



Jeremy Keene

Director
Public Works &
Mobility Department

It's been a busy winter in the Public Works & Mobility Department. Last year, we created a "Strategic Compass" to identify the specific actions we need to take to meet the City's long-term needs and strategic goals. Many of these actions are now in motion and we continue to adjust our compass heading to improve our service.

Last year, we invested strategically to support housing in the Sxwtpqyen Area with the Mullan BUILD Project. Those investments are paying off, with over 3,000 new housing units now in the pipeline that will provide housing for nearly 7,000 people in the coming years. We continue to seek grant funding for infrastructure that supports housing, transportation safety, better connectivity, healthier neighborhoods, and improved equity. The City and County recently received a \$9 million federal grant to improve South Avenue west of Reserve Street, and in February, the City applied for over \$20 million in federal grants for the Downtown Safety and Mobility project.

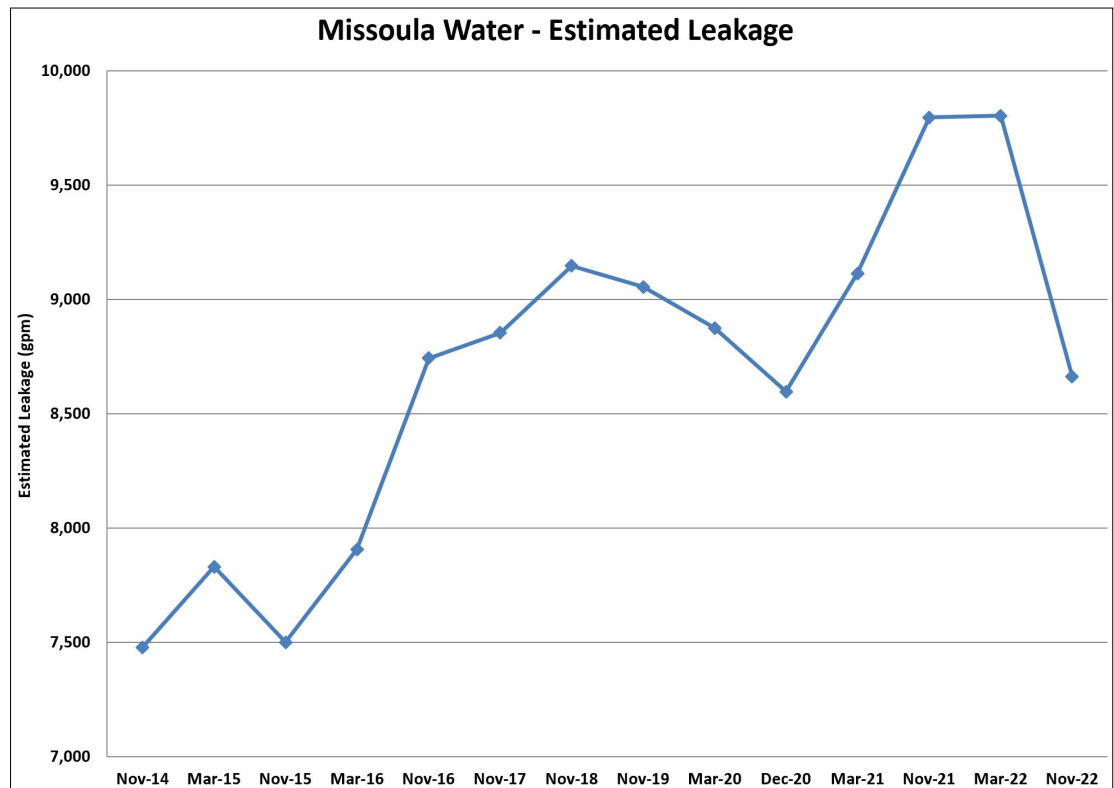
We are also reinvesting in our existing infrastructure to make sure it continues to provide reliable service. Our utilities took advantage of state and federal funding to make significant investments in leak reduction, flood prevention, water quality protection, and clean energy. The new solar array at the Resource Recovery Facility will generate 20 percent of the power we use at that facility when it goes live in April.

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\$6 Million in Water Main Projects Planned for 2023 to Continue Leakage Reduction Efforts

The Public Works & Mobility Department looks forward to a busy construction season this year. We will be reinvesting more than \$6 million in the water system to combat system leakage. We have several water main replacement projects scheduled that will replace old, leaking pipe, including some pipe that was originally installed in the early 1900s.

