



July 6, 2026

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Parma Heights – Cuyahoga County
Blossom & Sutherland Avenues Sewer Improvements Phase 1
Loan number: CS390737-0003**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a sanitary sewer improvement project in Parma Heights which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills the Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-05, this project meets the criteria for an LER rather than the more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Final Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Blossom & Sutherland Avenues Sewer Improvements Phase 1

Applicant: City of Parma Heights
6281 Pearl Road
Parma Heights, Ohio 44130

Loan Number: CS390737-0003



Figure 1. Cuyahoga County

Project Summary

The City of Parma Heights has requested approximately \$2.6 million from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the Blossom and Sutherland Avenues Sewer Improvements Phase 1 project. This project involves constructing a relief sewer along Blossom Avenue to improve sewer capacity and address reported basement backups (BBUs). This project is eligible for full principal forgiveness, which will not need to be repaid.

Due to the nature and location of construction, as well as proposed protection measures to be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, as discussed in the conclusion.

History & Existing Conditions

The City of Parma Heights, in Cuyahoga County (see Figure 1), has a population of 20,616 and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) takes the city's sanitary sewage flows. In January 2022, the NEORS completed the Southwest Interceptor - Local Sewer System Evaluation Study (SWI-LSES) to address sanitary sewer infrastructure problems that adversely affect human health and the environment. These problems include sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), sanitary sewer system BBUs, common trench sewer crossflows, illicit discharges to separate storm sewers, and failing household sewage treatment systems (HSTS). Within the SWI-LSES, numerous locations of various infrastructure issues were identified.

The project area has a common trench sewer system consisting of a storm sewer constructed above and offset laterally from the sanitary sewer in the same trench and includes two separate manholes providing independent access to the storm and sanitary sewers. Although there is no direct hydraulic connection in the common standard system, there is an increased potential for stormwater exfiltration entering the sanitary sewer mains or laterals due to the proximity of the sewers. As part of

this project, field investigations were conducted to document the condition of all sanitary and certain storm sewers within the alignment of the relief sewer recommended in the LSSSES report.

The BBUs in the project area are mostly caused by high infiltration (excess water from leaking pipes and connections) and inflow (excess water from improper connections to the sewer system) and limited sewer capacity downstream of the project area. This project has been organized into four separate phases to provide flexibility for construction implementation. Phase 1 of the project will reduce the likelihood of BBUs in 20 homes along Blossom Avenue. Phase 2 will continue along Blossom Avenue until Sutherland Avenue, and Phases 3 and 4 will continue south along Southerland Avenue.

Project Description

The project involves constructing 1,180 linear feet (LF) of 27-inch diameter relief sewer along Blossom Avenue from Parma Park Boulevard to Commonwealth Boulevard (Figure 2). The relief sewer will include diverting sanitary flows from the cross streets and approximately 22 LF of 24-inch pipe will be constructed to connect to the existing NEORSD Parma Park Boulevard intercommunity relief sewer.

Implementation

The City of Parma Heights is eligible for the full loan amount in principal forgiveness (loan amount that does not need to be repaid) for up to \$2.6 million from the Ohio WPCLF. With this favorable financing, Parma Heights can save up to \$3,953,407 compared to financing the entire loan amount at the market rate, 4.45%, for a 20-year loan period.

The city indicated that no rate increases are specifically associated with this project. The average monthly residential sewer bill will increase from \$14.80 in 2022 to \$15.29 in 2028. The annual sewer bill in 2028 will be \$183.45 which is 0.3% of the median household income for Parma Heights (MHI; \$59,218) and is less than the Ohio average annual sewer bill of \$528.

Loan award is anticipated in July 2026, and construction is expected to be completed within seven months.

Public Participation

Two public presentations were made by NEORSD to the Parma Heights city council during scheduled council meetings on April 22, 2024 and October 27, 2025. At the presentations, NEORSD provided an overview of the project, cost estimates, schedule, and recommendations. The city website allows for review of city council agendas, meeting minutes, videos and legislation that has been passed to provide the residents with the ability to participate without attending the council meetings. Additionally, the local newspaper has been used to notify the public of the project.

The city will notify affected residents along Blossom Avenue prior to the start of construction. Door hanger notices will be distributed to properties directly impacted by the project, and notices will

include information regarding construction schedule, anticipated work, temporary traffic impacts, and contact information for any questions or concerns. The city will post project updates on the city website and social media platforms as construction progresses to keep residents informed of any schedule changes or additional traffic impacts.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. The Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the LER and FNSI have been provided to the City of Parma Heights to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater collection system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources. Construction will take place in existing rights-of-way in developed residential locations that lack important environmental resources. Standard construction best management practices will minimize noise, dust, erosion, sediment, and traffic disruptions.

Is cost effective. Replacing and rehabilitating the existing sewers is far too costly and a do-nothing alternative would not fix the issues presented by the existing conveyance system.

Is not a controversial action. By obtaining WPCLF full principal forgiveness, Parma Heights has reduced sewer bill impacts. Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project.

Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, and will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters. No new or increased discharge will occur because of this project.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population. The improvements are not related to serving new growth or increasing capacity at the WWTP.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this LER, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to environmental features. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts will be temporary and mitigated.

The proposed project is a cost-effective way to address necessary improvements to existing infrastructure. Once implemented, the increased sanitary sewer capacity will eliminate BBUs, protecting the health of residents within the area.

Contact Information

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Figure 2. Proposed project phases (Phase 1 in orange)