



News and Updates from
Des Moines Water Works

**MARCH
2023**

H2O LINE

THINK DOWNSTREAM

Des Moines Water Works invests in water system, plans for future growth

The Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees has adjusted customer rates for 2023 in order to establish a balanced budget that continues to invest in Des Moines Water Works' system and to ensure treatment plants have the capabilities to treat and provide safe drinking water to customers.

Starting with the April water bill, Des Moines customers can expect to see an increase of about \$1.09 per month for a household of two and about \$2.18 more per month for a household of four. The average Des Moines household of four uses 7,500 gallons of water in a month.

DMWW's annual operating budget is funded mostly (93 percent) by ratepayer dollars. That means when you pay your monthly water bill to DMWW (the water rate portion only), your rates pay for operating costs to ensure we can treat

source water to meet safety standards and regulations for drinking water; infrastructure such as water mains and pumps to keep water flowing through the system; and for expansion projects to ensure we have enough water to meet customer demands for a growing metro region.

"We take our commitment to protect public health seriously," CEO/General Manager Ted Corrigan says. "That means we must invest each year to treat degraded source water to make it safe for drinking and to meet all federal safe drinking water standards, while supporting economic growth in our region through investing in additional water sources and expansion of treatment capacity to meet customer demand."

The cost to treat raw source water and to maintain the three water treatment plants and numerous remote facilities that supply and distribute finished water to customers, as well as supply shortages

Your Water Rates at Work: A Look at the 2023 Budget



Des Moines Water Works worked with the U.S. Geological Survey in 2022 to evaluate how to collect raw water along the Des Moines River. This included test wells that were drilled and pumped, shown here, at our Saylorville Water Treatment Plant. The data gathered will help to aid in the design of the Saylorville Plant expansion. The cost of initial design work is included in the 2023 budget.

and higher logistics costs, have contributed to the need for a rate adjustment. For example, the chemicals

Continued on the next page.

**Des Moines
Water Works**
Water You Can Trust for Life

Did you know?

Your bill may also contain charges from your city or district such as solid waste, yard waste, sanitary sewer and storm sewer. DMWW only sets the water rate charges.





“Water” We Up To: Des Moines Water Works News In Brief



2022 was a record-breaking year:

Our reach continues to grow – 2022 was another record-breaking year for customer demand.

Des Moines Water Works pumped 19.595 billion gallons last year. What’s interesting to us is that customer demand is increasing in the months of January, February, March, October, November and December, which we believe could be related to a larger metropolitan population.

Here, one of our water production specialists, Colin, conducts testing in our Saylorville Treatment Plant.

DMWW receives Energy Star certification:

Environmental stewardship is a core value to us, and we’ve proved it once again. For the fourth straight year, the U.S. EPA has certified our General Office Facility with the Energy Star rating and recognized our commitment to energy savings.

Our facility received a 78 out of 100 ranking, meaning it is more energy efficient than 78 percent of similar buildings in the United States.

- This building uses 33 percent less energy per square foot than the median average
- We prevent 119 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year

This savings is equivalent to one year of:

- The carbon dioxide emissions from 15 homes’ electricity use
- The carbon sequestered by 141 acres of forest
- The emissions from 26 passenger vehicles

Continued from Page 1: 2023 Budget Highlights

used to treat source water to make it safe for drinking are projected to cost 55 percent more from 2022 into 2023.

In 2023, Des Moines Water Works’ budget includes \$9.5 million in Des Moines and another \$3.1 million in the area of Polk County that we service to replace water mains – the pipe that transports water throughout our system from our treatment plants to homes and businesses.

Fleur Drive Water Treatment Plant

In 2023, several projects are planned to update the equipment and processes at this plant. In addition to the work within the plant, DMWW will continue to investigate and pursue the initial design of shallow water collection wells along the Des Moines River that could supply an additional 25 million gallons of water a day to the Fleur Drive Plant.

This is in response to the need to find additional sources of water free from nitrate and other pollutants and to avoid the expense of running

Did you know?

Des Moines Water Works has approximately 1,500 miles of water main in our distribution system. You could drive across the state of Iowa seven times in that distance.

DMWW’s nitrate removal facility at the Fleur Drive Treatment Plant.

Saylorville Water Treatment Plant

DMWW provides 600,000 central Iowans with water – that number is growing and will continue into the future. That’s why we’re planning to start an expansion project at our Saylorville Water Treatment Plant. The budget includes initial design costs for expanding the Saylorville plant from its current production of 10 million gallons of water per day to 20 million gallons per day.

This expansion is necessary to meet customer demand for water in the metro area. This project will be paid for jointly with DMWW and its suburban partners.

Meet a DMWW Employee: Lindsey, Engineering Supervisor



Meet Lindsey: Lindsey has worked as an Engineering Supervisor since August 2022. She oversees project managers, professional staff and engineers in our Engineering Department. In addition, Lindsey is managing the expansion at the Saylorville Water Treatment Plant.

“We have a good mission, making clean water for 600,000 Iowans. If you believe that, it makes your job more exciting, and you know you’re making a difference,” she says.

