STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
FINANCE DIVISION

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

April 8, 2026

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
City of Harper Woods, Wayne County
Sanitary Sewer Improvements
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project Number 5968-01

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of a wastewater project planning document submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 53, Clean Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5301 to 324.5316 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires EGLE to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed wastewater project. EGLE has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project planning document containing information on environmental impacts was prepared by the municipality and reviewed by the State. EGLE has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

WHY IS AN EIS NOT REQUIRED?

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project planning document or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at Michigan.gov/SRF under “Environmental Project Reviews.” The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to EGLE-WIFFS@Michigan.gov or to me at EGLE, FD, Stabenow Building, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957. We will not take any action on this project planning document for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider all comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by EGLE should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Peterson, the project manager, at 517-438-3774; PetersonS12@Michigan.gov; or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dan Beauchamp

Dan Beauchamp, Section Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
517-388-3380

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
Clean Water State Revolving Fund
City of Harper Woods, Wayne County
Environmental Assessment
April 2026

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant:	City of Harper Woods, Wayne County
Address:	19617 Harper Avenue Harper Woods, Michigan 48225
Authorized Representative:	John Szymanski, Acting City Manager
Project Number:	5968-01

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City of Harper Woods (Harper Woods) is a northeastern suburb of the City of Detroit, located within Wayne County. Harper Woods encompasses approximately 2.6 square miles and estimated a residential population of 15,272 in July 2025, according to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Harper Woods' population is expected to increase slightly to 15,803 by 2050; therefore, wastewater system demand is not anticipated to change significantly in the next 20 years.

Harper Woods is seeking a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) low interest loan, administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), for sewer collection system replacement and rehabilitation. This project will replace approximately 450 linear feet and rehabilitate approximately 7,000 linear feet of structurally deficient sewer mains. Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2026 and end in April 2028. Figure 1 outlines Harper Woods' sewer system and Figure 2 identifies the specific locations where sewer replacement and rehabilitation will occur.

The project was allocated up to $5,200,000 with 18 percent as loan principal forgiveness, since Harper Woods' sewer system qualifies as significantly overburdened based on EGLE criteria. However, the total estimated project cost has recently been reduced to approximately $3,100,000, which would result in a loan principal forgiveness amount of $558,000. User costs for the average household are currently $301.00 per year ($25.08 per month) and are anticipated to increase by $25.29 per year ($2.11 per month) to service the CWSRF loan debt.

PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Existing System and Project Need

Harper Woods owns and maintains a separated sewer collection system. The system consists of approximately 44 miles of sanitary sewers, 842 manholes, and three pump stations. The sanitary sewers range in size from 8-inches to 36-inches in diameter and vary in materials from vitrified clay pipes (VCP) to reinforced concrete pipes (RCP). The system conveys sewage to the Great Lakes Water Authority Conner Creek Treatment Facility. Most of the collection system was constructed between the late 1920s and 1950s during periods of significant residential and commercial development.

Over the past several years, Harper Woods has implemented an ongoing Sewer Cleaning and Television Investigation Program to assess its sanitary sewer collection system using the National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO) Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP). The goal of these assessments was to identify structural deficiencies and develop a plan to improve overall system reliability. As structural conditions deteriorated, Harper Woods completed emergency repairs on the collection system in recent years. Many sewer segments received a NASSCO PACP structural rating of 4 (significant defect) or 5 (most significant defect), indicating imminent failure and posing risks to public health and the environment.

B. Projects Alternatives

The following alternatives were evaluated.

No Action

Taking no action is not a feasible alternative for Harper Woods' sewer system. Not correcting the structural deficiencies will lead to further deterioration of the system, likely resulting in collapsed sewer pipes. Such failures can cause widespread loss of sewer service across large portions of the service area and increase the risk of sewer backups, including basement flooding. In addition, collapsed sewers may result in untreated sewage infiltrating groundwater, posing significant environmental health risks. Therefore, this alternative was not considered further.

Regionalization

Regionalization is not a feasible alternative for Harper Woods' sewer collection system, as the identified issues are confined to the local service area. Further regionalization would not address the system's reliability issues. Therefore, this alternative was not considered further.

Optimum Performance of Existing System

Harper Woods' Sewer Cleaning and Television Investigation Program optimized the performance of the sewer collection system by removing debris, roots, and blockages. However, this did not address underlying structural deficiencies, which will continue to deteriorate over time. Therefore, this alternative was not considered further.

