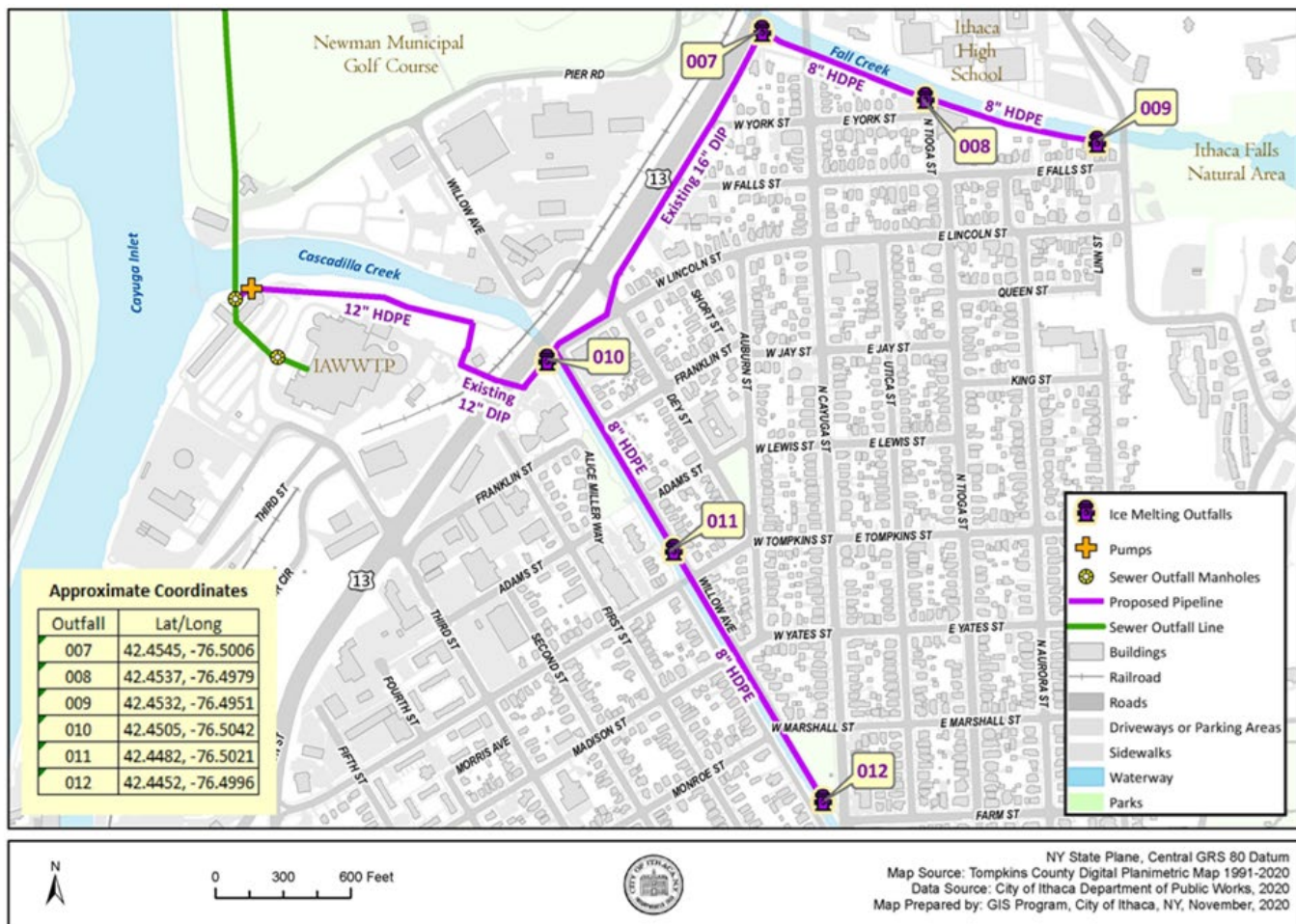


Ice Jam Emergency Outfalls Fact Sheet

- **Project:** Ice Jam Emergency Outfalls
- **Applicant:** City of Ithaca, Department of Public Works
- **Facility:** Ithaca Area Waste Water Treatment Facility, 525 Third Street, Ithaca NY 14850
- **NYSDEC Application Number:** 7-5007-00012/00001
- **A Public Participation Plan (PPP) has been developed in accordance with NYSDEC Commissioner Policy 29, Environmental Justice and Permitting (CP-29)**

What is the Proposed Project?

