

November 19, 2025

Sanitary Sewer Odor Concerns Within Friendly Hills Neighborhood

The City of Mendota Heights staff are continuing to investigate and address ongoing sanitary sewer odor concerns in the Decorah Lane and Apache Street area. City staff are currently reviewing alternative options to remove a two-foot vertical drop within a manhole on Decorah Lane that may be contributing to excessive odors in the system.

As part of the recent roadway and utility reconstruction project, the sanitary sewer main was replaced to address deteriorating and failing pipe segments. The replacement work was intended to improve system performance, reduce inflow and infiltration, and help mitigate sewer odors in the neighborhood.

At the same time, staff will be collecting additional odor samples from various manholes along Apache Street to compare with samples taken prior to construction. This testing will help determine the effectiveness of previous improvements and identify any changes in odor concentrations.

Following sample collection and analysis, City staff are planning to move forward with the design and installation of an odor control unit to be located within the green space just east of the Apache Street cul-de-sac. This process will take some time as it involves data review, system design, and formal City Council consideration. If approved by the City Council, the goal would be to complete installation of the odor control system during the summer of 2026.

Residents who notice sewer odors inside their homes can often reduce or eliminate them by ensuring plumbing traps are filled with water. Floor drains, basement shower drains, or unused fixtures can dry out over time, allowing sewer gas to enter the home. Pouring a few cups of water into these drains every few weeks—especially in little-used areas—can help maintain the water seal. Regularly flushing toilets and running water in sinks and tubs also helps prevent traps from drying out.

The City appreciates residents' patience and understanding as we work toward a long-term solution to this issue.

Sincerely,

City of Mendota Heights Public Works & Engineering Department