

Fire Hydrant Painting by Non-Profit Organizations

Overview

Fire hydrants are a visibly present water asset in Detroit neighborhoods and business districts. Far too long many have gone without repainting. In 2015-16, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) focused on improving the hydrant tracking and maintenance through mobile technology in coordination with the Detroit Fire Department. With that new process effectively operating, DWSD in 2017-2018 is working toward repainting the hydrants across the city to have a refreshed look to this important emergency asset.

The Project Process

Non-profit organizations may register to have employees, members and volunteers paint fire hydrants to receive a one-time water bill credit. They may paint hydrants either in their neighborhood or an area designated by DWSD. The organizations register with DWSD, attend a workshop, schedule their start and end date, and organize painting volunteers and supplies.

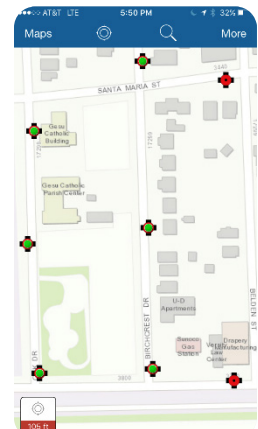
The registration, location and progress will be tracked by DWSD. The paint will be delivered by DWSD based on the agreed upon number of hydrants the organization will paint, provided to DWSD at least 10 days in advance. DWSD will provide National Fire Protection Association-certified paint colors for hydrants. Organizations will adhere to the red, yellow and red, or yellow painting requirements depending on the hydrant. The organizations will be responsible for the volunteers, brushes, paint buckets, gloves, cleaning rags, and the other necessary supplies. The participating organizations are responsible for the liability associated with their volunteer project, not DWSD.

The participating organization must report the completion of their project by December 15, 2017 for the 2017 calendar year, and by December 14, 2018 for the 2018 calendar year.



Verification

The participating organization will use the ARC GIS hydrant collector mobile app (see image) to indicate which hydrants have been painted in their designated area. There will be a dedicated login process for each organization. The organization will click the hydrant to show painting is complete. DWSD will use the data from the app, along with a drive-by sample spot check, to verify the hydrants were painted.



Bill Credit

DWSD will provide a credit on the organization's water bill based upon the number of hydrants painted. Organizations must register their project and get approval from DWSD before eligible for a credit. The credit is based on the cost for a DWSD employee to paint the hydrants. A field services employee, paid \$35,000 annually (with benefits), can paint three hydrants per hour. Therefore, it costs the department in salary and benefits \$16.83 to have three hydrants painted. Thus, it costs \$5.61 per hydrant. DWSD will provide a \$5.61 credit on the participating organization's water bill per verified hydrant painted. DWSD will verify, calculate the credit, submit to the billing team, and send an acknowledgement letter to the organization by email or postal mail. The participating organization will see the one-time credit on its bill within three months.