



Dear Willernie Residents:

You may not know it, but the sewer lift station in our city at the northwest corner of Kimberly and Chatham has been there since the early 1960's, carrying away wastewater from a portion of houses in the city, including those in that area, and around Lake Washington. The lift station has seen many decades of use, and, in recent years, has begun approaching its end of life.

The lift station is aging, but it is also being heavily taxed, and, at times, damaged or temporarily broken, due to what some residents may be flushing down toilets in our city households.

Only body waste and toilet paper should be flushed. That may be counter to some information you have read, seen on commercials, or been told in the past, but it is the current reality, especially with our aging sewer infrastructure. Willernie is not alone in this situation, but we are looking toward the future, and reaching out to residents now, with a request and plea that **only body waste and toilet paper go down the toilet.**

Here are some items that **cannot be flushed**: “flushable” wipes, pads and tampons, grease and oil, rags, clothing, dental floss, cat litter, cotton balls, cotton swabs, Q-Tip's, facial tissues/Kleenex, paper towels, plastic items like plastic bags, and medicines.

Many items, including household hazardous waste, such as extra paint, weedkiller, and other chemicals, electronics, including batteries, can be dropped off at the Washington County Environmental Centers, located at 6065 Headwaters Parkway, Forest Lake, MN 55025: or 4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury, MN 55129.

Willernie is in the early stages of planning for replacement of the Kimberly/Chatham lift station, but we need to keep it working for now to avoid a total temporary stop to sewer services for at least a portion of residents and potentially significant environmental harm.

Lastly, if city plumbing and maintenance are able to pinpoint which house or households are flushing items causing the lift station to become clogged, malfunction or break, **monetary assessments for the cost of repairs and/or replacement may follow.**

For more information on this issue, visit the Met Council's “What Not to Flush” website: <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Wastewater/What-Not-To-Flush.aspx>

Please help us avoid the cost associated with unnecessary repairs to the lift station resulting from flushing what is not flushable. Contact City Hall or any of your city representatives with questions, or if you would like more information (**Willernie.org**).

Sincerely,
Mayor Baglio and Willernie City Council