

What is the Alternative Water Source Program?

The City of Joliet's existing groundwater source is being depleted and will no longer be able to meet the City's water demands by 2030. The Alternative Water Source Program (AWSP) consists of the planning, design and construction of a new water source for the City of Joliet by 2030. In January 2020 following a comprehensive, two phased study, the City Council selected Lake Michigan as the City's new water source. The program activities in 2020 are focused on the evaluation of two Lake Michigan Water Alternatives – purchasing treated Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago or going straight to the lake and constructing a new intake and water treatment plant. The 2020 evaluation will further define the alternatives and cost estimates in order to allow the City Council to select one of the alternatives at the end of 2020.

Alternative Water Source Program Technical Highlights

The analysis of alternatives for bringing Lake Michigan water 30 to 45 miles to Joliet from potential supply points requires consideration of a wide range of factors (existing infrastructure, environmental factors, proximity to other utilities, etc.) over a large area. To manage this challenge, the City's Consultant Team has worked to create a comprehensive cloud-based Geographic Information System (GIS) for mapping the project and providing relevant spatial data. GIS enables users to layer the aforementioned factors and analyze various types of information on a consistent base map, greatly enhancing the team's ability to identify and evaluate features that might affect transmission main routing or siting of new treatment, pumping, or storage facilities.

The Consultant Team has supplemented data compiled during the Phase II Alternative Water Source Study with new information gathered from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, USGS, and the National Pipeline Mapping System. Recent additions to the mapping database include bedrock information, traffic data, and locations of endangered species. The project database includes more than 120 gigabytes of information organized into more than 90 separate information layers that will be used for the final evaluation of water source alternatives for the City this year.

Educational Topic

As part of the Alternative Water Source Program (AWSP), various educational topics will be highlighted each month. Follow the links to find out more information on the Educational Topics this month:

- ◆ Land Acquisition Outside City Limits [Click here](#)
- ◆ Regional Governance Structures [Click here](#)

Copies of all Educational Topics for the Alternative Water Source Program can be found in the Information Center on the website at www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org.

Program Calendar

Recent and Upcoming Program Activities:

- June 10th - Follow-up Technical Meeting with Chicago
- June 12th - Follow-up Financial Meeting with Chicago
- June 16th – Quarterly Update to Finance Committee Meeting
- June 17th - Meeting with Southland Water Agency
- June 23rd - City Council Workshop
- June 24th - Follow-up Meeting with IDNR - Lake Michigan Allocation
- July 14th and July 16th - Follow-up Meetings with Chicago
- July 30th - Stakeholder Meeting
- August 5th - Regional Governance Workshop
- August 18th - Quarterly Update to Finance Committee Meeting
- August 25th - City Council Workshop

While most of these meetings are project team meetings, the meetings highlighted in gray are public meetings. To attend these meetings, visit the [website](#) for more information.

ISWS Groundwater Modeling

The Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) has a long history in groundwater modeling of the deep well aquifer system in Northeastern Illinois. ISWS is currently working with 13 communities in Will County, including Joliet, on a 3-year study of the deep and shallow aquifers in the region.

Check out the video, "Understanding the looming water supply shortage in the southwestern suburbs", presented by Daniel Abrams, ISWS at the project website Information Center at www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org.

For more information on water supply planning, check out the [ISWS website](#) or contact Daniel Abrams, Associate Research Scientist, Groundwater Flow Modeler, ISWS, at 217-244-1520 or dbabrams@illinois.edu.



Public Outreach

Two public outreach events have been completed so far in 2020 - the first Stakeholder Meeting was held on May 28th (video available [here](#)) and the first City Council Workshop was held on June 23rd (video available [here](#)). The May 28th Stakeholder Meeting included an update on the Alternative Water Source Program as well as information on the City's Water Conservation Initiatives. The June 23rd City Council Workshop focused on the identification and mitigation of risks associated with the two water source alternatives being evaluated in 2020.

The next virtual Stakeholder Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 30th from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. To register for the event visit RethinkWaterJoliet.org. While you are there, sign up for the mailing list to receive emails on upcoming public outreach events.

To learn more check us out at RethinkWaterJoliet.org



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Update on Existing Water System Initiatives - City's Lead Water Service Line Replacement Program

In 2019 the City Initiated a lead water service line Inspection and replacement program. The goal of the program is to identify and replace both the public and private portion of the water service line to remove the potential threat of lead leaching into drinking water.

This past June the City applied for and received a loan of approximately \$1 million from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency that qualifies for 100% principle forgiveness. This money will allow the City to remove and replace 150 lead water service lines this year. The City intends to apply for additional funding in the future from IEPA for additional lead water service line replacement.

For more information on lead in drinking water and the City's Inspection and replacement program, please visit www.Joliet.gov/GetTheLeadOut or call 815-724-4220.

Water Conservation Subcommittee - Restaurant Initiative

In late 2019, the Water Conservation Subcommittee began talking about new ways to engage the community in water conservation activities. One idea that surfaced was promotion of water conservation at area restaurants through a restaurant initiative. Ideas that were discussed included educating and incentivizing restaurants to limit taking water to tables unless specifically requested by the customer. The goal is to conserve water directly by reducing the amount of water brought to the tables, and indirectly by reducing the amount of glasses that need to be washed.

Madeline Meyer is a Joliet resident and Sophomore at the University of Illinois studying Natural Resources and Environmental Science. Madeline agreed to serve as an unpaid intern for the City's Public Utilities Department after the COVID-19 situation eliminated all paid internship opportunities. She began working on the Restaurant Initiative in May and has accomplished a lot in the past two months. Madeline called over 400 area restaurants to inquire whether they currently bring water to the table for every customer upon arrival, or if they wait for the customer to request water. Of the approximately 150 restaurants who participated in the survey, only 8 currently bring water to every customer. She also asked if the restaurants would be willing to participate in a water conservation educational effort by providing or displaying materials that would educate customers on the importance of conserving water. Forty-eight area restaurants agreed to participate in some fashion. The City will use this information to create materials to distribute, which may include posters, table tents, or coasters, perhaps with the QR code directing customers to the Rethink Water Joliet Website.

The Water Conservation Subcommittee meets the first Wednesday of every month at 3:30 pm in the Executive Conference Room – 2nd Floor, City Hall. Please check the City's website at www.joliet.gov to confirm meeting dates and times. These meetings are open to the public.

For more information on water conservation, contact Amy Wagner, at 815-724-4220 or awagner@joliet.gov.

Be sure to stay informed by reading our program newsletter which will be published on a monthly basis. Stay up-to-date with public meetings and to receive the monthly newsletter in your inbox by joining the mailing list at www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org.

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