

Burwell Makes a Big Splash in Community Improvements



Burwell finished up another great project in 2019. They enlisted CNEDD's help in applying for \$250,000 in CDBG Public Works funds to replace and extend some existing storm sewer infrastructure in the northwest portion of the city that could no longer divert storm water efficiently from that area of town. Burwell was able to match that awarded amount with \$537,687. As the community

keeps growing through business, community, housing, and tourism development, some basic aspects of the city needed to be updated in order to keep up with the population and infrastructure growth. The storm sewer system in the northwest portion of the city was originally built in the 1960's. It consisted of 24" pipe that could only carry 9 cubic feet per second. The system was designed to accommodate a storm flow from a much smaller urban area than what exists now, and what will exist in the future.

This system had a major negative impact upon the community. Downtown Burwell, which is adjacent to that proposed project area, would become frequently inundated with damaging storm water flows, since the system could not keep up with even a moderate storm event, one inch or more. The system quickly became overwhelmed, causing damage to the buildings and facilities, as well as limiting access to the downtown areas when the streets would flood.

The project in mind was to replace and expand the existing storm sewer system. Instead of the 24" pipe, there would be a 36" pipe that would increase the capacity from 9 cubic feet per second to 26 cubic feet per second! The new system allows for the future growth of the City of Burwell in this area, including the construction of a new nursing home to provide a much-needed medical service for the community residents.



Replacing and expanding the existing storm sewer was a vital project in the City of Burwell. While it may not

have been the easiest of projects, it was integral for continued community growth. With the new system in place, there is no more flooding in the downtown area, which prevents a lot of damage, gives continual access to retail, medical, community, and church functions, and generally saves money for everyone involved. CNEDD was happy to be a part of such an important project.