

# Report for the City Manager

## Community Services: Engineering

Date: September 10, 2024

The purpose of this document is to summarize the work the City of Dover Engineering Department from August 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31, 2024.



**Engineering**

Community Services | Dover, NH

Ken Mavrogeorge, PE – City Engineer  
Bill Boulanger – Special Projects Advisor  
Amelia DeGrace – Assistant City Engineer (Utilities)  
Jillian Semprini, PE – Assistant City Engineer (Transportation)  
Eric Sanderson – Facilities Project Manager  
Jamie Stevens – Waterfront Construction Manager  
Jordan Chambers – Engineering Technician  
\*\*Vacant\*\* – Environmental Project Manager  
Brenna Weston – Engineering Intern  
Griff Bates – Engineering Intern

### **Staffing Update:**

The Engineering Department interviewed multiple candidates for the open Environmental Project Manager and posted the position in August. An offer has been extended and accepted. The new staff member is expected to join the team in late September.

### **Staff Workload:**

In addition to their daily project management responsibilities, the City's Engineering staff also participate in the following Commissions, Committees, and Boards as either activate members or staff liaisons.

Dover Utilities Commission (Amelia DeGrace): The Dover Utilities Commission (DUC) met on August 19<sup>th</sup>. There was no new or old business. The Commission reviewed the Utilities and Finance Reports. There were no abatement requests.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) (Jillian Semprini): TAC did not meet in August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Planning Board (Ken Mavrogeorge): Planning Board met on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Topics on the agenda included CDBG project funding, a handful of Conditional Use permits, and a site plan review for 1 Grove Street.

Municipal Alliance for Adaptive Management (MAAM) (Director John Storer): MAAM met on August 15<sup>th</sup>. City Attorney, Josh Wyatt attended virtually as did Director of Community Services John Storer. The next meeting is scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>. Topics to be discussed in September include the annual reporting for MAAM.

Seacoast Stormwater Coalition (SSC) (Director John Storer): The SSC met on August 21<sup>st</sup> in a virtual setting. Topics of the meeting included the following:

- An update on upcoming events including:
  - PTAP Advanced Workshop on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.
  - 2024 Salt Symposium



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- 2024 Asset Management Conference for Water Infrastructure

The next Coalition meeting is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup>.

TIF Advisory Committee/Cocheco Waterfront Development Committee (CWDAC)/Park Subcommittee (Jamie Stevens):

- TIF Advisory Committee: Did not meet.
- The CWDAC Park Sub-committee met on August 6<sup>th</sup> to review selection of Paver Materials and Finishes from Northeast Earth Mechanics and get an update on park amenities.

### **Customer Service:**

In addition to supporting other City Departments and working on Capital Projects, Engineering staff takes Service Calls from the public and responds to them as quickly as they can. The team meets regularly to review open Service Calls and discuss how to respond. The Table below shows the total calls year to date and over the past month.

Time Period	Logged Service Calls	Resolved Service Calls
2024 YTD	119	112
July 2024	25	12

### **Public Outreach:**

The Engineering Team routinely provides updates to Media Services for the various projects that are shared in advance of public meetings, major milestones, or in the event of a service shutdown or temporary road closure. Anyone can sign up for project specific updates.

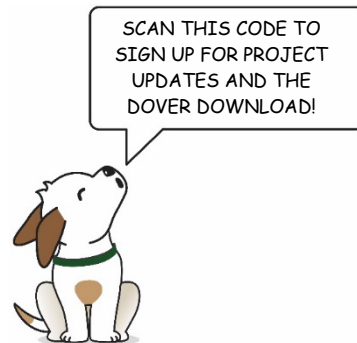


Figure 1: Rover the Community Services Dog and a QR Code to sign up for project specific updates and the Dover Download.



*Figure 2: Scan this QR code for access to the Water Service Line inventory.*

### Water Service Line Inventory:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) revised Lead and Copper Rule (LCRR) requires all community water systems to prepare a service line inventory by October 16, 2024. This revision is in response to the Flint, MI water crisis; inventories will be available to the public and will be used to identify service lines with potential lead contamination.

