To: Residents of Park Place between Vanderbilt Avenue and Underhill Avenue

Important Update on Water & Sewer Project

What is changing?

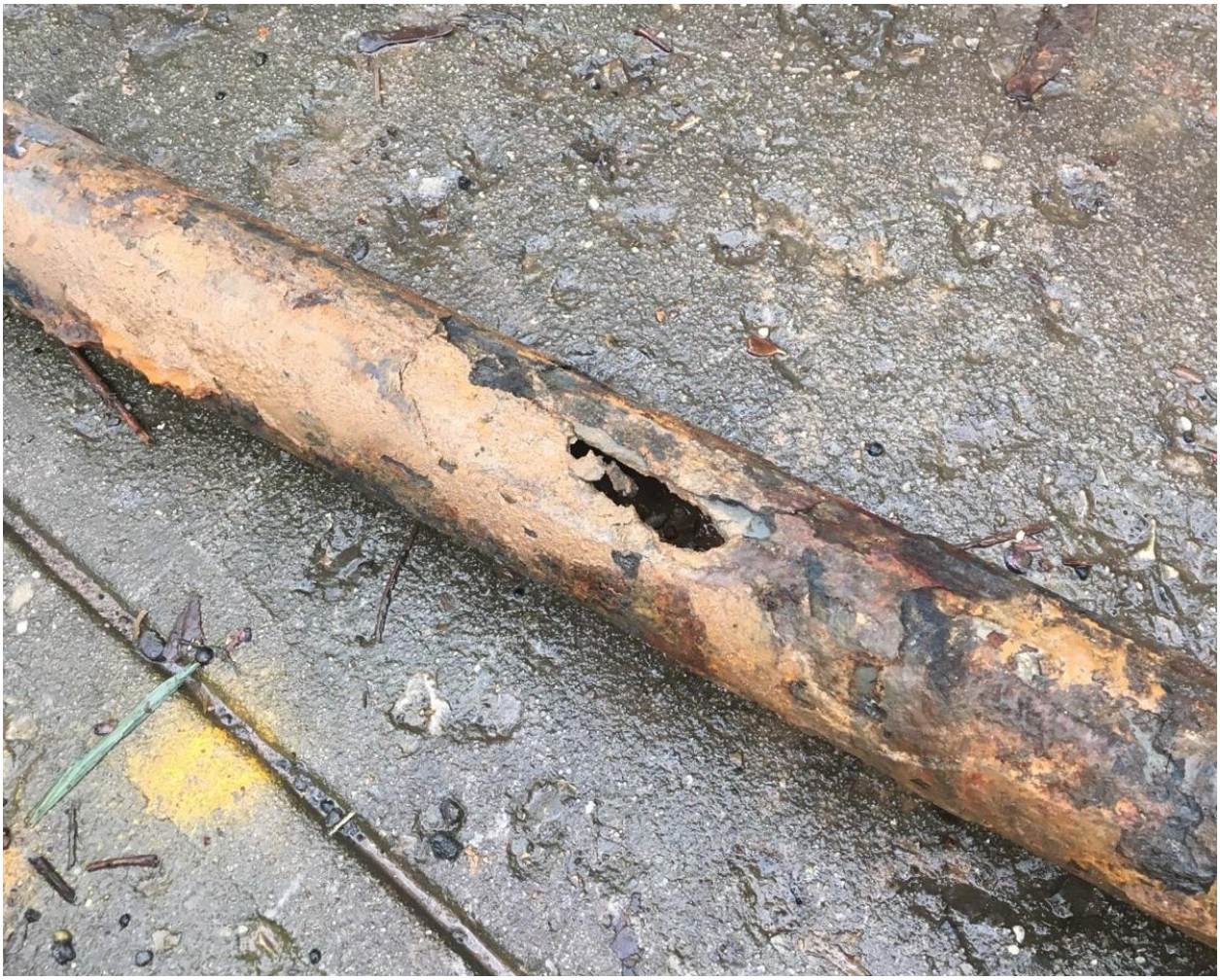
- **The scope of work for the project is being expanded** to include replacement of the water main on Park Place between Vanderbilt and Underhill Avenues as well as partial replacement of the water service lines to certain buildings on both sides of Park Place between Vanderbilt Avenue and Underhill Avenue. See "*What are the implications of these changes for me as a property owner*" below for information about which buildings will be affected.
- **This additional work will require multiple water shut-offs** during working hours over a period of several months. The project will provide a 72-hour notice and a 24-hour notice for each shutdown.
- **The duration of the project will be extended** and the sequencing of work will be modified to accommodate this additional work.

