

Minnetrista Messenger

The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character.

City Water & Water Supply

Cities provide significant core service delivery functions such as public safety (police & fire), public works (snow removal and road maintenance), and utilities (water and sewer systems). As many residents are aware, the city of Minnetrista has been studying options to improve drinking water quality.

Another emerging issue that is deserving of conversation is water sustainability. Beneath the surface of the Twin Cities region lays an underground system of aquifers which provide the regions water supply. According to Met

Council, regional water demand in 2003 totaled over 1.3 billion gallons per day. The region's forecasted population growth of nearly one million new residents between 2000 and 2030 will place considerable stress on the available water supply.

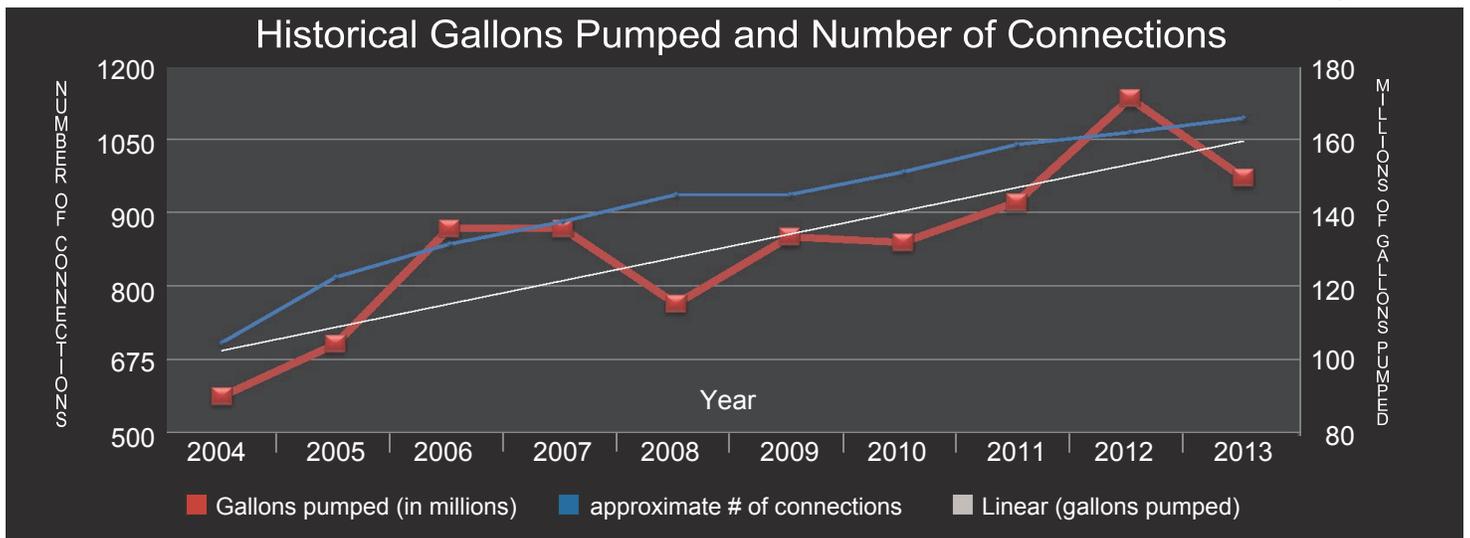
Water Sustainability

For Minnetrista, overall water usage has increased from 90 million gallons per year in 2004 to 150 million gallons per year in 2013 (see chart below); with a high of 171 million gallons in 2012. This usage will continue to grow as

Minnetrista's population is expected to increase from 6,700 in 2014 to 13,000 by 2040.

One area of concern, as it relates to sustainability, is lawn irrigation. In recent years, up to 60% of Minnetrista's water usage is a result of lawn irrigation and other non-household uses.

To ensure long term water availability, the city of Minnetrista will be exploring ways, both from education and policy perspectives, to change the way residents think about and use water resources in our daily lives.



NEW WATER RATES

Residential/Quarter

Base rate of \$22.50

\$2.90 per 1,000 gallons up to 25,000 gallons
\$3.63 per 1,000 gallons 25,001 to 50,000 gallons
\$4.64 per 1,000 gallons 50,001 and over

Commercial/Quarter

Base rate of \$22.50

\$3.08 per 1,000 gallons up to 80,000 gallons
\$3.59 per 1,000 gallons 80,001 to 150,000 gallons
\$5.04 per 1,000 gallons 150,001 and over

Schools/Quarter

Base rate of \$22.50

\$3.08 per 1,000 gallons up to 700,000 gallons
\$3.59 per 1,000 gallons 700,001 to 900,000 gallons
\$5.04 per 1,000 gallons 900,001 and over

Water Rates Adjusted

In December of 2013, the Minnetrista City Council approved an adjustment to the water utility rates including modification to the tiered rate structure. The purpose of using the tiered system is to promote water conservation. The city first implemented a tiered structure in 2010; however, those tiers were not effective in reducing water usage. The new 2014 water rate structure is as listed at the left.

The new rates are in effect for the January-March quarterly billing. Depending on the customer, the financial impact could be an increase of \$8 per year for a low user or, up to as much as \$130 per year for high water consumption users.

Conservation methods can have a significant impact on your water bill. Monitoring irrigation systems and following odd/even water restrictions are a couple simple ways to control your usage. The Minnesota Rural Water Association and the Metropolitan Council have additional ideas and suggestions on water conservation available on their websites.

- <http://www.mrwa.com/waterconservation.html>
- <http://www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Water-Conservation-Toolbox-Customers.aspx>

Water Treatment Update

The City continues its commitment to improve the water quality for customers connected to the public water system. Water treatment has been a subject of discussion at many City Council meetings in the last several months. The City Council has directed staff to solicit Request For Proposals (RFP) from engineering firms regarding four different treatment options and their costs. The options being explored are for one central plant or multiple treatment plants; as well as the different treatment technologies of gravity/pressure filtration and reverse osmosis (r/o) treatment.

Once all options and the associated project costs are better understood, further analysis will be done to see how these options would potentially affect rates, addressing emerging contaminants, potential future expansions, and other relevant factors.

This is an important decision facing the city in which both short term and long term implications are being considered. Solving this issue and providing high quality water is an important part of our core services to residents. Factors such as the cost to build the plant(s), operate the plant(s), future growth of the city, the technologies used to treat water, future treatment requirements by other levels of government, and aquifer sustainability all need to be considered by decision-makers now as they select the direction to go to provide quality water for the future.

Visit the City website for regular updates and to sign up for periodic emails regarding water issues in your neighborhood. Please contact City Hall by email at Minnetrista@ci.minnetrista.mn.us or by phone at (952) 446-1660 with any questions you may have.

