

City of Ann Arbor Water Treatment Services Unit Bird Hills Nature Area - Raw Water Main Projects

The Water Treatment Services Unit (WTSU) maintains two critical raw water transmission mains that supply approximately 85% of the City's drinking water from the Huron River to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Both raw water mains pass through the Bird Hills Nature Area, requiring coordination to maintain both the critical infrastructure and one of the City's most valuable natural areas.

Pipeline Inspection – October 2021

- Inspection equipment will flow through the two pipelines starting at Barton Pump Station and ending at the Water Treatment Plant.
- Contractors to attach locating equipment to the top of the pipeline in four hand excavated locations.
- Soil borings with ATV mounted equipment.
- Inspection data provides detailed information on pipeline condition and risk of future failure.
- Data gathered may result in future work within Birds Hills along the water mains. PAC will be updated if any additional work is needed.

Air Relief Valve (ARV) Installation - Mid/Late 2022

- Installation of six new air relief points along the transmission mains. The valves remove trapped air and prevent loss of water supply capacity.
- Requires excavating equipment access within the Nature Area.
- Flexibility to avoid major trees, but some minor tree impacts are anticipated in the work areas and along the access routes.

Work Completed to Date:

- Preparations for the pipeline inspections are complete and work is scheduled to start October 4.
- A topographical survey and environmental study were completed onsite in early September for the ARV Project. Included gathering data on trees, review for rare and endangered species and identification of other unique natural features including wetlands.
- Preliminary design of the ARV Project is ongoing and detailed plans will be presented to PAC this Fall.