Why is this happening?

The work to date on Park Place between Vanderbilt Avenue and Underhill Avenue has involved excavating a deep trench in the middle of the street to allow installation of a new and larger combined **sewer** main, and connection of each building's sewer line to the new main. The original scope of the project did not include any work on the **water** main or on individual building water service lines on Park Place, and no such work has been done.

However, during the excavation, water service lines to individual buildings were exposed and in many cases these building service lines were found to be antiquated galvanized iron or lead pipes – well past the end of their useful life, and in the case of lead pipes, long ago deemed inappropriate due to the dangers of lead in the water supply.

Additionally, so far during the project, 3 of these older water service lines to buildings on the south side of Park Place have broken. In one instance the failing pipe was a 2" galvanized iron sprinkler service line whose rupture caused flooding of 4 cellars on the south side of the street. In the other two instances, the pipe ruptures caused flooding in the street or below the street. While the excavation of the combined sewer main and resulting vibration may have contributed to these pipe failures, the pipes were already very old, seriously compromised and long overdue for replacement. Below is a photo of a section of one of the severely corroded galvanized iron sprinkler service pipes which ruptured on the south side of Park Place.



The Resident Engineer has been advocating with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection to have the water main and these older, past their end-of-useful-life building water service lines replaced, and the DEP has just given approval for this change in the scope of work.

What are the implications of these changes for me as a property owner?

If your building's water service line is copper pipe, no changes will be made to your water service line. Notwithstanding that no additional work is being done on your water service line, you will still experience water shut-offs while work is being done on the block.

If your building's water service line is lead pipe, the service line will be replaced with new copper pipe from the water main to a point 2 feet inside the curb in front of your building, where it will be connected to your existing lead water service line. In order to protect occupants of your building from the dangers of lead contamination in drinking water, it is highly recommended that you contract with a private water and sewer contractor to replace the remainder of the lead pipe from the newly-laid copper pipe 2 feet inside the curb line into your cellar. If you choose not to immediately replace the remainder of the lead water service

line, it is strongly recommended that you take insurance ("Service Line Protection Program") which will cover the cost of replacing your water service line if and when it fails. See question #3 in Questions and Answers, below.

If your building has a galvanized iron water service line (typically used for fire suppression sprinklers), you have two options. By default, the existing galvanized iron service line will be left as is and will be connected to the new water main. If you choose, Perfetto Contracting will partially replace the galvanized iron pipe with steel pipe from the water main to a point 2 feet inside the curb, but the new steel pipe cannot be connected to the existing galvanized iron pipe running into your cellar, meaning that you will temporarily not have a functional sprinkler system. If you choose this option, you must promptly separately contract with a private water and sewer contractor to replace the remainder of the galvanized iron pipe from the newly-laid pipe at the point 2 feet inside the curb line into your cellar. Note that replacement of the remainder of the galvanized iron pipe is likely to be quite expensive (well over $10K) so choose this option only if you are prepared to quickly 1) obtain quotes from multiple water & sewer main contractors; 2) contract to replace the remainder of the pipe soon after Perfetto Contracting runs new pipe to within your curb line, so that sprinkler service is restored; and 3) spend the necessary amount of money for the replacement.

