



News & Updates from
Des Moines Water Works
MARCH 2019

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2019 Capital Improvements

Water utilities are an infrastructure intensive industry. Des Moines Water Works maintains over 10,000 fire hydrants and approximately 1,400 miles of buried water mains which have 9,800 valves. Des Moines Water Works has over 80,000 water meters and automated reading devices serving our customers. Each of Des Moines Water Works' three water treatment plants and more than 50 remote sites (i.e. ground or elevated water storage facilities, pump and booster stations) have multiple mechanical, electrical, and controls systems that require a high degree of maintenance to ensure these systems work at peak efficiency to allow us to treat and distribute the highest quality water at the least possible cost.

The Board of Water Works Trustees has recognized the utility can most cost effectively maintain our infrastructure assets by generating the necessary capital through water rate revenue. This allows the utility to pay for the maintenance and replacements on a "pay as you go" basis. The 2019 utility budget included an upcoming rate increase (effective April 1) to allow an operating budget growth of 6.2%, and produce an estimated \$19.3 million for new capital improvement projects after existing debt service obligations are met.

Des Moines Water Works will be investing \$1.4 million in building and facility maintenance, \$1.9 million in new pumping and storage facilities, \$2.9 in equipment updates, \$3.5 million in treatment plant improvements, and \$9.6 million in water main replacement and distribution system improvements as the major areas of focus for 2019.

As the largest 2019 capital investment, water main replacement is a necessary, preventative approach that saves money on repairs, reduces the loss of water that occurs as a result of the main breaks, and minimizes disruption to customers. Des Moines Water Works prioritizes water main projects by: replacement of water mains that have a history of breaks; modeling the likelihood of future breaks; relocation to accommodate city, county, or state construction projects; and improvement of fire flow and meeting the needs of customers.

After each project is designed, Des Moines Water Works will receive bids from contractors and the construction contract will be awarded to the contractor that will be performing the work. If the bids received allow Des Moines Water Works to complete all the streets within budget, construction will take place in 2019.

Des Moines Water Works will contact customers directly in the neighborhoods throughout Des Moines and unincorporated Polk County that have been scheduled for water main replacement in 2019. Additional customer communications and public meetings will be forthcoming. Des Moines Water Works appreciates the cooperation and understanding from customers during construction and will work with contractors to minimize the inconvenience to customers impacted by the following projects:

Polk County Water Main Replacement – CONTRACT 1

- NE 3rd Street from NE 54th Avenue to NE 49th Place
- NE 5th Street from NE 51st Place to NE 54th Avenue

Polk County Water Main Replacement – CONTRACT 2

- NW 51st Place from NW 2nd Avenue to NW 6th Drive
- NW 49th Place from NW 2nd Avenue to NW 6th Drive

Des Moines Water Main Replacement – CONTRACT

- Park Avenue from SW 33rd Street to SW 37th Street
- 48th Street private main conversion to public main

City of Des Moines Road Reconstruction with Des Moines Water Main Replacement

- Fleur Drive Reconstruction from Bell Avenue to Watrous Phase 1-North Bound
- 2019 Roadway Reconstruction:
 - SE 5th Street from Park Avenue to E. Broad Street
 - South Union Street from E. Kirkwood Avenue to Park Avenue





Community Partnerships

Des Moines Water Works is committed to being a vital contributor to the betterment of our community. Each year, sponsorship applications are considered from community organizations that advance the utility's mission, vision and strategic initiatives. Since 2015, Des Moines Water Works has provided \$84,500 in cash sponsorships and \$30,000 in in-kind technical assistance to local organizations or academia with environmental studies, curriculum or events designed to build appreciation for the value of water or increase research and awareness for source water quality and quantity. In 2018, a few of those local organizations Des Moines Water Works sponsored include:

Our Water Our Land Video Series – With Des Moines Water Works' sponsorship, Drake University's Agricultural Law Center produced 30 educational videos that include timely, interesting, and honest information about a range of important social, political, and economic issues. Our Water Our Land video series brings a more educational, thought provoking, and balanced discussion on water quality and soil health. More information: www.aglawcenter.wp.drake.edu/our-water.

Polk County Beaver Creek Watershed Management Authority – As a large watershed feeding Des Moines Water Works' river source, Des Moines Water Works provided sponsorship dollars to Polk County in support of a Beaver Creek comprehensive watershed plan. Watershed Management Authorities and their planning and management within a watershed is integral to water quality improvement in Iowa.

Water Rocks! – An award-winning education program through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Water Rocks! helps students, teachers and parents learn the science of water quality through music. Des Moines Water Works provided sponsorship dollars in order to bring their exciting program into Des Moines Public Schools. More information: www.waterrocks.org.

In addition, you may have seen a Des Moines Water Works mobile water stations at a recent community event, festival or charity. Since 2012, Des Moines Water Works has provided free mobile water stations to more than 20 events each year, including the Downtown Farmers Market, Des Moines Arts Festival, 80/35 Music Festival, and Iowa State Fair Parade. These mobile water stations encourage visitors to bring their own reusable water bottles to events to stay hydrated and eliminate bottled beverage waste.

Des Moines Water Works thanks all its community partners working to provide important programs supporting safe and affordable drinking water.

Metro Meetings for Women Ag Landowners

Women make up more than half the US population, and own an increasing number of farms. Surveys show that women own or co-own nearly half the farmland in the Midwest; however, they are under-represented on the boards of policy-making bodies, and often encounter barriers when accessing information from agencies and institutions. Women, Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN) engages women in building an ecological and just food and agricultural system through individual and community power.

Have you inherited farmland or are you trying to manage farming alone or with children or siblings? Do you own more than 40 acres, with some in crops? If this describes you, WFAN is inviting women farmland owners who live in the Des Moines metro area to join an upcoming meeting where fellow female landowners and local conservation professionals will discuss important information that can help improve water quality, soil health, farm profitability, and positively impact all of Iowa's communities.

March 19

Noon-3:00 pm

Raccoon River Nature Lodge

2500 Grand Avenue, West Des Moines

March 20

8:30 am-noon

FFA Enrichment Center

1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny

Because of the unique discussion format, space is limited and registration is required. The meetings will allow for optional additional discussion time to follow. Register at: visit www.wfan.org/wcl-urban. Longer meetings and field tours are also available in Dallas County and Story City. More information can be found at www.wfan.org/iowa-spring.

Please share this information with other female landowner friends and relatives. For more information, contact carol@wfan.org or (641) 430-2540.

