

# SAVING OLD PIPES IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE OUR RATEPAYERS MONEY

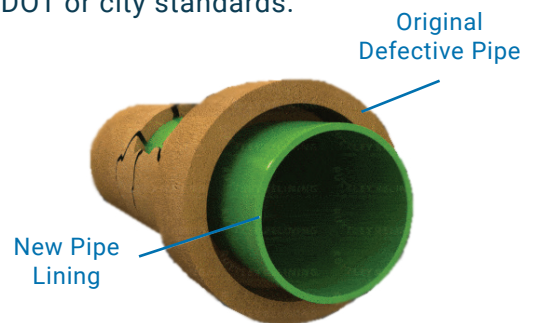


Did you know that the Greater Augusta Utility District (GAUD) has over 350 miles of water, wastewater and stormwater pipes? It's all underground and out of sight. But it's our job to keep it in mind—monitoring and maintaining the system every day.

## OUR PIPES ARE OUR MOST SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT AND WE TAKE THIS RESPONSIBILITY VERY SERIOUSLY.

Pipes have become more expensive to install over the years. Twenty years ago, the cost to replace a single foot of buried pipe was around \$100. Now it's \$250 to \$400 per foot—money that goes toward creating an approved traffic control plan, conducting necessary permits, excavating the old pipe, installing a new pipe, backfilling the trench and paving to MaineDOT or city standards.

Fortunately, we now have techniques that don't require excavation to repair or replace a pipe. One method we can use is called "relining." A wastewater or stormwater pipe is cleaned, a polymer 'sock' is inserted into the pipe and the sock is then inflated and a chemical is added to harden the inflated sock so it protects the old pipe. This method is fast, doesn't require excavation and costs only about \$50 per foot.



Relining helps reduce maintenance costs by making the pipe smoother, which improves flow—important when you consider why the pipes are there in the first place. It also smooths the joints where two pipes are connected. Those joints can fail over time with tree roots and groundwater getting into the pipe. Treating water that doesn't need to be treated doesn't make sense and it's understandably expensive to cut tree roots out each year. Relining prevents both.

We will be investing around \$600,000 this year alone in relining wastewater pipes.

GAUD is proud to provide clean drinking water to our communities, serve as good stewards of our local environment and act as exceptional managers of our financial resources. Since most of what we manage every day is not directly in the public eye, we thought you'd like to know.

Do you have follow-up questions? Our General Manager, Brian Tarbuck, would be happy to answer them at (207) 622-3701 or [BTarbuck@GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org](mailto:BTarbuck@GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org).



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