

DISCOVER



Project Details

The Object:

To replace approximately 19 miles of CI 160 PVC water main with ductile iron pipes.

Miles completed:

12

Miles remaining:

7

Estimated Completion:

2027

STRONGER INFRASTRUCTURE

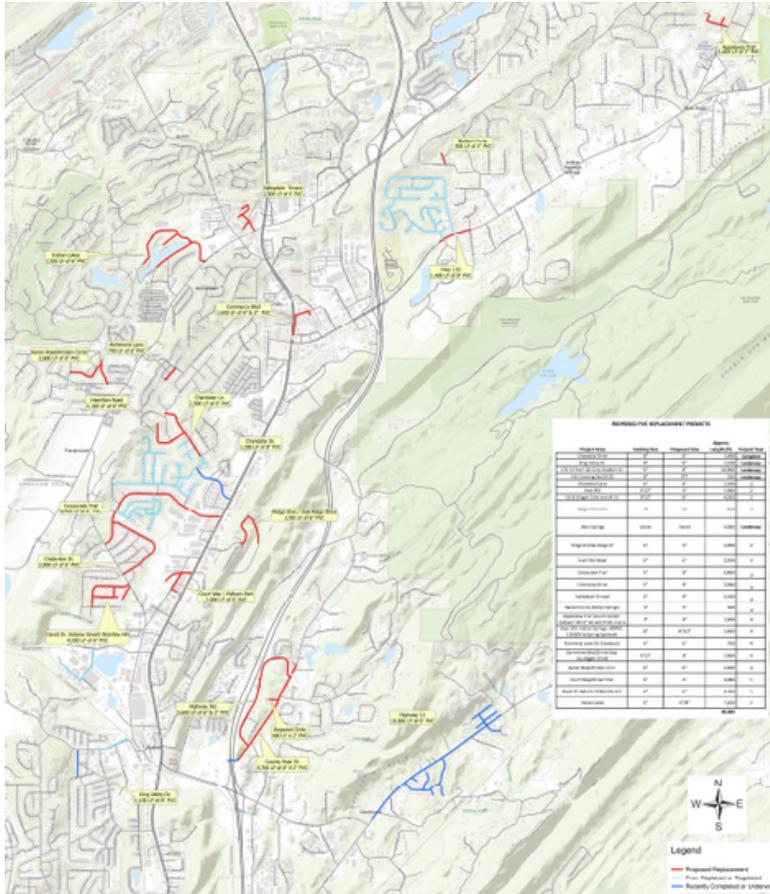
Update on Water Main Upgrades

The City of Pelham is in the process of updating miles of water main pipe, originally installed in 1965. "What we're doing is replacing end-of-life infrastructure that has resulted in more water outages for customers," said Acting City Engineer Chris Cousins.

Pelham's water system currently consists of approximately 250 miles of water mains. Approximately 86 miles consist of PVC, of which 19 miles is CI 160 PVC. To understand the current state, Cousins said we must look at the history of the City's water system. "Pelham's water system began in September 1965 with a FHA loan for \$206,500. One of the FHA stipulations required the use of CI 160 PVC pipe. PVC was the primary pipe material used in the water system for main extensions until 1985 when the construction standards were changed to ductile iron (DI) for all main extensions." He went on to explain DI is a stronger material with higher pressure ratings. It generally has a longer service life; at least 100 years.

In 2011, City staff identified 19 miles of PVC that were believed to be Class 160 and most prone to breakage. After some analysis of the breaks and the repair costs, it was determined that the most cost-effective approach was to repair the breaks as they occurred versus replacing pipes. However, this approach did not improve the level of service to the City's customers. In 2012, the City began a program of

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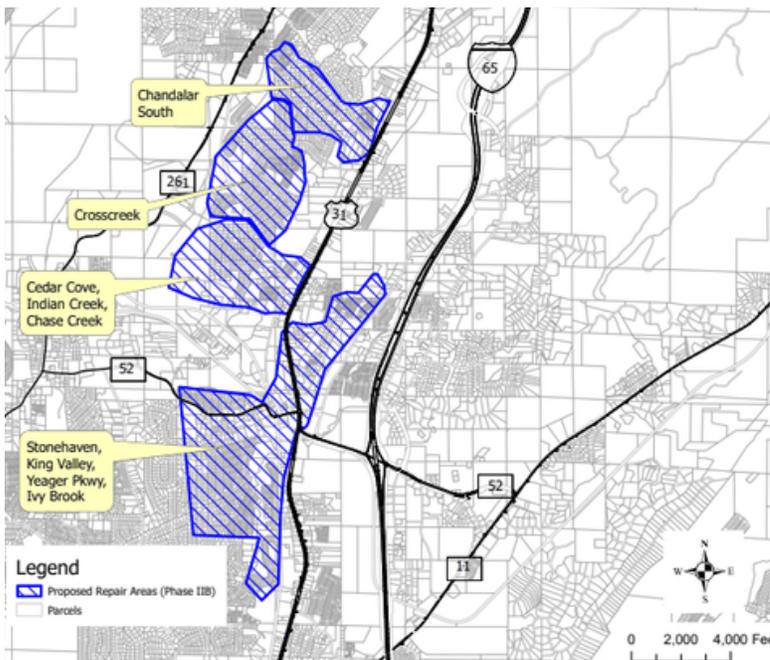