Led by Assistant City Engineer, Amelia DeGrace, preparation of the inventory has been a true team effort, with the Office of Information Technology (OIT), Community Services Utilities, Water & Sewer Billing, Media Services, and Engineering all pitching in. NHDES awarded the City a \$75k grant to prepare the inventory.

The inventory work to date includes identifying approximately 10,000 service line locations, which the team will need to identify the service materials for. In order to determine the materials of service lines, staff must comb through record drawings, water tie cards, and other City documents. To help staff identify materials for services lines, an online survey has been developed and is currently live through the City's website for the public to submit information on their water service.

## **Engineering Projects:**

As noted above, the Engineering staff is actively supporting a number of projects across the city. The following are some highlights on just some of the active projects.

### **Fifth and Grove Reconstruction:**

The City's contractor continued to install drainage and water main within the project area in August. The Fifth and Grove project includes new utilities, accessible sidewalks, signage, and the complete reconstruction of the roadway. Traffic disruptions within the project area are expected intermittently for the rest of 2024 as the project progresses. Drivers are encouraged to sign up for project updates to keep up with proposed closures, detours, and shifts in traffic patterns to minimize delays. Alternative routes are available around the project site. Patrons to local businesses are encouraged to sign up for notices too as parking restrictions on Fifth and Grove will continue through 2024 in select areas as construction progresses.



*Figure 3: New Pathways at Park Street Park.*

### **Annual Street Paving Program:**

In August, Brox Industries, Inc., the city's paving contractor, paved Washington Street from Chestnut St to Whittier St. The work included milling the current pavement, raising castings, and paving. The Engineering and Operations staff also have begun meeting to discuss next year's paving list.



*Figure 4: Work on Adventure Park in progress.*

### **Playground Improvements:**

Special Project Advisor Bill Boulanger has been leading the upgrade of various parks around the City starting with the reconstruction of pathways around Park Street Park. The pathways had reinforcement grid added with stone infill to allow for maintenance vehicles to access the park without disturbing the paths. Parking spaces were also restriped at the completion of the pathway work.

Adventure Park will be closed for two weeks starting on September 9<sup>th</sup> for upgrades including new granite borders for the sand/water play areas and swings. A new granite water feature will replace the wooden feature installed during the original park construction.

Parking spaces were striped at the Woodman Park tennis courts as part of the annual pavement marking program after years without being formally delineated.

### Portland Ave Retaining Wall:

The contractor for the project, GW Brooks continues to make progress on the construction of the new Portland Ave. retaining wall. The project includes new lighting and sidewalks along Portland Ave. It is anticipated that work will last until the end of 2024.

### Crosby Road Drainage Evaluation:

A Request for Proposals (RFPs) was released for a drainage evaluation for the Crosby Road Industrial Park. Flooding concerns in the area have been raised by property owners and the City will be looking for a consultant to assess the various culverts, bridges, and drainage swales for capacity limitations and provide recommendations for improvements. VHB was selected and awarded the project which is expected to kick off at the middle of September.

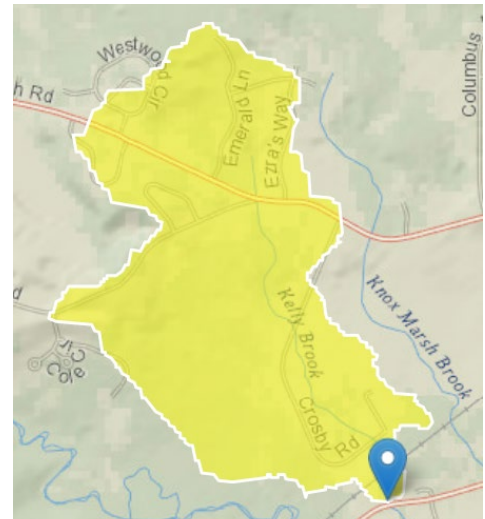


Figure 5: Drainage watershed area being analyzed by the Crosby Rd project.

