

Celebrating 100 Years and Planning for the Next 100 Years

1919

933

Des Moines

Water You Can Trust for Lif

Des Moines Water Company

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



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.

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.



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.

Raccoon River Intake, Lime

Softening, Sand Filters

In 1948, construction of the

Raccoon River intake began,

and sand filter building.

as well as lime softening basins

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.

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.



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.

Water Fluoridation In 1959, after decades of peerreviewed studies, fluoridation begins, and is considered in the top ten public health achievements of the 20th century.

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2020 Budget and Water Rates

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.

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.

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New General Office In 1985, a new general office was built on Valley Drive (n.k.a. George Flagg Parkway)



Best City for Water

In April 2008, Forbes.com named Des Moines the Best City for Clean Drinking Water.

Saylorville Water Treatment Plant

In 2011, Des Moines Water Works completed construction of its third water treatment plant. The 10 million gallon

per day plant located in northern Polk County uses 2 radial collector wells along the Des Moines River and membrane technology to treat the water.

Nitrate Removal Facility In 1992, Des Moines Water

Works completes construction of the Nitrate Removal Facility, which cost \$4.1 million to

design and build. It is the largest nitrate removal facility in the U.S.



Nitrate Removal Record

In 2015, the Nitrate Removal

Facility operated for a record

New Water Treatment Plant at Maffitt Reservoir

In 2000, a 25 million gallon per day facility began operation, using 5 radial collector wells along the Raccoon River for its main water source, but also drawing water from Maffitt Reservoir. In 2007, the plant was renamed to the L.D. McMullen Water Treatment Plant

the water treatment

Flood of 1993

At 3:02 a.m. on July

Water Works shut



plant was inundated with flood water. The Raccoon River crested at the historic level of 26.75-ft (1.75-ft higher than the levee). Customers could use the water for sanitary use on day 12, and the water was safe to drink on day 19.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery

In 1999, a storage technique called Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells began, Employees (AFSCME where 300 million gallons of water are stored underground.

AFSCME Local 3861

In 1999, the first contract with American Federation of State County and Municipal Local 3861 was negotiated.

Central Iowa Region

As Central Iowa continues to grow, Des Moines Water Works has been working with wholesale water customers and other local water producers for several years to develop a regional framework to meet water needs for the next generation.



Water Pumpage Record On July 24, 2012, the record for daily pumpage was set: 96.64 million gallons.



177 days.



2019