

Water and Wastewater

Water System –

The City's water system is operated and maintained by the City's Department of Public Works (DPW) staff. State certified staff are responsible for the city's two 600 gallon per minute wells that are pumping ground water from over 170 feet deep to a 175 foot tall, 500,000 gallon storage tank (referred to as the Smiley Tower). The Smiley Tower supplies the city with quality water for drinking and water for firefighting.

High water usage in your home is usually due to a leak, most commonly a stuck or running toilet. Help conserve water and keep your water bills low by repairing leaks in a timely manner. For water shut offs or turn no's, or if you experience other problems with your water systems and your or your plumber require assistance, contact City Hall Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:30pm at 989-345-0500. Evenings or weekends contact DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey at 989-965-4982.

The water system is only supported by user fees which are based on usage and collected on a quarterly basis.

Wastewater Collection System –

The wastewater collection system (sanitary sewer system) is operated and maintained by the City's Department of Public Works (DPW) staff. This system is made up of an extensive network of underground pipes ranging in size from 4-18 inches in diameter, which convey your wastewater to the treatment plant. If you experience problems with your sewage systems and you or your plumber determine the problem is not with your piping, contact City Hall or DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey.

Footing drain or groundwater should not be pumping or conveyed to the wastewater collection system. Please contact DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey if you have questions about separating your clear water from the sanitary sewer.

Wastewater Treatment –

State certified city staff operates and maintains the \$30,000,000, West Branch Area Wastewater Treatment Facility, which treats wastewater 24 hours per day 7 days a week from portions of Ogemaw and West Branch Townships as well as most of the City's 1.5 square miles. The plant treats an average of 700,000 gallons of wastewater each day and discharges a high quality effluent to the Rifle River. Details about the Treatment Plant can be obtained by contacting City Hall or you are welcome to contact staff at the plant directly at 989-345-2182. They will be glad to explain and/or show you the treatment plant.

Between 2010 and 2012 the City, in cooperation with the two townships, invested over \$14,000,000 in to improvements to the collection and treatment facility. These improvements play a key role in our ability to preserve our surface water (creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes), the environment, and our overall quality of life.

The wastewater collection and treatment systems are supported only by user fees which are based on usage and collected on a quarterly basis.

DPW Superintendent – Mike Killackey 989-965-4982

WWTP Superintendent – Dan Robb 989-345-2182