



The Mayor's Report – September 18

MAYOR WEISS: Hello. As we head into fall, I thought I'd take the opportunity to provide you with an update on the Horseshoe Lake Dam Rehabilitation Project. I'll be joined today by Council Member Nancy Moore, who is also a member of the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership.

As you know, the Shaker Lakes are an incredible natural asset for our community. However, they are also key components of our region's overall storm water management system. As you can see, right now Horseshoe Lake is almost fully drained. That's because in 2019, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources determined that the existing dam – which is just behind me – was structurally deficient. As a Class 1 dam, a sudden failure of this dam could cause significant damage downstream. For this reason, Horseshoe Lake must remain almost fully drained until the Dam Rehabilitation Project is completed.

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is overseeing the Rehabilitation Project as part of its Regional Stormwater Management Program. The agency is working closely with the Department of Natural Resources to finalize the design for this project. Over summer, we were informed that the design phase would have to be extended. Heavy rain earlier this year required our partners to re-evaluate components of the project to ensure that it could fully manage the extreme rain events that we now experience. Once the design is finalized, a timeline for the rehabilitation work will be established. Now I'd like to turn this over to Council Member Nancy Moore who will provide insight into the importance of the Sewer District's work.

COUNCIL MEMBER NANCY MOORE: Thank you, Mayor. As you know, Council and the Mayor are focused on modernizing the City for the 21st century and beyond. This work includes modernizing the dams at the Shaker Lakes. This need has become more critical than ever due to the effects of climate change. Severe rainstorms are now a regular occurrence. For example, just this past year, we had several extreme weather events in one year. These events can cause more stormwater run-off than our Shaker Lakes can currently handle, which in turn causes flooding. The Sewer District is working to modernize the Shaker Lakes to handle this increased stormwater. For example, the new Green Lake dam, which was completed earlier this summer, was able to handle the Labor Day storm, whereas this Horseshoe Lake Dam, even with the lake being drained, filled and overtopped its banks. The goal of upgrading the dam at Horseshoe Lake is so that it, too, can handle these extreme weather events, while also continuing to be a beautiful place where our residents can enjoy the outdoors.

MAYOR WEISS: Thank you, Nancy.

I know I speak for all of us and Council when I say that we are grateful to the Sewer District and the Department of Natural Resources for their assistance to develop an effective, long-term solution for our Shaker Lakes. Finally, let me end with a quick update about the Lower Lake dam. This summer, we learned that the dam's spillway requires some additional work. This work is tentatively scheduled for the fall and will require us to temporarily lower the water level in Lower Lake. Rest assured that experts have told us that the native species in the Lakes will not be harmed by this process. So, I hope you have time to get out and enjoy the beauty of our parks and lakes this fall. Thank you and be well.