

City of Oshkosh Water Filtration Plant Clearwells Replacement Project

What is the Clearwells Replacement Project?

The Clearwells Replacement Project is the construction of two new 1-million gallon reservoirs to store drinking water and two new 16 million gallon per day pump stations at the Water Filtration Plant.

Why do we need the Clearwells Replacement Project?

The clearwells are buried tanks used to store treated drinking water prior to supply to customers. The clearwells are over 100 years old and do not meet today's safe drinking water regulations. Current standards prohibit storage and associated buried gravity piping and pump stations located in direct contact with groundwater.

The Clearwells Replacement Project is needed to replace the clearwells with new storage reservoirs that comply with current regulations. A new pump station is needed to fill the reservoirs and second new pump station is needed to pump water to customers and fill distribution system water towers.

Can we fix, rather than replace, the clearwells?

To bring the existing clearwells, associated buried piping and pump stations up to code requires construction of secondary containment systems that prevent groundwater from coming into direct contact with the structures and piping that contain drinking water. Technical evaluation of secondary containment system alternatives revealed these would be less reliable and less protective of public health than constructing new reservoirs and pump stations.

Why is the project important to me, my family and my neighbors?

As the City of Oshkosh water supply, treatment, storage and distribution system ages, the Water Utility must replace old facilities to continue to reliably produce and deliver safe drinking water to homes, business, and institutions throughout City.

The project will provide Oshkosh water customers with safe drinking water storage and conveyance systems that are efficient to operate.

When will construction start and when will it end?

Construction is scheduled to begin early 2018 and should be completed by late 2020.

How will traffic be affected during construction?

To protect public safety and provide space to construct the new reservoirs, Lake Shore Drive will be closed during construction (2018 – 2020).

Construction vehicles are required to use City-authorized Truck Haul Routes or face fines.

Construction traffic will access the Water Filtration Plant site from Merritt Avenue. If Merritt Avenue is closed, construction traffic will access the site from Washington Avenue.

How much will the Clearwells Replacement Project Cost?

The estimated total project cost is \$20 million, with \$17.4 million construction cost and \$2.7 million for engineering, permitting, construction management, inspection, and administration.

Will water rates increase?

Yes, the cost of the project is included in a proposed plan to incrementally increase water rates. The rate case design is currently in its final stages of preparation.