### Cochecho Waterfront Redevelopment:

Progress continued along the waterfront this month as the City's private partner moves closer to vertical construction of their buildings. Building C's footing and foundation are nearing completion and backfilling is underway, paving the way for vertical progress. Meanwhile, foundation preparations for Building D are also progressing.

North East Earth Mechanics has been focusing on the private utilities owned by the developer (water, sewer, stormwater, electric, and telecommunications) within previously purchased parcels 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6. This work is part of a separate contract with Windover Construction for Cathartes and is not related to the City's work.

Work on the City's infrastructure continues as follows:

- **Electrical and telecommunication duct banks:** Construction is progressing along Payne Street towards the former skate park.
- **Granite toe wall:** The wall from the Makem Bridge to the proposed pavilion area is complete. Flex MSE wall construction is now underway, which will support the vegetated wall portion connecting the stabilized shoreline to the park.
- **Pad preparation:** The pad preparation for the three townhome footprints is advancing. Blasting debris is being processed to create suitable construction surfaces for footprints E-1, E-2, and E-3.

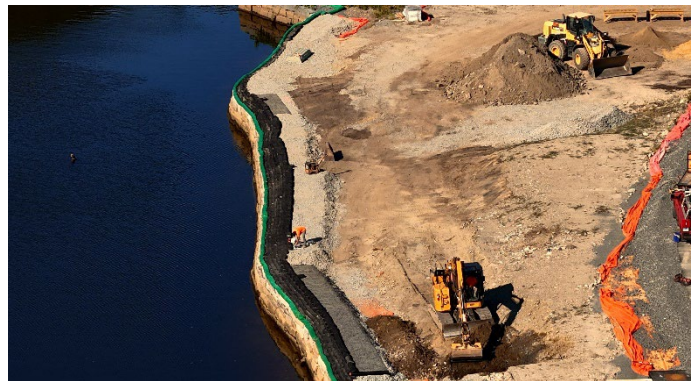


Figure 6: Shoreline protection and stabilization continues with the construction of a flex mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall.



Figure 7: Foundation work for the private development continues to prepare for vertical construction.

#### Henry Law Avenue / Payne Street Reconstruction:

Engineering reviewed 75% design drawings and provided comments back to the City's design engineering firm Kleinfelder. The project includes the reconstruction of Henry Law Avenue from Washington Street to Payne Street (formerly River St) and Payne Street to the former skate park (limits of the waterfront project). Utility upgrades including some water and sewer work will be included in the design. In addition, a major reconstruction of the drainage network is being designed for the project including the addition of two large underground stormwater treatment devices within Henry Law Park and the former skate park. Parking around the area will be improved as will lighting and the wall along the Cochecho River. The project is scheduled to be out to bid in the fall of 2024 and under construction in 2025. The construction will require the temporary closure of the green space within Henry Law Park for much of 2025 and 2026.

#### Lower Central Avenue Reconstruction:

Engineering staff reviewed 90% design drawings and provided comments back to the City's design engineering firm Sebago Technics in August. The project includes the reconstruction of Central Avenue from Silver Street to Stark Avenue. The project also includes utility upgrades including water and sewer main reconstruction and the installation of underground stormwater treatment devices adjacent to the cemetery. Parking and pedestrian access will be improved within the project limits as will lighting. The project is scheduled to be out to bid in the fall of 2025 and under construction in 2026.

#### Garrison Hill Tank Rehabilitation:

Engineering reviewed 90% design drawings and provided comments back to the City's design engineering firm Underwood Engineering. The project includes the rehabilitation of the 4+ million-gallon water storage tank at the top of Garrison Hill (Abby Sawyer Memorial Hwy). The tank is able to come offline for the first time since it's construction in the 1960s due to the new elevated tank near Weeks Lane coming online earlier this year. City staff are also working with the design engineers to design a new water main from the top of Garrison Hill down to Florence Ave to improve the water system's resiliency in response to an ever-increasing number of water main breaks in this area. The project is scheduled to be out to bid in the fall of 2024 and under construction in early 2025.

