

PLUMSTEAD



TOWNSHIP

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September 8, 2021

Statement on infrastructure and recovery in Plumstead Township Storm "Ida" remnant rainfall

This unprecedented storm struck the area on the evening of September 1, 2021.

Various sources report rainfall totals ranging from 7.75 inches in the western portion of the township to 8.21 inches in Point Pleasant. Recordings indicate 1.9 inches in the 5 o'clock hour, a peak rainfall of 2.66 inches in 1 hour around 6:30pm and over 2 inches in the 7 o'clock hour.

Emergency service personnel, volunteers, police officers and public works employees worked during the height of the storm to aid in the protection of life and property. Crews worked into Thursday morning, September 2nd to clear debris on roads and place hazard warnings at damaged areas of roadways.

The remainder of Thursday and Friday, September 2 and 3, crews worked as follows:

- clear debris and sweep roads to make them safely passable
- clear and remove debris that blocked storm pipes and drainage structures to prepare for further rainfall
- set road closed signs, reflective traffic cones and flashing barricades to identify hazards along roads
- begin inspection of bridge decks, abutments, and underpinning
- checked all development stormwater retention/detention basins for function and damage
- performed a physical inspection of the stream/runoff channels and township stormwater structures that are located in township open space, or are the responsibility of the township
- check all public park facilities, sports fields and play equipment

Moving forward, Public Works will continue to focus on safety along the township roads. We will continue to remove debris clogging drainage structures to assure functionality during future rain events and make repairs to pavement (driven portion) damaged sustained by the storm.

We are in the process of working in-house and with our township engineer to evaluate stream channels within township owned open space. We still have some areas to be fully inspected but realize after a field inspection, that the areas in the Summer Meadow development were especially hard hit. This will be a significant undertaking as we evaluate the need for the proper permits through state agencies and evaluate how best to approach the issues at hand and begin to make repairs. We will be making practical evaluations in the next 1-2 weeks to assure stream flow functionality under normal rain event circumstances. This will not be a quick fix. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

We currently have thirty (30) township roads that have varying degrees of damage.

Several roads have erosion washouts over six feet deep along the driving edge of the road. Some of these are several hundred feet in length.

We have at least five (5) roads where the force of the water lifted and buckled the asphalt roadway.

We have one stormwater facility that has significant damage.

Owls Nest Park has significant walking path washouts and will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

We experienced moderate washout of the baseball infield at Hanusey Park.

As we consider this event, we again appreciate your patience as we prioritize and process through after storm management and repairs. We will focus on public safety – life and property.