



Subject: Proposed Adjustment to the Urban Storm Sewer Boundary

To: Council

From: Corporate Services Department

Report Number: 2021-302

Meeting Date: November 22, 2021

Recommendation:

That Corporate Services Department Report 2021-302 be received;

That the Urban Storm Sewer boundary be adjusted as set out in Appendix A to Corporate Services Department Report 2021-302 and that this adjustment be retroactive to the 2019 Urban Storm Sewer Boundary implementation year; and

That refunds be issued to the properties previously billed but now outside the adjusted Urban Storm Sewer Boundary.

Purpose:

Council identified that certain areas of the City may need to be reconsidered for inclusion in the Urban Storm Sewer Boundary. This report responds to that concern.

Background:

The Urban Storm Sewer Boundary was first established in 2019 after multiple years of analysis and review. The purpose of the Storm Sewer Boundary is to fund maintenance and repair, replacement and improvements and new storm sewers within the boundary.

Discussion:

The original Urban Storm Sewer Boundary was created by the consultant AE and was basically the Urban Boundary with a section of drainage area 17 extensions that was outside of the Urban Boundary. This was because of the use of the Eagle Marsh drain in the drainage area 17 extension.

The review of the storm sewer boundary that has occurred since the approval of the 2021 Urban Storm Sewer budget has resulted in the proposed and adjusted Urban Storm Sewer Boundary attached as Appendix A.

In adjusting the Urban Storm Sewer Boundary staff identify properties maintained within the boundary are either:

- using the designed and piped storm sewer infrastructure, either immediately or anticipated in the future (asset management plan coming in the spring/summer of 2022 will begin to expand on anticipated storm sewer improvements and enhancements); or
- utilizing a roadside ditch to/or engineered piping system to collect storm water, either immediately or from surface drainage.

As approved during the 2021 Urban Storm Sewer Budget process. Any property within the Urban Storm Sewer Boundary that is also on a municipal drain will only be charged the Urban Storm Sewer Boundary fee.

In addition to adjusting the Urban Storm Sewer Boundary this report recommends making this adjustment retroactive to 2019 when the Urban Storm Sewer Boundary charges were first implemented. In making the adjustment, retroactive refunds are recommended for properties now outside the adjusted Urban Storm Sewer Boundary.

Internal Consultations:

This adjustment is proposed jointly by Corporate Services and Public Works.

Financial Implications:

The financial impact of the proposed refunds are as follows:

	# of Properties	Value
2021	460	\$56,883.87
2020	459	\$51,607.50
2019	458	\$49,050.00
		\$157,541.37

This refund will be funded from the storm sewer reserve which is estimated, after the proposed refunds identified above are processed, to have a remaining unencumbered balance of \$75,700 at year end (December 31, 2021).

Public Engagement:

Input was received from residents through Councillor inquiry and discussion.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Service and Simplicity - Quality and Innovative Delivery of Customer Services
 - Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
 - City-Wide Investments in Infrastructure and Recreational/Cultural Spaces
 - Value: Financial Management to Achieve Financial Sustainability
 - Governance: Communications, Engagement, and Decision-Making
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Conclusion:

Staff recommend the proposed and adjusted storm boundary as identified in Appendix A, with refunds to properties previously billed but now outside the storm sewer boundary

Appendices:

- a. Proposed Storm Sewer Boundary
- b. Original Storm Sewer Boundary

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.