

News & Updates from  
Des Moines Water Works  
**NOVEMBER 2019**

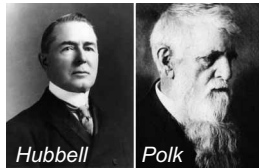
# H<sub>2</sub>O LINE

**THINK DOWNSTREAM**

## Celebrating 100 Years and Planning for the Next 100 Years

### Des Moines Water Company

In 1871, Frederick Hubbell and his law partner, Jefferson Polk, organized the Des Moines Water Company as a private business



Hubbell

Polk

### Infiltration Gallery

In 1884, construction of the original wooden Infiltration Gallery System began along the bank of the Raccoon River, the first of its kind in the U.S. The 3-mile long concrete ring Gallery System (improved in 1910) is still in use today and provides the utility's best quality source water.



**1919**

### Des Moines Water Works Formed

In 1919, Des Moines Water Works was formed as a public utility under a new section of Iowa Code. Under section 388, the water utility is operated by a Board of Trustees, who are appointed by the mayor and approved by the City Council. The first Board of Trustees Meeting was held October 13, 1919.

### Hazen Water Tower

In 1929, construction of the Allen Hazen Tower at 48th and Hickman began. The water tower holds two million gallons of water.



**1933**

### Water Works Park

In 1933, Des Moines Water Works Park opened to the public. Today, Water Works Park is 1,500 acres for recreation, education and conservation.



### Urbandale Becomes First Suburban Customer

In July 1934, the citizens of Urbandale voted and approved to connect to Des Moines Water Works. Their wells were going dry and water was being rationed.



### Maffitt Reservoir

In 1942, Des Moines Water Works purchased 650 acres of farmland southwest of Des Moines to build a reservoir (named after Dale Maffitt in 1955) to use during emergencies.

**1948**

### Raccoon River Intake, Lime Softening, Sand Filters

In 1948, construction of the Raccoon River intake began, as well as lime softening basins and sand filter building.



### Water Standpipes

In 1955, the Nollen Standpipe at 26th and Hull and the Wilchinski Standpipe at SE 9th and Pleasant View Drive were built. Land near Sears at Merle Hay Mall for a north standpipe was also purchased in 1955, but construction on the standpipe did not begin until 1959.

**1959**

### Water Fluoridation

In 1959, after decades of peer-reviewed studies, fluoridation begins, and is considered in the top ten public health achievements of the 20th century.

*continued on next page.*

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

**100** years  
1919-2019

# 2020 Budget and Water Rates

**D**es Moines Water Works staff has proposed Des Moines Water Works' 2020 calendar year budget, which includes revenue from 2020 rate increases for all service areas. The Board of Water Works Trustees will hold a public hearing for the proposed 2020 budget on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, at 3:30 p.m. at Des Moines Water Works' general office, located at 2201 George Flagg Parkway, in Des Moines.

The Board approved rate increases of 5 percent for retail customers and 10 percent for most wholesale customers at their October 29 meeting. The 5 percent water rate increase equates to an additional \$1.80 per month for water charges for a four-person household in Des Moines (using 7,500 gallons a month). The Board also approved a capital improvement fee starting at \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons for Des Moines customers, and this fee decreases for commercial and industrial customers with consumption exceeding 150,000 gallons per month. The capital improvement fee equates to an additional \$1.87 per month for a four-person household. Funds from the capital improvement fee will be used to replace aging water mains in the city of Des Moines. The rate increases will result in approximately \$3.5 million of increased water revenue for 2020. New water rates will go into effect April 1, 2020. A complete listing of Des Moines Water Works' 2020 water rate structure can be found here: [www.dmww.com/about-us/announcements](http://www.dmww.com/about-us/announcements).

The proposed 2020 budget includes \$72.7 million of operating revenue. The proposed 2020 operating expenses are budgeted at \$48.5 million, an increase of \$2.5 million from 2019, primarily due to increases in labor and benefits, lime residual disposal, and utilities. Capital infrastructure costs are budgeted at \$27.5 million. The 2020 capital budget includes \$9.8 million for water main replacement and \$8.9 million for improvements to water treatment plants and other facilities. In addition to operating and capital expenditures, \$4.3 million will be spent on debt repayment.

The 2020 water rate increases and annual budgets are consistent with greater investment in the water utility's infrastructure and the challenges of producing safe drinking water in a state where surface water pollution is severe.

## Celebrating 100 Years and Planning for the Next 100 Years

