

Water and Wastewater System Upgrades Crucial to City's Future

Major investments are being recommended for the city's water and wastewater system to reduce the number of repairs needed due to aging infrastructure and expand system capacity for future needs.

The suggested capital improvement plans call for pipe replacements in several Irving neighborhoods, massive upgrades to underground infrastructure and the implementation of master plans, water reuse irrigation projects and development of future water supply.

To carry out the recommendations, city leaders are proposing to increase current investment in capital improvement plans from \$15 million to between \$24 and \$40 million. Management will recommend a water and sewer rate adjustment of 5 percent, and a 2 percent adjustment to the franchise fee. Such investments will begin the process of bringing the city's water and wastewater system up-to-date. The funding also will pay for necessary street improvements as pipes are replaced.

Project Costs

An example of how the money will be used is found beneath the surface of Irving streets. Due to corrosion, multiple pipe breaks and associated maintenance, a critical recommendation includes replacing cast iron pipes with PVC pipes. The annual goal of replacing up to 28 miles of water and sewer pipes will cost the city \$22 million each year. PVC pipes are better able to withstand corrosion, decrease risk of impacting water quality and carry a life cycle of more than 50 years.

An additional \$6 to \$12 million annually would be expended on several master plan projects, including an upgrade to the Delaware Creek Sewer and capacity improvements to the Hackberry, Northgate and MacArthur pump stations.

Neighborhood Water Improvements

Neighborhoods receiving water and sewer replacements during 2009-10 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Arts District
- Barton Estates
- Grauwlyer Heights
- Hillcrest Oaks
- Irving Heights
- Irving Heritage District
- Lamar-Brown
- Lee Britain
- North Austin Heights
- Northwest Park
- Owen Point
- Sherwood Forest
- University Hills