



Department of Public Services

*Director's Office*

415 Stockbridge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001-2898

Ph.269.337.8660

Fx.269.337.8533

## **Media Release**

### **Contact:**

James J. Baker, PE, Director of Public Services

Phone Numbers: Office (269) 337-8768 Cell (269) 370-8715

Email: [bakerj@kalamazoo-city.org](mailto:bakerj@kalamazoo-city.org)

### **For Immediate Release**

### **SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW 3502 South Burdick**

August 4, 2016, Kalamazoo, Michigan – The City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Services personnel became aware of a sanitary sewer overflow from a manhole located at 3502 South Burdick Avenue on August 4, 2016 at 8:00 am. City of Kalamazoo personnel estimate that overflow incident may have started on August 1, 2016 around 8:00 pm based upon the impacted area.

The Department of Public Services Wastewater Division staff removed the blockage at 12:50 pm on August 4, 2016. The amount of material discharged from the sanitary sewer manhole is estimated to be about 60,000 gallons. Normal flow conditions in the sanitary sewer have been restored. City staff is assessing the impact to the surrounding area and the Portage Creek – Mill Pond waterway.

At this time, the City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Services in cooperation with the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department are advising all persons to avoid contact around the affected areas, which includes the North end of Millpond and Portage Creek. All surface water activities including swimming, wading, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking should cease. It is also recommended that all persons avoid these areas and keep pets and children away until the area is assessed and remediated. If contact with raw sewage is made, avoid spreading and tracking and clean and disinfect shoes, clothes, and skin thoroughly. This advisory will remain in effect until further investigation and sampling indicates that risk has been minimized. Additional information will be available after sampling results are received.

Please call the Department of Public Services at (269) 337-8768 or (269) 370-8715 with questions related to the release.

As required by law, Water Reclamation Plant personnel notified the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at the Kalamazoo District Office and the Kalamazoo County Environmental Health and Community Services of the spill.

###