In order to make your choice about re-connection or partial replacement of a galvanized iron water service line into your building, send an email to the project's Community Construction Liaison, Shernell Pemberton, stating your property address and your choice. Work to replace the water main and individual building water service lines will begin approximately the week of January 30th, starting at Underhill Avenue and working toward Vanderbilt Avenue, so send the email as soon as you can. The email should be sent to parkplccl@gmail.com. Below is a sample email:

> Dear Ms. Pemberton,
> I am the property owner of xxx Park Place. I am writing to confirm my choice about partial replacement of galvanized iron pipe if there is a galvanized iron pipe providing water service to my property. I would like the contractor to
> [choose one]
> [ ] re-connect the existing galvanized iron pipe to the new water main
> [ ] partially replace the galvanized iron pipe to 2 feet inside the curb line, and leave the tap at the water main accessible. I will separately contract with a private water and sewer contractor to complete the replacement of the galvanized iron pipe into my cellar.
>
> Please confirm receipt by replying to this email.
>
> Yours truly,

What will happen now?

The contractor will temporarily pause work on replacing the combined sewer main and individual building connections to the new main. Instead, they will begin work on replacing

the water main and individual building water service lines that are currently galvanized iron or lead pipes. Since this work will require shutting off the water supply, the contractor will reduce the impact to residents by segmenting the water main on our block into two sections – an “east” section and a “west” section. This will allow one part of the block to continue to have water service while work is being done on the other part of the block.

At a high level, the plan and sequence for the work is as follows:

1. The block’s water main will be segmented into an “east” section (Underhill Avenue side of the street) and a “west” section (Vanderbilt Avenue side of the street).
2. On the “east” side of the street, the new water main will be installed and building water service lines that are either lead or galvanized iron will be partially replaced.
3. Replacement of the combined sewer main on the east side of the street will be resumed and completed.
4. On the “west” side of the street, the new water main will be installed and building water service lines that are either lead or galvanized iron will be partially replaced.
5. The block’s water main segments will be re-joined into a continuous water main running the length of the street.

Here is a more detailed description of each of the steps:

1. A new shut-off valve for the block’s water main will be installed at the corner of Park Place and Underhill Avenue. This will allow water supply from both ends of the street to be controlled individually. While water service is turned off, the existing water main will be cut approximately in front of 310 Park Place, and each end of the cut will be capped, creating an “east” section (toward Underhill) and a “west” section (toward Vanderbilt). This is expected to be completed in one day during the week of January 30th, and will require water supply to be shut off to the entire block on that day.
2. Perfetto Contracting will excavate the current travel lane to reach the water main, and replace the water main as well as lead and galvanized iron water service lines to houses in the **east** section on both the north and south sides of Park Place. This will require daily water shut-offs to buildings in the east section, while water service to houses in the west section will be unaffected. No work will be done on days when the temperature is forecast to be below freezing. This work is expected to begin during the week of January 30th and to take approximately 2 to 3 weeks.
3. Once the water main, lead water service lines and opted-in galvanized iron water service lines in the east section have been replaced, the contractor will resume work on the combined sewer main on the east side of the street, working toward Underhill Avenue. This work is expected to resume by approximately February 20 and to take approximately 2 to 2.5 months.
4. When the combined sewer main replacement is complete, Perfetto Contracting will then excavate the current travel lane to reach the water main, and replace the water main as well as lead and (at the property owner’s option) galvanized iron water service lines to houses in the **west** section on both the north and south sides of Park Place. This will require daily water shut-offs to buildings in the west section, while water service to houses in the east section will be unaffected. No work will be done on days when the temperature is forecast to be below freezing. This work is expected to begin approximately in early May and to take approximately 5 to 6 weeks.

5. Once the water main, lead water service lines and opted-in galvanized iron water service lines have been replaced, the contractor will join the two sections of the water main which had been cut in #1 above. This will require a one-day water shut off to the entire block.

When the above work is completed, the contractor will resume work on the original scope of the project, with combined sewer main replacement on Vanderbilt Avenue, to be followed by combined sewer main replacement on Underhill Avenue. The timing for these portions of the project will be delayed by approximately 2-3 months. We expect the project's Community Construction Liaison to publish a new overall project schedule shortly.

Questions and answers

1. What are the benefits of this additional work being done?
    - Replacing end-of-life pipes will reduce the likelihood of further water service pipe breaks and flooding during the remainder of the project as well as in the future.
    - Replacement of lead water service lines is generally recommended to avoid the health impacts of lead in the water supply.
    - Doing partial replacement of lead and galvanized iron water service lines as part of this project should make it less expensive for property owners to have these lines replaced. The tap at the water main will be left accessible until the end of the overall project so that the property owner's private contractor can shut off water supply without excavating the street, and will only have to replace the existing line from the cellar to the point 2 feet inside the curb line.

