

Russ Paskoski's Report on the March 19, 2019 underdrains Clean-out. (3/29/2019)

I wanted to write my impressions of what I have seen and learned from Bill, and from seeing the drains cleared at various manholes.

I also want to try to put in simple terms what I have seen, for the board to hear. Perhaps you already know this so that is fine, I just know a lot of people are new to the board and may have some misunderstanding of the system. I know I had some perceptions that were wrong. (Bill and Clay please reply with any comments on my comments.)

First of all Bill Noland has been leading this for a long time and has done beyond volunteering amounts of work.

From locating the system points of access, to modifying drain hole covers for access, finding a very reasonable cleaning service, and on and on. This neighborhood and those people with issues with water owe him a lot.

The drains are basically three lines or fingers of a fairly soft perforated plastic pipe coming together at a point on E. Meadows drive and then going under the road thru a 10 solid pvc pipe to the drainage ditch that runs along the east side of the homes there. See attached drawing of the system. [Not attached]

When we did the cleaning, we started at the point where they come together and found that the flow was being blocked at the outfall pipe by something. In the morning the cleaning service pulled what I have in picture two out of the 10 in solid pvc pipe. The flow improved a bit but the water was still backed up I think about over 6 in above the pipes in the manhole cover. What was pulled out I took home to look at better. They were basically weed-like thin roots. The thickest piece I measured was a tenth of an inch wide. Think of if you repot a house plant, those kinds of roots.

As we moved up the system cleaning the weeds/roots became even finer and there was much less of them almost to the point of non-existent. They were only grass like strands, nothing like what was clogging the outfall pipe. The depth of the pipes gets deeper to compensate for the increase in elevation. (I guess).

For me I was extremely pleased because I had the perception of large tree roots breaking thru the system and people having to remove trees from their yards. This is not the case. Again think weeds.

The good thing about this is the water jet cleaning that Pro Pipe uses cleans these weeds/mini roots well. The cleaning does not use ninja like rotating cutting blades to slice thru roots. Remember soft plastic pipe.

It uses high pressure water to clear the pipe. Think a home pressure washer on a long hose. If you ever used one of these to clean a deck, siding, etc. that is about what we are talking about. I asked the operator what pressure he was running and he said about 1200psi. My home depot Robi pressure washer runs at 1700psi. I know what it can do and in no way would this tear thru even a half inch root.

This brings me to the next point if there were large roots in the system the cleaning head would not go thru them. Again this is good news.

The cleaning process does not come without some problems. I think it was a couple years ago the cleaning head became stuck on a joint in the pipes. Bill had them dig down to get at the point where it

was stuck .They created a new access point with manhole cover [MH#8A] on Willow Loop Bill coordinated all of this and they managed to do this in a day for a cost of about \$6000. (see picture number one)

As Bill said to me amazingly this happened at the edge off a property, near the road where there was no utilities. Had this happened under the road or where large trees are located, or utilities it could have been a disaster. Just mentioning this for information.

This brings me to the thing that I learned that I find most amazing. On the last picture you see the manhole cover where the three legs come together. This is after we came back to it and the end of the day and Propipe managed to clear the outfall pipe. It is running well and the level went down. The thing to note is the pipe on the upper left in the picture is one of the three legs of the system running down E. meadows Dr.

IT IS PLUGGED by a hard block (stones gravel etc.) 20 ft. from this junction point. It has been plugged for as long as Bill has been uncovering the system over 15 years. As I spoke to Bill about it the leg may have been plugged from when the system was installed!

So basically a third of the whole upper underdrain system is nonfunctioning! What does that tell us about the system? It was designed with three legs and only two are functioning. Was it so overbuilt it was not needed? How much is the system really doing? Should we try to unplug this leg? Just something to think about.

I hope this helps I was just trying to put things in simple terms so people can get a better idea of it all.

Russ Paskoski
4841 East Meadows Drive
SSSF Underdrain Committee Member.

No attachments were included in the forwarded copy I received.
Will add them to the Facebook page with the other ones after I find them.