



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

New Water Treatment Facility

Location: North side of Ellis Park

Why in the park: The existing water supply wells and treatment plant were chosen for proximity to the groundwater aquifer that runs along the West Fork White Lick Creek, which is inside Ellis Park and Blanton Woods. Parks were initially put into service to protect the wellhead or access to water.

Why do we need a new water treatment facility: The current water treatment plant was placed into service in 2004. Plants are typically designed for a 20-year growth period. We will exceed the 20-year design growth rate by 2024 and are nearing the capacity of the existing plant and wells. The immediate need for the Town is to increase the water supply, treatment, and storage facilities that are nearing capacity so that the Town can continue to provide safe, reliable drinking water to its existing customers and not have to utilize water from another source.

What will happen to the current water treatment facility: The new facility will allow the existing plant to normally run at a lower rate, extending the life of the plant, but still capable of higher flows during peak summer demands.

When did the Town start planning for a new water treatment facility: A request for Proposal (RFP) to develop a Master Plan was sent in July of 2018. Spring 2019 plans started for a new water treatment plan.

Will my water bill or sewer rate increase: Yes, it already has. The Town Council approved a 3 Phase utility rate increase in February of 2020. This has been the first utility rate increase in eleven years. This increase was due to the increased cost of supplies, chemicals, repairs, electricity, and the overall cost to treat the water. The rate increase and development fees will assist in paying off the bond. The last phase of the utility rate increase will be in July of 2022.

Phase I – Became effective July 1, 2020.

Water: Rate restructuring, no increase experienced unless residential use over 9,000 gallons

Wastewater: 10% rate increase, step 1 of 3 of the required increase for improvements to existing collection mains and for improvements to address IDEM regulations for bio-solids, phosphorous and current capacity issues at treatment plant

Stormwater: Increase of \$1.00 per customer for various storm sewer and road improvements

Phase II – Became effective April 1, 2021.

Water: Reflects half (approximately 12.5%) of the required increase for construction of an additional water source and supply and related water treatment plant to address current capacity issues

Wastewater: 10% rate increase, step 2 of 3 of the project referenced in the Phase I notes above

Phase III – To become effective July 1, 2022.

Water: Reflects half (approximately 12.5%) of the required increase for construction of the projects referenced in the Phase II notes above

Wastewater: 10% rate increase, step 3 of 3 of the project referenced in the Phase I notes above