2. Why couldn't this work have been done in the first place instead of requiring excavation of the block a second time?
    - Replacement of the water main and of individual building water service lines was not in scope of the original project. The preponderance of lead and galvanized iron water service lines found on the block during excavation of the combined sewer main, and the condition of the water main itself gave rise to the idea of expanding the project's scope.
    - Excavation to replace the water main will be in a different channel (under the current travel lane rather than in the center of the street) than the prior excavation to replace the combined sewer main.

3. Why doesn't the project expansion include replacement of the older water service lines all the way to the building's cellar? Why is the replacement only being done to 2 feet inside the curb line?
    - Property owners are responsible for installation and maintenance of water service lines from the water main to their building. The city is underwriting the cost of these partial replacements (to 2 feet inside the curb line) for the reasons given in the answer to question #1 above.
    - If the property owner chooses, replacement of the water service line from the point 2 feet inside the curb to the inside of each building can optionally be done separately at the property owner's expense, through a private contractor.

- Insurance which covers the cost of replacing a building's water service line or a building's sewer line can be purchased through the DEP's Service Line Protection program, which is managed by American Water Resources, and billed to your quarterly water & sewer utility bill. Coverage begins 30 days after the property owner enrolls in the Service Line Protection program. Get more information at https://www.awrusa.com/nyc. **It is very strongly recommended that each property owner carry this insurance, especially for buildings that have older water or sewer lines connecting to the mains.**

4. If I have an older water service line, can I pay Perfetto Contracting to run the new water service line all the way into my cellar?
    - No, Perfetto Contracting cannot do this work. You will need to separately contract with a private water and sewer main contractor to make the connection from the curb line to your building's cellar.

5. How will the portion of the sidewalk that is excavated (2 feet in from the curb) be restored?
    - In some cases the contractor may be able to tunnel underneath the sidewalk and will not need to break the concrete at all. In cases where the concrete is broken, the contractor will temporarily fill the excavated portion of the sidewalk with asphalt patching. At the conclusion of the full project, when the roadway is re-paved, the asphalt patch will be removed and the affected portion of the sidewalk will be re-paved with concrete.

6. How can I tell what type of water service pipe I have?
    - To determine what material your water service line is made of, you can do a few simple tests in your cellar. See the Appendix below.

7. I have additional questions that haven't been answered here. How can I get more information?
    - **The block association will conduct a special meeting via Zoom on Thursday, January 19, at 7:30pm** with the project's Resident Engineer. To attend, click this link https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2358951634?pwd=SzlPalVLMGJRR0tOTFV3OVdUamJKQT09. Alternatively, open a browser and go to https://www.zoom.us. Click "Join" and enter meeting ID 235 895 1634 and passcode "ppuaba".

Appendix – How to determine what material your water service line is made of

To determine what material your water service line is made of, you can do a few simple tests at home. You will need access to the water service line at the point where it enters your cellar (before the first shut off valve or the water meter). And you will need:

- a piece of steel wool
- a magnet
- a metal object with a dull edge such as a flat head screwdriver

If your building has a fire suppression sprinkler system, in all likelihood it has a separate water service line. Do the testing below on both the domestic water service line and the sprinkler water service line.

Note that all types of plastic pipe (such as PVC, PEX, or others) have never been legal to use for water service lines in NYC. If you have any sort of plastic pipe as a water service line, it should be immediately replaced.