Priority PVC replacement areas. [Click here](#) for a larger version.

limited PVC pipe replacement and attempts to regulate water pressure. Original estimates were approximately \$11.4 million for 19 miles of replacement (2011 dollars). The Council historically funded at \$500,000 per year with a projected 22.8-year replacement schedule. Since 2012, approximately 12 miles of PVC have been replaced or pressure regulated.

To speed up the process, the City of Pelham borrowed 5 million dollars in 2021, which will significantly reduce the timeline for completing the replacement project. The overall goal is to replace approximately seven miles of remaining CI 160 PVC by 2027. This will require expenditures in the range of \$2.5 to \$3 million annually. Current estimated funding requirements are \$16.6 million, of which \$8 million is funded; assuming the annual budget funding continues.

At a recent City Council meeting, André Bittas, Director of Development Services and Public Works, discussed the ongoing funding of the PVC replacement project. "The City plans to pursue funding from ADEM (Alabama Department of Environmental Management) as part of the federal infrastructure bill for the balance of funding. \$400 million was allocated to Alabama in 2023," said Bittas. The City is targeting five years to finish the Class 160 PVC water main replacement project.



Sanitary sewer project map. [Click here](#) for a larger version.

Sanitary Sewer Project Moves to Next Phase

Work is taking place in multiple areas across the city to make necessary repairs to the sanitary sewer system. In some areas, the sewers that serve the neighborhood are located in easements and backyards that will require access and temporary land disturbance.

As with all construction projects, there will be some inconveniences from time to time. We will do our best to minimize these inconveniences related to this work. Please pardon our progress as we work to improve our infrastructure.



Seth Greenberg is introduced as the new Executive Director of the Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena at the Pelham City Council meeting on April 3, 2023.



The Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena is home to the Birmingham Bulls hockey team, youth hockey, and ice skating, and boasts event space and catering.

Executive Director Hired

Seth Greenberg has been announced as the new Executive Director of the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. He started in his new role on April 3, 2023.

Greenberg brings over two decades of ice facility management and programming experience to his new role in Pelham. In 2000, Greenberg was hired as the Assistant Arena Manager & Program Director at Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills, OH where he was responsible for operations and staffing for two ice sheets, event programming, and creating and directing youth hockey clinics, camps, and tournaments. Most recently, Greenberg served as General Manager for the Alice Noble Ice Arena in Wooster, OH.

"Joining the VenuWorks family is a dream come true. I am truly humbled for the opportunity to work with one of the top facility management companies in the country," said Greenberg. "Being able to tap into and learn from VenuWorks' vast resources and experiences will only make me a better, more effective leader."

"The City is thrilled to have Seth join the VenuWorks team. Seth's expertise working with ice arenas and his commitment to customer service and quality in operations are going to greatly benefit the citizens and visitors of Pelham," said Pelham City Manager Gretchen DiFante.

"I am equally as excited to become part of the Pelham community and to work with the tremendous staff at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. I am dedicated to ensuring the facility is the premiere ice arena, conference, and banquet facility in the region," said Greenberg.



Pelham Garden Club Establishes Bluebird Trail

The Pelham Garden Club might be a new organization, but they're already leaving a lasting impact on the city. This spring, members hope their efforts will support the local bluebird population, whose numbers have decreased by 90 percent over the past 60 years in the eastern United States.

On a recent blustery day, members of the Pelham Garden Club gathered at the northern end of Pelham City Park armed with six newly constructed bluebird boxes. They were excited to place the boxes throughout the park after discussing the facts about bluebirds in a recent meeting. Bluebirds are permanent residents in the southeast and make their homes in Alabama throughout the year. With the dwindling numbers of these beautiful birds, it is important to provide them with places to nest and raise their young, while protecting them from many natural predators. The birds prefer to nest in open spaces like parks and choose a tree or man-made box with a cavity in which to build their nests of loosely woven grasses.

