

## WDMWW Will Construct New Pumping Station and Water Mains; Acquire Part of Warren Rural Water

After four years of relatively scant development growth, new projects are germinating in the southeast section of West Des Moines near the Highway 5 Bypass. For those seeds of development to take off, the area needs water access, and West Des Moines Water Works is making it happen.

This fall, WDMWW is starting construction on new mains as well as erecting a new booster station that will serve the area east of I-35 and south of Army Post Road. The estimated \$3.5-million project should be completed in the spring of 2013.

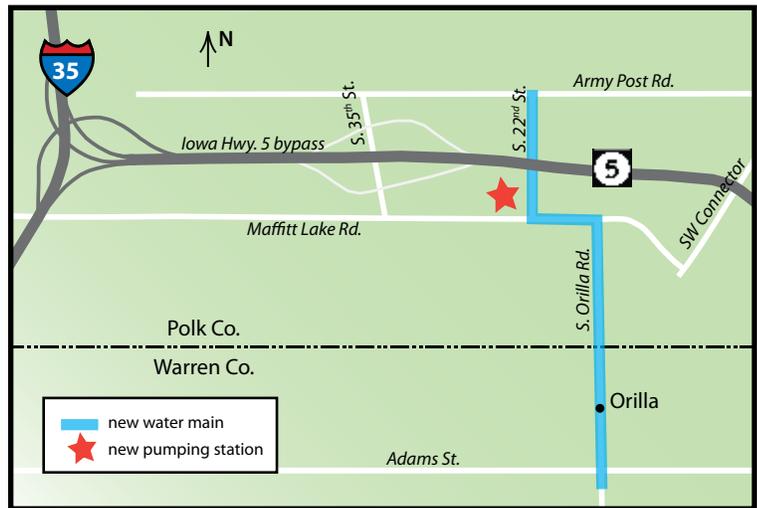
Water Works will install a 24-inch water main that will connect to a large feeder main owned by Des Moines Water Works at South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Army Post Road. A 16-inch pipe will follow east on Maffitt Lake Road then continue along South Orilla Road through the town of Orilla and end just south of Adams Street in rural Warren County. The new booster pumping station, planned for South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, will ensure consistent water service and pressure as the area grows and develops.

In addition, WDMWW is acquiring a portion of the territory served by Warren Rural Water District. The new WDMWW mains represent a significant upgrade for current rural water users and any prospective WDMWW customers in the area. The existing rural water mains are much smaller and designed to provide drinking water.

“The entire area benefits from these upgrades and additions,” noted Mark Hanasz, water distribution manager of the Water Works. “Developers and customers connecting to our mains will gain optimal water pressure as well as significantly increased fire protection.”

The Water Works will recover the costs of the new facilities and mains through connection fees charged to property owners and developers.

HR Green is providing engineering and design services for the project.



West Des Moines Water Works expansion projects in the southeast quadrant of the city to be completed in the spring of 2013.

### Shout Out to Those Who Opted to Go GREEN!

West Des Moines Water Works saw a 45-percent increase in the number of customers who have opted for completely paperless invoicing and payment of their municipal services bills.

The spike resulted from 1,316 customers who availed themselves of the Water Works “\$5-Go Green” campaign during July and August. Going paperless saves 56 cents per bill per month, which helps keep the cost of water affordable while saving trees and other natural resources. **Thanks!**

DID YOU KNOW



For most Iowans, getting water is as easy as walking to the closest faucet in our homes. Women living in developing nations walk four miles on average to collect water. Moreover, the World Health Organization estimates that 40 billion work hours are lost each year in order to fetch drinking water.



## Water Customers Rally to Battle 'The Long Hot Summer'

The summer of 2012 may not have been as spicy as William Faulkner's novel about a long hot summer, but it was every bit as sweltering and dry. It was so hot, in fact, that in July, West Des Moines Water Works set three new records in six days for daily water consumption. July also marked a historical high for monthly water usage.

### More Than 1 Billion Gallons in 3 Months

For June, July and August, West Des Moines water usage jumped nearly 21 percent from 2011 with total summer consumption surpassing 1 billion gallons.

The former daily use record of 15.13 million gallons, set in June 2006, was first eclipsed on July 18 when the Water Works pumped 15.49 million gallons. Four days later, daily consumption reached 15.53 million gallons, and on July 23, daily water consumption broke another record with 15.83 million gallons pumped.

"In late July, a metro-wide voluntary water conservation plan was implemented, which called for residents and businesses to reduce use by limiting irrigation, taking shorter showers and watering lawns and gardens early in the morning," said Mitch Pinkerton, WDMWW water production manager. "We are pleased and proud with the way our customers responded and cooperated with the plan. We thank our customers for their support."

Pinkerton added that while consumption soared as a result of record high temperatures and a lack



*Blazing temperatures in July and August caused drought stress on tree foliage outside WDM City Hall.*

of rain, West Des Moines had sufficient water and reserves to meet demand even on the peak days. Within a day of requesting voluntary reductions, daily water usage declined by more than 1 million gallons. "In retrospect, we had plenty of water to meet demand, but when you're in the midst of a drought and setting pumpage records every other day, it pays to be thoughtful and judicious about water usage," he added.

### Community Cooperation in Conservation

Water Works lifted the voluntary conservation plan on September 1. Though rainfall remains below normal, water usage has returned to more normal levels. The summer 2012 goes down as one of the hottest and driest in West Des Moines history, and it also will be remembered as a time of community cooperation for conservation.

## Parched and Brown Doesn't Necessarily Mean 'Dead'



Droughts are tough on lawns. The heat, foot traffic and lack of water can take a big toll. Your lawn may look parched, brown and dead, but it takes more than persistent hot, dry weather to kill most turf grasses found in the Midwest. More than likely, your lawn has gone dormant—a natural defense mechanism for grass. When the rain comes back, so likely will your green lawn.

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