1. Is the pipe made of lead or copper?
    - The use of lead pipes for water service lines was banned in NYC in 1961, and the use of lead solder in pipe joints was banned in NYC in 1987. If you know for certain that your water service line was installed more recently than 1987, it is not lead and does not have lead fittings.
    - Follow these steps to determine what type of metal the pipe is made of:
        - If the pipe is covered or wrapped with insulation, remove enough of the wrapping to expose a few inches of metal.
        - Rub the pipe with a piece of steel wool to remove accumulated dust or dirt.
        - Test the pipe with the magnet. If the magnet is attracted to the pipe, the pipe could be galvanized iron, steel, or ductile iron, but it is not lead or copper. Go to question 2.
        - Using the dull-edged metal object (edge of a flat head screwdriver), **gently** scrape the pipe to scratch through any corrosion that may be on the outside of the pipe. If the scraped area is shiny and silver colored, the service line is lead (see photo below).
        - The pipe may or may not have a green patina (which is normal oxidation of copper). If, when scraped with the dull-edged metal object, the pipe reveals a brownish-copper color (like a penny), it is copper (see photo below).

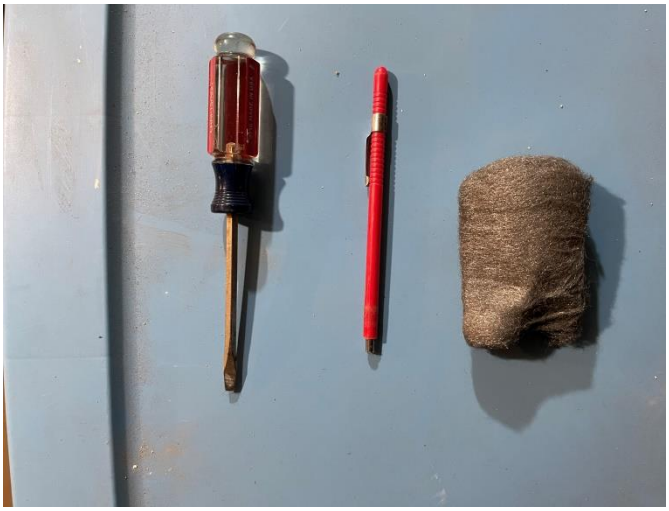
2. Is the pipe made of galvanized iron, steel, or ductile iron?
    - If a magnet is attracted to the pipe, it is galvanized iron, steel or ductile iron.
    - Ductile iron pipes are typically larger diameter pipes (greater than 2”) and are often used for fire suppression sprinklers or for domestic water supply in larger buildings such as multi-unit apartment buildings. They can be identified by the fact that they are not threaded and are typically joined by being bolted together or with the use of mechanical joint retainer glands (see photos below).
    - Using the dull-edged metal object (edge of a flat head screwdriver), **gently** scrape the pipe to scratch through any corrosion that may be on the outside of the pipe.
        - If the scraped area is a dull silver-gray color, it is a galvanized iron pipe (see photo below).
        - If the scraped area is a black color, it is a steel pipe.

3. Now that I know what type of pipe I have, what do I do about it?

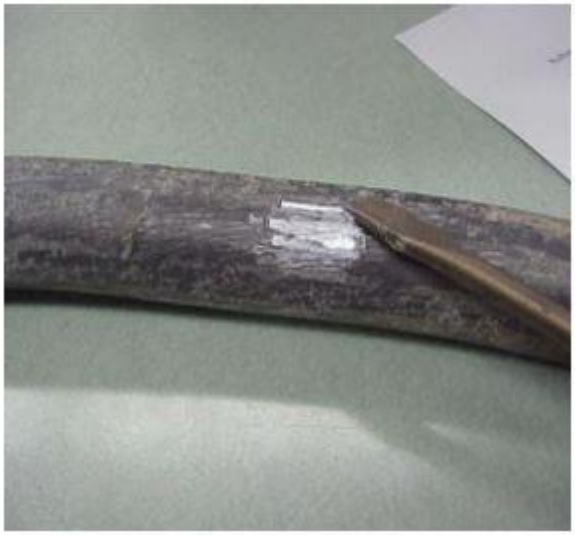
- If your water service line is **copper**, relax. This is the gold standard for smaller diameter domestic water service lines (typically used in smaller buildings).
- If your water service line is **steel or ductile iron** (typically larger diameter pipes used for fire suppression sprinkler mains or for domestic water supply in larger buildings), you can also relax. These materials are the gold standard for larger diameter pipes.
- If your water service line is **lead**, consider an immediate replacement of the pipe with copper. Lead pipes can leach lead into the drinking water, which can cause a wide range of health problems.
- If your water service line is **galvanized iron**, consider replacing the water service line with copper, steel, or ductile iron pipe. Galvanized iron pipe was most often used in the past for larger diameter pipes such as those servicing a fire suppression sprinkler system. While the zinc coating on galvanized pipes can leach lead into the water, the potentially greater risk of galvanized iron pipes is that they corrode on both the inside and outside of the pipe and have a shorter useful life than was expected when they were put into use. These pipes are subject to rupturing, and since they are most often larger diameter pipes, a rupture can cause serious flooding and water damage.