When determining which mains to replace, our utility engineers prioritize projects to replace thin-walled steel "kalamein" and "Invasion" pipes, which are susceptible to corrosion and leaking. The engineers also look at other City infrastructure projects to determine if there are nearby priority water mains. Coordinating projects with other departments saves money and cuts down on the number of times an area is disturbed by construction.



Systematically replacing these water main segments will reduce water leakage and improve water service reliability.

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Decommissioning Proposed for McKinley Lake Dam



McKinley Lake dam structure and spillway

The McKinley Lake dam is one of ten dams on eight mountain lakes in the Rattlesnake Wilderness and Recreation Area that the City acquired through its purchase of Mountain Water Company in 2017. These lakes have not been used as a water source for the city since 1983, and the dams are expensive for Missoula Water to maintain and repair. A 2018 feasibility study provided options for the future of the dams, including decommissioning some or all dams, reconstructing some dams to store water for augmenting Rattlesnake Creek stream flows, or improving these dams to meet U.S. Forest Service standards.

The City chose to decommission the McKinley Lake dam as a pilot project due to its ongoing erosion issues at the spillway. Moving the project through the decommissioning process on this smaller-scale project will help with plans for future projects on the nine remaining dams.

To follow the project, visit www.engagemissoula.com/rattlesnake-wilderness-dams.

Our Missoula is an extensive project that will work with the community to update our vision for future growth and to modernize the development regulations.



Find out how you can get involved at:

www.engagemissoula.com/our-missoula

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In addition, replacing old water main pipe reduces Missoula Water's energy usage and related costs by reducing the volume of water that has to be pumped out of the aquifer.

A recent leak study shows that these replacement projects are reducing system leakage. While the long-term trend has been an increase in leakage, last year's main replacement projects resulted in a net reduction of nearly 1,200 gallons per minute of leakage.

Leaks are hard to find in the system due to our very porous soils that allow the water to percolate into the ground. The only proven way to reduce our leakage is to accelerate investments in main replacements. Recent inflation has pushed our replacement cost to over \$2.4 million per mile. Our goal is to achieve replacement of 1 percent of our mains each year, or 3.4 miles of main. The annual cost to achieve that goal would be \$8.2 million. While we haven't quite reached that goal, we have made great progress and will continue to increase our investment.

Logan McInnis, PWM's Deputy Director of Utilities, said, "Reducing leakage is our biggest challenge as a utility. We appreciate the investments our customers support through their water rates. Our staff are laser-focused on reducing the rate of leakage and providing an infrastructure system that will support the community for generations."

Water projects planned for this year are listed on page 3 of this newsletter with details provided at www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2668/Water-Projects.



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www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2089/Garden-City-Compost

Not Down the Drain

Illegal dumping of pollutants into our sanitary sewer system or storm drains hurts us all.

Pollutants in the sewer system go to the City's wastewater treatment plant where they could clog up the system or disturb the wastewater treatment process.

Only stormwater should enter storm drains because they either drain directly into a waterway or go to a dry well, which eventually ends up in the aquifer (where we get our drinking water!)

If you see someone dumping anything into one of these drains, report it to the Missoula Valley Water Quality District at 406-258-4890 during regular business hours (or 911 after hours) or fill out an online report at: www.missoulacounty.us/government/health/health-department/report-an-issue/hazardous-waste-spills-water-pollution.



2023 Infrastructure Projects

Public Works & Mobility engineering staff spent the snowy winter months planning and preparing projects for construction this summer. Work will be scheduled through the fall. Once available, project anticipated start and completion dates and other details will be added to our Projects web page at www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2649/Projects.

Water Main Projects

- N. 2nd St. – E. Orange St.
- Mount Ave. – Park St. to Thames St.
- E. Central Ave. & E. Sussex Ave. – Maurice to Hilda Ave.
- N. 5th & N. 6th St. W.
- Lower Rattlesnake – Locust St. – Harrison St. to Taylor St.
- S. 2nd St. W. and Cottonwood St.
- S. 5th St. W. – Russell St. to Grant St.
- Montana & Idaho St. – water main extension (MRA URD II project), includes sidewalk installation
- East Front St. – Madison St. to Van Buren St.

