C has continued its analysis of the Northland Creek and Bellaire Watersheds. Study findings to date have resulted in B&C and DPW staff identifying a set of initial recommendations based on their predicted mitigation of flood risk and water quality improvement. Additionally, the potential improvements would serve cost-effectively as a Northland Creek Watershed “backbone” project, upon which future projects could be completed based upon future recommendations and funding.

The initially recommended improvements consist of the following components:

- Veterans Memorial Park Pond South (VMPPS) Expansion
- Northland Avenue Storm Sewer Improvements and Inlet Capacity Enhancements East of Meade Street
- Local Sewer Improvements and Inlet Capacity Enhancements East of Meade Street and South of Northland Avenue.

Therefore, DPW presents this **Request to Authorize Preliminary Engineering for Initial Northland – Bellaire Flood Study Improvements.**

If approved, DPW anticipates the following next steps pursuant to this recommendation:

- Develop a single-source contract scope of services for preliminary engineering design of the initially recommended improvements, and
- Present a request to approve the design contract at a future Utilities Committee meeting as soon as can be reasonably developed.

DPW anticipates the following actions related to remaining scope of work within the Northland – Bellaire Drainage Study contract:

- Continue the ongoing analysis within the study area through early 2026.
- Identify and present future study findings with potential additional future project recommendations within the study area.
- Provide project updates to the Utilities Committee approximately once per quarter.
- Finalize the Northland – Bellaire Drainage Study around mid-2026.
- Coordinate with the Finance Department on a planned Stormwater Utility Rate Study to support phasing and scheduling of recommended improvements along with other DPW Stormwater project priorities.
- Develop an updated 2027-2031 5-year Stormwater Capital Improvement Program reflecting stormwater project priorities, as well as a 10-year Preliminary Implementation Plan for anticipated future priorities.