Club members received the blessing of Brian Cooper, Director of Pelham Parks and Recreation, to place bluebird boxes in Pelham City Park. The six boxes will create a bluebird "trail" visible from the Pelham Greenway Trail. The project was spearheaded by Dennis Stanek, Jim Collins, and Sandra Kitchens, who quickly got to work cutting lumber and building the boxes to certain specifications. The materials were bought with donations from club members. "There are no dues for Pelham Garden Club members, so our projects are funded through donations from members and anyone else who wants to contribute," said acting Club President and Pelham Public Library Supervisor David Smith.

A great deal of thought and research went into the construction of the boxes, which are mounted on a five-foot conduit. The smooth, round pipe will greatly reduce the chance of an attack from a predator. Pelham resident Dennis Stanek explained that the boxes will be placed approximately 100 feet apart because bluebirds tend to be territorial. He explained the logic behind the specific locations of the boxes. "There are many schools of thought on the placement of the boxes. Some say not to place them too close to trees because of the proximity of predators like squirrels and raccoons. Others say to turn the boxes towards nearby branches, so the young have a landing place during their first flights. Another source advocated the placement of the boxes facing south for warmth," said Stanek.

As the boxes were being installed, Stanek spoke on the dangers that bluebirds face. "English sparrows have a reputation for aggressively attacking nesting bluebirds, killing both adults and their young," explained Stanek. English sparrows, which are a non-

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native and invasive species, also use cavities for nesting. This explains why they're aggressive over nesting space. Stanek also said raccoons, squirrels, snakes, wasps, and even fire ants present dangers to bluebirds.

It is for this reason that the act of placing nest boxes is a responsibility that involves a great deal of commitment from volunteers. "We'll have a schedule for garden club members to monitor the boxes once a week. We're looking for evidence of predators, but also, we will keep records of nest building, eggs, and any other signs of bird activity," said Stanek. These volunteers will clean out the boxes after the young have fledged to make room for the next family of bluebirds.



Bluebirds can have up to three broods a year. The male bluebirds start looking for nesting places in late winter, and the female begins the first nest in mid-April. According to the Alabama Extension Service, the female will lay one light blue egg per day for about four to five days. She will incubate the eggs for about 12 days, and then the young will remain in the nest for about 15 days after hatching.

Bluebirds like open spaces because of the abundance of insects, which make up most of their diet. They consume grasshoppers, flying insects, beetles, and caterpillars. They also eat berries and fruits found near their nests.



Pelham Garden Club members are optimistic about future projects that they hope will continue to contribute to the well-being of the community. "Little things like placing birdhouses, or efforts to attract bees go a long way towards enhancing the quality of life for residents of Pelham," said club member Teresa Riddle.

The Pelham Garden Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Pelham Public Library from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Membership is open to adults interested in all areas of gardening. Residence in Pelham is not required, and there are no dues. For more information, please [email David Smith](mailto:David.Smith@pelhamga.gov), or call him at 205.620.6418.



Your City at Work

Here are some of the recent items approved by the Pelham City Council. For the complete text of the agendas, minutes, ordinances, and resolutions, please visit www.pelhamalabama.gov.

- Appointed Jeff Adams to the Pelham Board of Education, Place No. 5. Adams will fill the unexpired term of Place No. 5 and the full term beginning in June 2023.
- Amended the FY 2023 budget to allow for the Heather Ridge well pump repair project.
- Approved an agreement with Strategic Government Resources, Inc. for planning and facilitating a strategic visioning retreat.
- Authorized the engagement of a real estate broker to exclusively market city-owned properties located in the Oak Mountain Trail development (Shelby County Highways 52E and 35).
- Approved a sales contract between the City of Pelham and Mark Byers for the purchase of the property known as Old Fire Station No. 3 located at 1297 Shelby County Highway 52E.
- Adopted portions of the 2021 International Building and Fire Code and the International Property Maintenance Code.
- Approved a second amendment to the purchase and sale agreement and first amendment for the acquisition and development of vacant city-owned real estate between HCI Pelham Central LLC and the City of Pelham.
- Accepted the City of Pelham's Fiscal Year 2022 audit as prepared and presented by Truitt Tingle Paramore & Argent, LLC, CPA, the city's independent auditors.
- Accepted bids for the FY 2023 HVAC Improvements, Projects A & B at the Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena. The HVAC improvements are funded as a multi-fiscal year project budgeted across two fiscal years.
- Voted to approve additional professional engineering consulting services for upgrading the detection equipment at two traffic signals to video detection systems.
- Awarded a bid for the installation of grit and grease removal equipment at the Pelham Wastewater Treatment Plant and to amend the FY 2023 Sewer Department Enterprise Fund.