Stormwater Project

- South Hills Stormwater Improvements, Phase 1

Street Maintenance Mill & Pave Projects

- Dearborn – Reserve St. to Clark
- England Blvd. – Reserve to Tina
- California St. – Wyoming St. to River Rd.
- Lincoln Hills Dr. – September Dr. to Contour Rd.
- International Way – Reserve to Grant Creek Bridge
- Stockyard Rd. – Grant Creek Rd. to Reserve St.

How Can You Help Reduce Spring Flooding in Your Neighborhood?

After the unusual fall and early winter weather we had, you're probably wondering what's going to happen to all those leaves the City's Streets crews were not able to pick up last fall. The good news is that crews will be out trying to collect leaves as quickly as possible once weather conditions allow. Until they get to your neighborhood, there are some things you can do to help prevent your storm drains from getting clogged with leaves and cause flooding. Here are some tips on how to do this safely:

1. Use a rake or shovel to clear leaves from storm drains (not your hands!).
2. Stand on the sidewalk to clear the leaves, not in the street.
3. Put the collected leaves and debris out for regular garbage collection.

They've been in the street all winter and have collected road grime, deicer, and maybe a mitten or two.

4. If you have neighbors who may not be able to do this work for themselves, be the kind neighbor you are and offer to help them!



Utility Policy Reminders for Rental Property

Per [City of Missoula Municipal Code 13.02.091](#), property owners are responsible for paying all water, sewer, and stormwater utility charges for their property, including any rental properties.

For property owners who wish to have their tenants pay for their utility services directly, the following applies:

- A “Request to Bill Tenant Form” (available at www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2716/Pay-Your-Utility-Bill) must be signed by both the tenant and the property owner and returned to the Utility Billing Office.
- Tenants must be approved by the Utility Billing Office to ensure they don’t have any past unpaid accounts. If so, they will not be approved for utility services, and the account will remain in the property owner’s name.
- ALL property owner’s utility accounts must be current.
- No vacancies will be allowed at a property address when a tenant moves out; the account automatically reverts to the property owner’s name.

If a tenant's account becomes delinquent:

- That account will be closed and an account will be opened in the property owner's name. The property owner will then be responsible for payment of the past due balance, which must be paid in full before a new tenant can sign up for service.
- If a balance of \$200 or more remains unpaid for 90 days or more, the City of Missoula is authorized to place a lien on the property. Property owners will be notified by letter of the unpaid balance and will have the option to pay the outstanding balance before any liens are placed on their property. If the balance is not paid at that time, it will appear on the property owner's tax bill.

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We know you rely on Public Works & Mobility for clean water, reliable sewer, and safe streets. We will continue provide those everyday services and focus our resources to meet the City's long-term needs. As always, we welcome your feedback. Please feel free to reach out to us at public-works@ci.missoula.mt.us.

Sustainable Travel Successes

Missoula in Motion recently released its 2022 Annual Report, which highlights the program's initiatives and resulting successes in increasing sustainable travel in Missoula. Check it out at missoulainmotion.com.



Utility and Irrigation Charges on One Bill

Starting in May 2023, customers with irrigation accounts will receive only one utility bill that shows charges from two meters—one for domestic water and one for irrigation. So, irrigation customers only have to pay one utility bill each month instead of two while their irrigation system is active.

To schedule an appointment to turn on your irrigation system or if you have questions about the billing change, please contact our Utility Billing Specialists at 406-552-6700 or watercs@ci.missoula.mt.us.

Contact Us

Utility Emergencies



Water Lines: 406-552-6700

Sewer Lines or STEP Systems: 406-552-6600

Utility Bill Payment

Online: www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2716/Pay-Your-Utility-Bill



Drop Boxes: 435 Ryman St. & 1345 W. Broadway

Mail: P.O. Box 5388, Missoula, MT 59806

Phone: 866-790-7218

Customer Service: 406-552-6700 or email watercs@ci.missoula.mt.us

Division Contacts

Missoula Water: 406-552-6700

Stormwater: 406-552-6379

Wastewater: 406-552-6600



Garden City Compost: 406-552-6619

Missoula City Cemetery: 406-552-6070

Street Maintenance: 406-552-6360

Engineering: 406-552-6769

Transportation Planning: 406-552-6670

PWM Administration: 406-552-6769

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www.ci.missoula.mt.us/403/Public-Works