

Saint Paul City Council
310 and 320 City Hall 15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

October 28, 2021

File No. RES PH 21-297 Setting of 2022 Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer Rates [and Policy].

Dear Saint Paul City Council Members,

Please accept our public comments regarding the 2022 Storm Sewer Policy.

In 2019 we requested a Storm Sewer fee reduction for the installation of 255 sq. ft. of permeable driveway and patio pavers, and for a 150 sq. ft. rain garden.

The permeable pavers replaced a concrete driveway. The rain garden was designed by Ramsey Conservation District to receive rainwater from the residence and garage roofs, allowing it time to soak into the earth instead of running into the storm sewer.

These installations are recommended Best Management Practice (BMP) for the purposes listed in the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Statute [103B.201](#), and are likewise encouraged by [Policy H-14](#), and [Policy CA-15](#)¹ of the Saint Paul 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

The City Public Works Department took time to look into establishing BMP credits for such installations but feels that they could be problematic due to limited staffing available for inspections.

We request that the City Council change the 2022 Storm Sewer [Policy](#) by considering the establishment of a BMP credit program that encourages residential stormwater conservation practices.

Normally a person could voice their concerns during an assessment public hearing, but unpaid storm sewer system charges (SSSC) are sent straight to the Ramsey County tax assessor without a City Council public hearing per City Office of Financial Services [FAQ No. 6](#).

This public hearing is our only opportunity to speak on the need for policy change.

We also maintain the Terrace Park drain at the end of West Delos St. under the CGEE/City of Saint Paul Adopt-a Drain program.

Our city's encouragement of these permeable paver and rain garden BMP installations would also contribute towards a cleaner Mississippi River.

If you have any questions regarding our request please call or write.

Sincerely,

John Purdy Mary Purdy
John Purdy Mary Purdy

10 W. Delos St.
St. Paul, MN 55107
651-292-9651

¹ 10 Delos St. lies within the MRCCA CA-UM District and is within the Bluff Impact Zone.