## **Facilities Projects:**

### **Ball Field Dugout Roofing and Repairs:**

The baseball field dugout repairs project at Horne Street Park, Woodman Park, Sullivan Drive, and Shaw's Lane Softball fields is progressing according to schedule. The initial phase of the project involved the removal of existing asphalt shingles at Woodman Park and Horne Street Park, followed by the replacement of damaged plywood and a fresh coat of paint for all structures. This work is now complete.

In the coming weeks, the same process will be carried out for the dugouts at Shaw's Lane Softball Field and Sullivan Drive. Once these preparatory steps have been finalized, the installation of metal roofing will commence. The project will begin at Horne Street Park on September 12th and then move on to other locations as they become ready for roofing.

Overall, the project is expected to be completed before September 30th.



*Figure 8: Horne Street School dugout and facility repairs are underway.*

### **Inspection Services Building Construction:**

The Inspection Services Building Construction project is progressing steadily. Martini Northern, the chosen design-build contractor, has commenced construction on the new building that will accommodate the Inspection Services Division of Planning and Community Development.

Construction activities began in early August with the Community Services Department initiating the excavation of the foundation. Mid-August marked the arrival of concrete crews, who promptly began forming and pouring the footings and foundation walls. As the month drew to a close, the Community Services staff transitioned to installing the building's new sewer service, infiltration basin, and backfilling of the new foundation.



### **Library Interior Renovation:**

The Dover Public Library is undergoing a significant renovation and expansion project. Facilities Project Manager Eric Sanderson has been collaborating closely with Dover Library staff and design professionals from SMP Architects to finalize the design and bidding specifications. On August 7th, the project was presented to the Dover City Council during a City Council Workshop. In addition to the design and planning phases, the project team has been actively seeking a temporary location to house the library's services during construction.



## **Permits and Licenses:**

### Permit and License Summary for August 2024:

Driveway Permits:	21
Utility Licenses:	5
Paving Licenses:	2
Excavation Permits:	10
Certificate of Occupancy Inspections:	14
Construction:	4
Obstruction Permits:	3

### Wastewater Permit Review Summary for August 2024:

Sewer Connection Permit:	2
Septic Design Reviews:	2

## **Site Review/Project Oversight Support:**

### Technical Review Committee:

The City's Engineering staff typically takes between 1 to 4 hours for each review as part of the Technical Review Committee. The review focuses on engineering related design elements such as utilities (water and sewer), stormwater, parking lot layout and pedestrian pathways. To ensure that projects efficiently move through the TRC process, City Engineering staff is available for preapplication meetings with applicants. To schedule a meeting with staff, call 603-516-6450.



*Figure 9: 59 Tolend Rd Residential Housing project kicked off in August.*

Four (4) project came to TRC in July that required Engineering review:

- 306 Dover Point Road – Multi Family Development
- 52 Old Rochester Road – Multi Family Development
- Crosby Road – Subdivision and Site Review
- 15 Faraday Drive – Storage Building

### Preconstruction Meetings:

There were four (4) preconstruction meetings held in August.

### Construction Oversight:

Engineering Technician, Jordan Chambers, continues to conduct oversight of over 65 private construction projects approved by the Planning Board. Projects that are underway or have been completed include:

- Copley Commons Subdivision (Leathers Ln.)
- Tiny Home Development (Back River Rd.)
- Sophie/Banner Dr Subdivision (Bellamy Rd.)
- Goosetail Dr (757 Central Ave.)
- 725 Central Ave Development (Central Ave and Brick Rd.)
- Medical Office Building (Durham Rd.)
- Northeast Credit Union (Education Way)
- Emerson Ridge (Old Oak St.)
- Ember Dr (New Rochester Rd.)
- New Community Recreation Building (Karolina Way)
- Mixed Use Residential – The Station (2 Grove St)
- Waterfront Private Development
- Chase Bank on Central Ave
- 59 Tolend Rd.



*Figure 10: Demolition of the R&W Building on Central Ave to prepare for the new Chase Bank.*