




AARON FOX
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LOWELL WASTEWATER UTILITY WASTEWATER TRANSPORT AND TREATMENT



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TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager 

CC: Yovani Baez-Rose, DPD Director; Paul St. Cyr, DPW Commissioner

FROM: Aaron Fox, Executive Director

DATE: September 5, 2023

RE: CITY COUNCIL C. Scott - Motion Response - Req. City Mgr. work with appropriate department to investigate if there is a design flaw around water drainage on Adie Way

The purpose of this motion response is to provide a status update on the Adie Way drainage system, which is part of the ongoing Lowell Housing Authority, LHA, River's Edge Development project. This is a multiphase project with the previous phase of construction completed in 2014. The next phase, Zone 5, was presented before the Lowell Housing Authority (LHA) Board in April of 2023.

With the extreme rain events over the summer, street flooding has been a reoccurring problem on Adie Way Loop. This is a direct result of the existing drainage system being unfinished and improperly constructed to adequately handle stormwater flows. The system discharges at an outfall in a small detention pond that was not designed, or appropriately located to service the drainage area.

In an effort to mitigate the immediate flooding issues, the Wastewater Utility, in coordination with DPW, completed improvements to the outfall area. The detention pond was expanded, approximately tripling the storage volume. Figure 1 shows the existing detention pond and Figure 2 shows the expansion made on 9/6/2023. Additionally, all the catch basins in the area have been investigated and cleaned along with the drain line from Adie Way Loop to the outfall. The investigation determined the catch basins were not being impacted by excessive debris and in good working order.

The drainage system will only function as designed when the final phase, Zone 5, is fully constructed. This is the responsibility of the LHA and the developer, Residents First Development Corp. DPD is in communications with LHA regarding the River's Edge development project timeline and details.



Figure 1. Existing Detention Pond



Figure 2: Detention Pond After Improvement