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Visit our website at www.cwwga.org

The Value of Water Service

We are all beneficiaries of this magnificent network of treatment plants, pump stations and pipes that was handed down to us by previous generations. Yet because our water infrastructure has lasted so long, we haven't had to worry about the expense of replacing it. However, in the next few decades, much of that network is going to need upgrading or replacement. We can therefore be sure that tap water service will cost more in the future than it does today.

We have arrived at a turning point. The choice we face—the turning point—is either to adopt strategies to renew our water infrastructure, or accept the erosion of reliable water service over time. If we begin to move toward rate structures and financing plans that reflect the full cost of water service, we will avoid rate shock in the years ahead.

When you consider the critical needs addressed by water service, tap water will always be a tremendous value. In fact, it will be a bargain. You simply cannot put a price on a service that delivers public health, fire protection, economic development and quality of life.

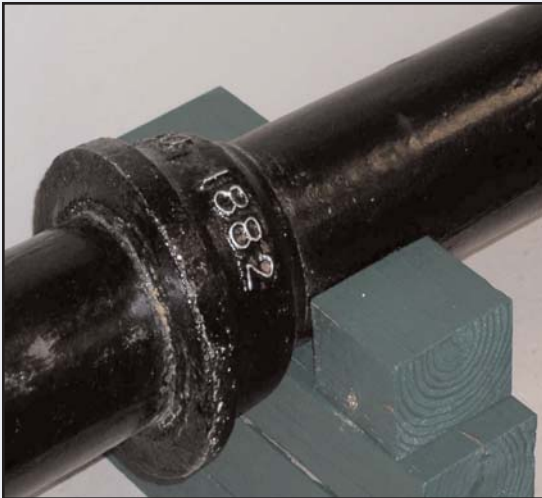


Only Tap Water Delivers

Columbus Water Works has a good track record for maintaining system infrastructure. And although we are not in a crisis we need to look ahead to ensure that maintenance and repair funding maintains our system so that it will provide quality service to our citizens.

We recognize the need for an increased commitment for repair, renovation and replacement of the system's older infrastructure. We have addressed this issue by including additional funds in the Capital Improvement Program (C.I.P.) for maintenance and renewal projects so that we may continue to provide high quality service to our customers. However, as the system continues to age there continues to be a gap between what is needed for maintenance of the infrastructure and the amount of funding available.

In the meantime, infrastructure repair, replacement and security cannot wait. We must continue our focus on asset management, spelling out exactly how we will maintain our water and sewer infrastructure and establish schedules for replacing it at the appropriate time.



The pipe shown in these photographs was installed in 10th Street between Broadway and Front Avenue in the late 1800's. Upon inspection the pipe was found to be structurally sound. The inside of the pipe was cleaned and a cement lining was applied to the inside of the pipe to make it usable for many more years.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division has declared a Level Four drought response across the northern third of Georgia for outdoor water use.

No outdoor water use is allowed except for irrigation of personal food gardens

Some examples of prohibited uses:

- 1) Using hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health, safety or flushing.
- 2) Washing hard surfaces, such as streets, gutters, sidewalks, driveways, except when necessary for public health and safety
- 3) Filling installed swimming pools except when necessary for health care or structural integrity.
- 4) Washing vehicles, such as cars, boats, trailers, motorbikes, airplanes, golf carts.
- 5) Washing buildings or structures except for immediate fire protection.
- 6) Non-commercial fund-raisers, such as car washes.
- 7) Using water for ornamental purposes, such as fountains, reflecting pools, and waterfalls except when necessary to support aquatic life.

To read the rules of outdoor water use go to http://www.gaepd.org/Files_PDF/rules/rules_exist/391-3-30.pdf