

**April 20, 2026 | Update:** *About the planned maintenance at Lower Lake Dam*

The Sewer District has contracted with Nerone and Sons to perform routine maintenance work at Lower Shaker Lake Dam, in coordination with the Cities of Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights, anticipated the week of April 27, 2026. Nerone will install riprap (limestone rock) on the upstream face of the earthen dam, replacing rock previously installed in 2019, to address deficiencies identified by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Water Resources – Dam Safety Program inspections.

Over time, much of the riprap installed in 2019 to provide erosion protection to the earthen dam embankment has been displaced. The current work will place riprap within the limits of the previous project for the purpose of erosion protection.



Post-Construction 2020



2025

*The upstream face of the Lower Shaker Lake Dam, as seen post-construction in 2020 compared to 2025 conditions.*

**Maintenance of the Dam: Increased Protection**

The Sewer District is performing this work under the Regional Stormwater Management Program to provide routine inspection and preventative maintenance. Lower Lake is a human-made impoundment of Doan Brook. Under the Regional Stormwater Management Program, the Sewer District is responsible for maintenance along streams, pipes and culverts that drain more than 300 acres of land. This is referred to as the Regional Stormwater System and includes Doan Brook. (For more information on our watershed management work, visit the [Regional Stormwater Management Program section](#) of our website.) This maintenance work of the Lower Lake dam will help prevent erosion of the earthen dam and thereby reduce the risk of an uncontrolled breach.

In 2019, the Sewer District installed both Type C limestone and river rock along this section, which averages 12 inches in size. However, to increase protection of the dam, and to reduce future displacement of the installed rock materials, a larger stone size, known as Type B riprap will be installed.

The scope of the planned work is as follows:

- **At the toe of the dam** (previously Type C riprap limestone):  
Installation of Type B riprap limestone with an average size of approximately 18 inches.
- **Above the toe of the dam** (previously river stone):  
Installation of Type C riprap limestone with an average size of approximately 12 inches.
- **In-fill material:**  
Use of crushed gravel as an in-fill material.

### **Public Safety is Important**

ODNR has determined this dam is non-compliant with Ohio's dam safety standards. This work is being coordinated with the Cities of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights to help prevent erosion of the earthen dam and thereby reduce the risk of an uncontrolled breach. An uncontrolled breach would threaten infrastructure and potentially cause loss of life.

### **Permitting Information**

Proper maintenance is a condition of the Sewer District's existing Nationwide Permit #3. The Sewer District is performing routine maintenance activities on previously installed riprap in compliance with the 2018 USACE permit issued to the Sewer District. There are no adverse effects to historic resources or endangered species habitat from this specific preventive maintenance work.

This maintenance work is not related to the Sewer District's recommendations to the Cities of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights to address overall ODNR non-compliance by removing the Lower Lake dam and restoring Doan Brook.

### **Timeline**

The need to perform maintenance on the previously installed riprap was identified as a result of a Sewer District inspection in June 2025 with concurrence from ODNR. We planned and coordinated with the Cities during the summer and fall of 2025. While not an emergency repair or emergency maintenance, this work should be completed as soon as practicable to help prevent further erosion of the earthen dam. **The Sewer District's contractor, Nerone and Sons, is anticipated to mobilize the week of April 27, 2026.**

### Photos of rock to be used along embankment



Type B limestone - average size of ~18 inches – along toe of embankment



Type C limestone - average size of ~12 inches – along slope of embankment



Crushed gravel - average size of ~3-6 inches –in-fill for the Type C limestone along slope of the embankment