Sewer Replacement

Replacement of the existing sewer system would require open-cut excavation to remove structurally deficient mains and install new infrastructure. The structural deficient sewer mains would be replaced with Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Truss Pipe or Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP). All sanitary service laterals would be reconnected to the newly installed sewer system. However, open-cut excavation typically requires longer construction periods and significant surface restoration, substantially increasing construction costs.

Although this alternative is feasible, it was only considered further for isolated sewer segments where open-cut excavation is necessary to repair critical defects before rehabilitation, or where rehabilitation would not sufficiently correct the defects but could be addressed through open-cut excavation alone. These localized defects include severe deformities, such as offset joints and partial collapses. In some cases, these conditions can be completely repaired using open-cut excavation, eliminating the need

for additional rehabilitation. In other cases, open-cut excavation is required to restore structural integrity and ensure the internal pipe is suitable for proper cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) installation, allowing the remaining structural defects to be rehabilitated and resulting in a smooth and continuous finished liner. However, this alternative was not selected for the full project as it was not the most economical alternative that would address the system's existing structural deficiencies.

Sewer Rehabilitation

Rehabilitating the existing sewer system would consist of installing CIPP liners, either full-length (FCIPP) or sectional (SCIPP), within structurally deficient sewer mains. This trenchless method involves inserting a resin-saturated liner into the existing sewer through a manhole, inflating it, and curing it using hot water or steam. Once hardened, the liner creates a smooth interior surface, restoring the sewer to near-new condition. Prior to lining, sewers are cleaned and televised to record service lateral locations. Once lined, service laterals are reinstated internally using a robotic cutter and inspected via televising to confirm proper installation. CIPP rehabilitation eliminates the need for open-cut excavation and subsequent restoration, reducing costs. As sewer rehabilitation was the most economical alternative that would address most of the structural deficiencies identified in Harper Woods' sewer system, this alternative was selected.

C. Selected Alternative

Sewer rehabilitation, and replacement, where needed, were chosen as the selected alternatives as they were the most feasible and cost-effective. The selected alternatives will improve the reliability of Harper Woods' sewer system through FCIPP and SCIPP lining of approximately 7,000 linear feet of sewer main, which includes approximately 100 linear feet that will be rehabilitated to address remaining defects after localized replacement restores structural integrity. An additional approximately 350 linear feet of sewer main will be replaced only. The CIPP lining installation is trenchless and should not require open-cut excavation. This method will result in minimized costs, as well as reduced environmental and traffic impacts.

RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

A. Water Quality Impacts

Project construction will be limited to previously disturbed areas where Harper Woods' sewer system already exists. Therefore, no wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, or rivers within Harper Woods will be adversely impacted by the project. The proposed project does not involve construction which is anticipated to impact ground water.

B. Construction Impacts

The proposed project will primarily use trenchless installation methods to line structurally deficient sewers. This alternative was selected to minimize disruption to the public and environment. The sewer replacement and rehabilitation are expected to cause typical short-term impacts such as noise, dust, construction traffic, brief service interruption, and temporary road and driveway closures. To minimize these impacts, special consideration will be given to establishing haul routes, implementing traffic control measures, and maintaining a safe, clean work site. Construction activities will primarily occur within public rights-of-way and the existing sewer system. Since no sensitive areas are present within the proposed project area, environmental impacts will be limited to short-term effects associated with construction and general inconvenience to the public.

In preparation for construction, the sewer mains will be thoroughly cleaned. The sewage resulting from these cleaning operations will be collected by a vactor truck, which will discharge the liquid portion into the next downstream manhole within the sewer system. The remaining solid material, commonly referred to as sludge, will be transported to a licensed landfill facility for proper disposal.

Approximately one to two weeks before construction begins, affected residents will receive a general project notice, with additional notice provided 48 hours prior to sewer construction activities. Furthermore, all properties requiring open-cut excavation will receive a minimum of two weeks' advance notification, as additional time may be required at backyard sewer repair sites to move items out of the utility easement and prevent construction conflicts. During lining, sewer service may be interrupted for two to six hours, depending on pipe diameter. Service interruptions are not expected during lining preparation activities or open-cut excavation. Open-cut excavation is expected to be completed within one day. Excavation areas may occur in front yards, backyards, or the road rights-of-way. All fencing and vegetation disturbed by construction will be replaced in kind.

C. Endangered Species and Historical Preservation

The proposed project is not expected to negatively impact sensitive natural features, wildlife, or ecosystems because project construction is limited to previously disturbed areas where the sanitary sewer system exists. Nevertheless, conservation measures for the federally endangered Indiana bat and federally threatened Eastern massasauga rattlesnake will be utilized throughout project construction to mitigate any potential impacts. While tree removals are not anticipated, tree trimming and cutting will not occur during the Indiana bat roosting season, between April 1 and October 14, and erosion control measures will be wildlife safe.