The Proposed Project will construct underground piping to carry treated effluent from the Ithaca Area Waste Water Treatment Facility (IAWWTF) to Cascadilla and Fall Creeks to melt ice jams when they occur. To implement the proposed project, the City of Ithaca Department of Public Works has submitted an application for a SPDES permit to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to authorize emergency treated effluent outfalls along Cascadilla and Fall Creeks for the sole purpose of melting ice to mitigate flood risk from ice jams. The purpose of this fact sheet is to inform the public about the proposed project and to involve the community during the NYSDEC permit application review process.



Why does the City of Ithaca Department of Public Works need to construct the new outfalls?

Every few years on average, the City experiences ice jam related problems on Cascadilla and Fall Creeks. These problems include localized surface flooding in the areas adjacent to Cascadilla Creek, and high groundwater tables (which cause flooded basements) in the areas adjacent to both creeks. Over the past 10 years, the Department of Public Works (DPW) has received emergency authorization from the NYSDEC to apply relatively warm, treated wastewater effluent to parts of Cascadilla Creek to melt ice buildup which causes flooding from ice jams. This is a highly effective way of addressing this recurring problem.

The permanent underground piping system and permitted outfalls will allow DPW to respond quickly when ice jams begin to form. It will also allow the effluent to reach areas of the creeks that are currently inaccessible or difficult to deploy ice melting hoses. Finally, it will allow DPW to apply only the amount of treated effluent needed to melt the ice jams—currently, DPW pumps more than is needed in order to keep temporary hoses from freezing.

How might the project affect the surrounding community?

This project will have positive impacts on the surrounding community by reducing and/or eliminating flood risks from ice jams. DPW will be able to respond faster and more effectively to areas experiencing flooding either from creek overflows or flooded basements caused by high groundwater levels from high creek levels associated with ice jams.

Construction will consist of the installation of underground piping and fixtures associated with the system. The emergency outfalls will be fire hydrants painted in a way to avoid confusion with fire hydrants used by the Ithaca Fire Department. Construction work will be performed by DPW crews as time allows, and will be coordinated with other upcoming flood mitigation projects along the creeks. From time to time, there may be temporary noise, dust, and construction detours which are typical of this type of work, and that DPW performs on an almost daily basis throughout the City.

An engineering report was prepared and reviewed by the NYSDEC to evaluate potential impacts on wildlife and water quality. The report shows that there will be no impact to these resources, especially considering that the use of these emergency outfalls will be for short periods of time (1-2 days) and only during ice jam conditions (every 2 or 3 years). Treated effluent will be chlorinated for a minimum of 15 minutes to kill bacteria, and then dechlorinated just prior to discharge into the creeks.

How can I participate in the permit review process?

- Attend the upcoming public meeting scheduled for December 11, 2023 at 5 pm in the 3rd floor of City Hall to learn about the project, ask questions and/or express concerns about the project.
- Ask questions, express concerns, provide input or submit by comments in writing, by email to the project contact person identified below.

Where can I get more information about the proposed project?

- Visit the online document repository at the City of Ithaca website: <https://www.cityofithaca.org/768/Ice-Jam-Emergency-Outfall-Information> to obtain relevant documents, and information about the project.

- Contact Michael Thorne, Superintendent of Public Works by phone at: 607-274-6527, or by email at: mthorne@cityofithaca.org for information on the project, instructions on how to attend the public meeting, or to find out about the status of the permit application and public comment period.

Who is responsible for reviewing the Permit Application?

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