

CITY OF OSHKOSH CLEARWELLS REPLACEMENT PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Clearwells Replacement Project?

The Clearwells Replacement Project (Project) involves the construction of two new 1-million-gallon capacity reservoirs to store drinking water, two new 13.7 million gallons per day pump stations, installation of replacement emergency electrical generators and replacement of ozone equipment used for primary disinfection at the City of Oshkosh Water Filtration Plant.

Why do we need the Clearwells Replacement Project?

The Water Filtration Plant Clearwells are buried tanks used to store drinking water that is supplied to customers. The Clearwells are over 100 years old and do not meet today's safe drinking water regulations that prohibit drinking water storage tanks and associated buried gravity piping and pump stations to be located where it can be impacted by groundwater or in the 100-year flood plain. The Project is needed to replace the Clearwells with new at-grade storage Reservoirs that comply with State requirements. A new Intermediate Pump Station is needed to fill the Reservoirs and a replacement High Lift Pump Station is needed to pump water to customers and fill distribution system water towers.

The Water Filtration Plant includes emergency generators used to provide backup power to the facility and an ozone system used to disinfect drinking water. These assets have reliability and obsolescence issues due to changes in technologies and are prioritized for replacement in the Water Utility Asset Management Plan. Their scheduled replacement in the City Capital Improvement Program coincides with the current Clearwells Replacement Project schedule. To minimize potential construction phase conflicts, disruptions to Water Filtration Plant operations, and administrative costs, all improvements will be implemented in a single construction contract.

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 or flood water from coming into direct contact with drinking water. Technical evaluation of secondary containment system alternatives revealed these would be more costly to construct, more challenging to maintain, and less protective of public health than constructing new at-grade 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 infrastructure to continue to reliably produce and deliver safe drinking water to homes, businesses, and institutions throughout the City. Replacement infrastructure is designed and operated to meet current codes, regulations, and drinking water industry best practices.

When will construction start and when will it end?

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2022 and should be completed in 2024.

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; however, public access to Lake Winnebago from Merritt Avenue will be maintained.

Construction vehicles are required to use City-authorized Truck Haul Routes or face financial penalties. 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 \$34.4 million, with \$29.8 million construction cost and \$4.6 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.