Adverse impacts to cultural and historical resources are also not anticipated, as project construction will occur in the existing sewer system within public rights-of-ways that have already been developed. Harper Woods has no properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

D. Secondary Impacts

No significant adverse secondary impacts are anticipated for this project. The project will repair and rehabilitate structural defects in Harper Wood's sewer system without expanding the service area or increasing system capacity.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The proposed project planning document and public meeting were advertised on December 19, 2024, at Harper Woods' City Hall and in a local newspaper, *Grosse Pointe News*. A public meeting was held on January 22, 2025. Following the public comment period, a formal resolution adopting the project planning document was passed on January 22, 2025.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project is expected to have a positive impact on Harper Woods because it will improve the reliability of the sanitary sewer system for residents and businesses. No adverse impacts are expected to result from the project. Therefore, a finding of no significant impact has been made.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Sarah Peterson, Project Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957
Telephone: 517-438-3774
Email: PetersonS12@Michigan.gov

Figure 1: Harper Woods' Sewer Collection System

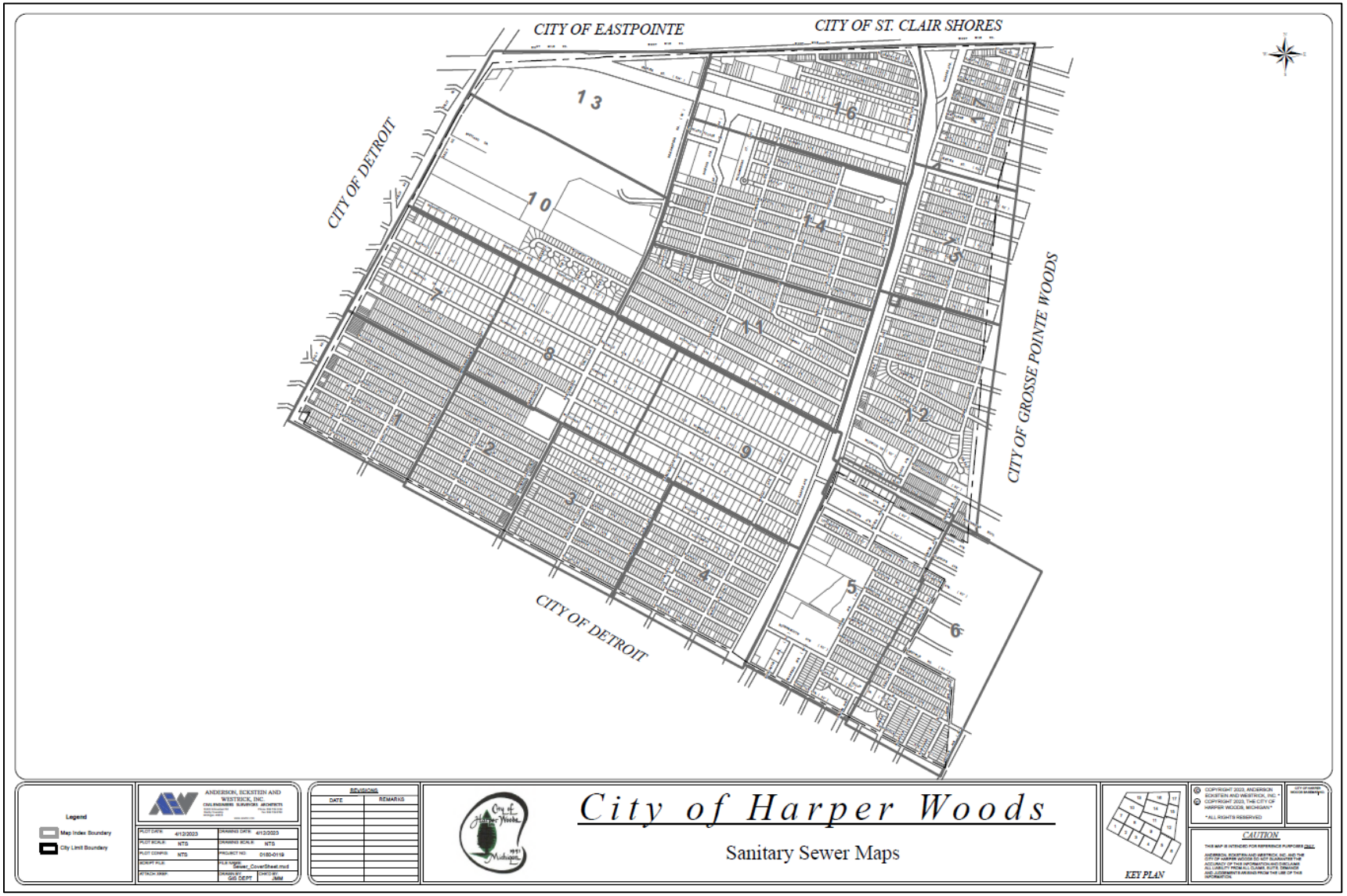
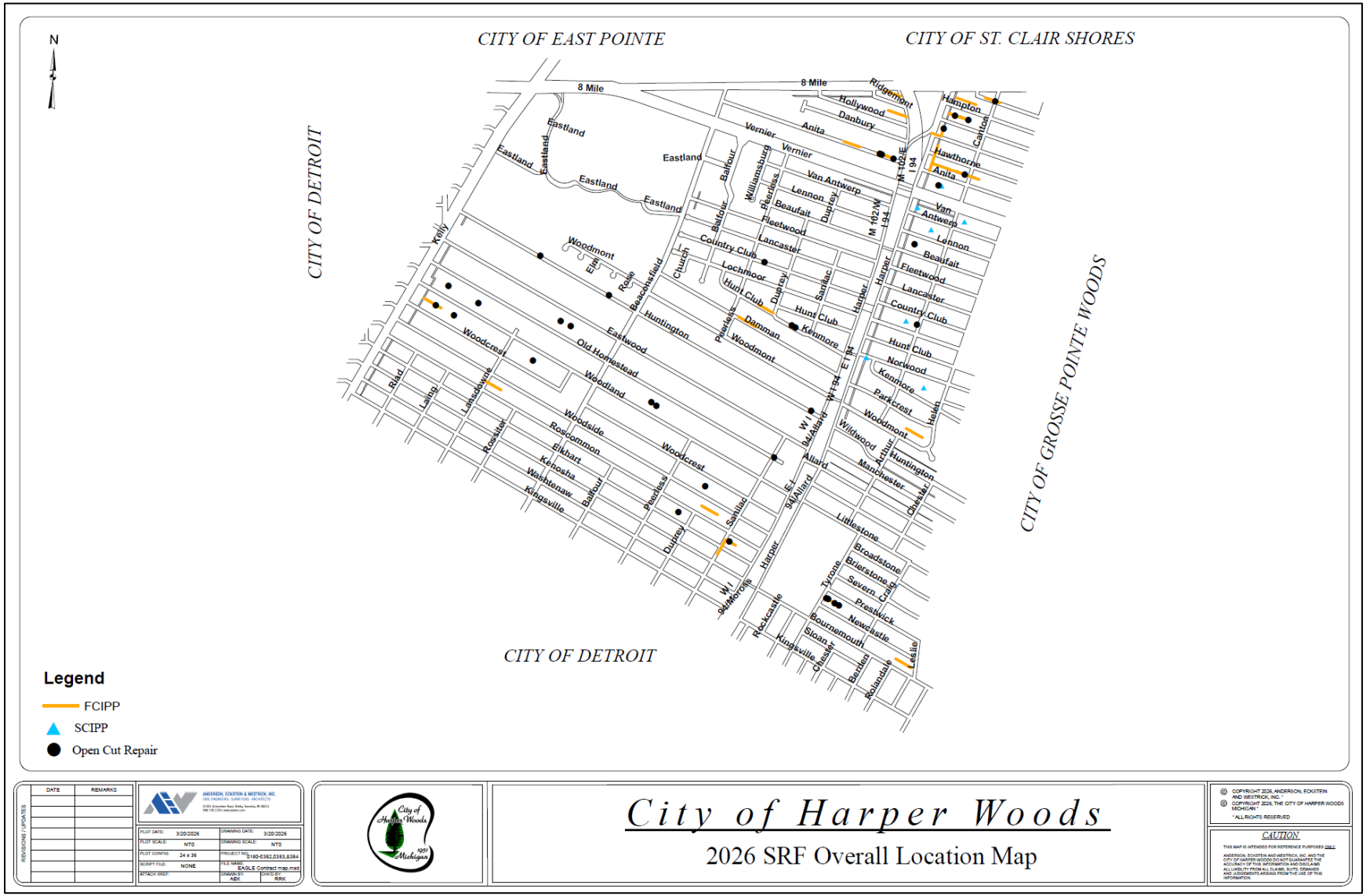


Figure 2: Sanitary Sewer Replacement and Rehabilitation Specific Project Locations



City of Harper Woods

2026 SRF Overall Location Map