

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 City must rely on its current source of supply, the groundwater wells, for the next ten years while developing and implementing the improvements needed to switch to Lake Michigan water. In fact, the City will probably need to expand the production from that source before 2030. The projected growth of the City's population and businesses will likely cause an increase in water demands. In order to meet these short-term demand increases, the City is implementing an innovative approach to stretch every dollar.

Get more for less. A simple approach would be to start drilling new wells, but these new wells would come with considerable cost and only be used for a fraction of their useful life. Joliet is thinking differently. Rather than drilling more wells, the City is going to maximize the production from the existing wells first. This maintenance is significantly less expensive than new wells.

Continuously track conditions. The City is maintaining a robust "dashboard" to monitor the wells' performance. As wells age, they lose the ability to produce water. If caught early, maintenance and development can bring their productivity back. The dashboard will allow the City to continuously monitor the wells' performance for indicators of deteriorating performance which would require the scheduling of maintenance.

A little more water conservation and efficiency can make a big difference. It is possible that growth in water demands will outpace the production increase from planned well maintenance, requiring the City to drill a new well, or wells. Alternatively, if the community is able to reduce its water demands through water conservation and/or additional water loss management, the City may be able to continue growing without the need to drill new wells. A community-wide water conservation and efficiency focus will also make a difference for the long term by reducing the size and associated costs for the new Lake Michigan water source improvements.

A strategic well monitoring and focused maintenance plan, as well as a community-wide focus on demand management will be the most cost-effective water supply approach for the next ten (10) years. An engaged, water conserving community will extend our existing water supply resources and help reduce the long term costs of our new supply.

Program Calendar

Recent and Upcoming Program Activities:

- July 22nd and 24th - Follow-up Meetings with Chicago
- July 21st - Meeting with Gary, Indiana
- July 22nd - Water Audit Workshop
- July 29th - Follow-up Meeting with Southland Water Agency
- July 30th - Stakeholder Meeting
- August 3rd - Meeting with Whiting, Indiana
- August 4th - Level 1 Transmission Main Review Workshop
- August 5th - Regional Governance Workshop
- August 12th - Meeting with IDOT
- August 13th - Well Management Planning Meeting
- August 17th - Meeting with Will County Forest Preserve
- August 18th - Quarterly Update to Finance Committee Meeting
- August 21st - Follow-up Meeting with IEPA
- 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.

While not specifically listed in the calendar, project team members have been meeting regularly, even weekly, with potential water supply and water access providers including Chicago, Southland Water Agency, Hammond (IN), Gary (IN) and Whiting (IN).



Public Outreach

Halfway through the public outreach events planned for 2020, the virtual environment has allowed for more public participation than anticipated.

The second of three Stakeholder Meetings was held virtually on July 30th. Approximately 65 people listened live to the presentation that included a program update, water treatment basics, transmission main routing 101 and planning for the water source transfer. A video of the July Stakeholder Meeting is available on the website at RethinkWaterJoliet.org. The third (and final) Stakeholder Meeting this year will be held during October.

The second City Council Workshop will be held on August 25th from 5 pm to 7 pm. The workshop will be televised live on Channel 6 as well as live-streamed on the City's website at Joliet.gov. The third (and final) City Council Workshop this year is planned for November.

There will be a Public Forum held in December to present the results of the 2020 evaluation and give the public an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments ahead of the City Council's selection of an alternative at the end of 2020.

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:

- ◆ Corrosion Control/Water Source Transfer Plan [Click here](#)
- ◆ Emerging Contaminants and Water Treatment Technologies [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.

GET INVOLVED IN 2020

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 receive the monthly newsletter in your inbox by joining the mailing list at www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org

Water Conservation Subcommittee – Water Conservation Ordinances

In accordance with the Illinois Administrative Code (Title 17, Chapter I, Section 3730), there are several water conservation oriented regulations that Lake Michigan users must address in their City Code. The City of Joliet currently has a number of these regulations already in place in City Code, but there are a few sections of Chapter 31 (Water and Sewers) of the City Code that must be updated. The following updated sections are being presented for approval at the August 18th City Council Meeting:

- Section 31-27 - Repairs generally: Proposed changes recognize that the City's Department of Public Utilities is assigned to monitor and correct leakage for water storage, transmission & distribution systems.
- Section 31-82 – Usage to be metered: Proposed changes clarify metering requirements for all water use in the City, including use of hydrant meters for construction and bulk water purchase at filling stations.
- Section 31-92 – City ownership of meters, privately owned meters; multi-tenant buildings: Proposed changes refine the requirement for sub-metering in multi-tenant buildings when feasible.
- Section 31-126 – Water Conservation Measures: Proposed changes for this section are significant, including changing its name from "Limitation of water usage". Proposed changes include clarifications to the City's lawn watering restrictions (Outdoor Water Conservation Measures) as well as the addition of Indoor Water Conservation measures to include the use of WaterSense labeled plumbing fixtures.

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.

To learn more check us out at RethinkWaterJoliet.org



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