Photos:

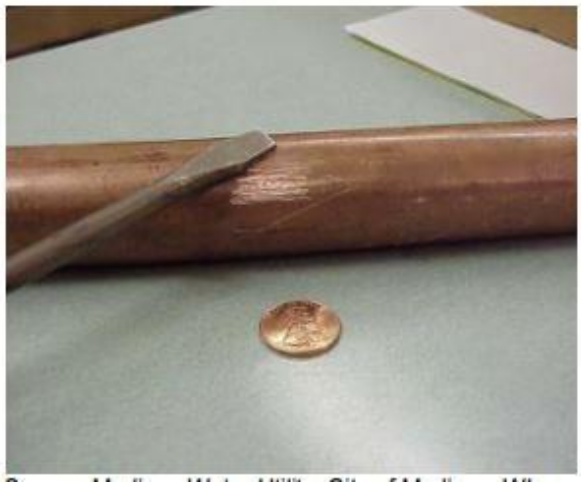
Tools for testing pipe material (left to right: flat head screwdriver, magnet, steel wool)



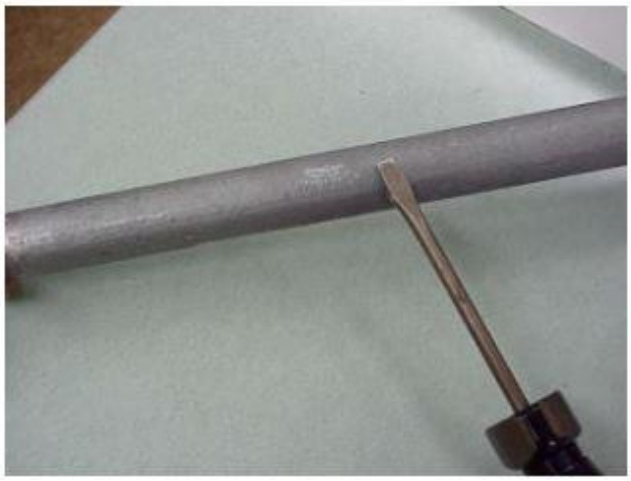
Lead pipe after scraping



Copper pipe after scraping

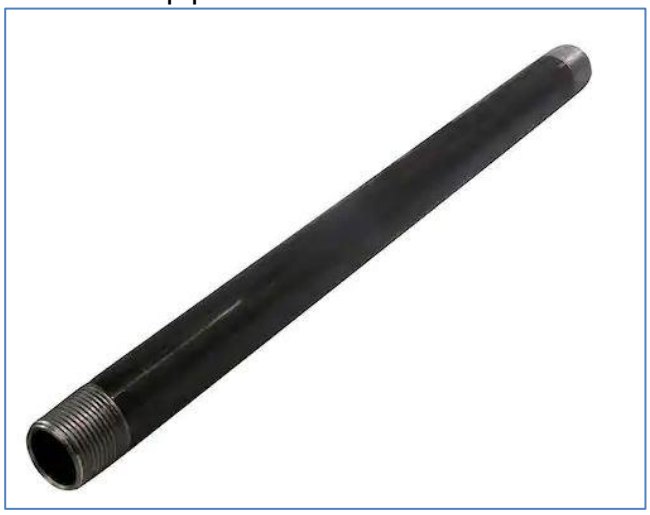


Galvanized iron pipe after scraping



Ductile iron pipe

Black steel pipe



Ductile iron pipe joint retainer