

Water and Wastewater

Water System –

The City's water system is operated and maintained by the City's Department of Public Works (DPW) staff. State certified staff are responsible for the city's two 600 gallon per minute wells that are pumping ground water from over 170 feet deep to a 175 foot tall, 500,000 gallon storage tank (referred to as the Smiley Tower). The Smiley Tower supplies the city with quality water for drinking and water for firefighting.

High water usage in your home is usually due to a leak, most commonly a stuck or running toilet. Help conserve water and keep your water bills low by repairing leaks in a timely manner. For water shut-offs or turn-ons, or if you experience other problems with your water systems and your or your plumber require assistance, contact City Hall Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:30pm at 989-345-0500. Evenings or weekends contact DPW Superintendent Dennis Jameson at 989-329-7035.

The water system is only supported by user fees which are based on usage and collected on a quarterly basis.

Wastewater Collection System –

The wastewater collection system (sanitary sewer system) is operated and maintained by the City's Department of Public Works (DPW) staff. This system is made up of an extensive network of underground pipes ranging in size from 4-18 inches in diameter, which convey your wastewater to the treatment plant. If you experience problems with your sewage systems and you or your plumber determine the problem is not with your piping, contact City Hall or DPW Superintendent Dennis Jameson.

Footing drain or groundwater should not be pumping or conveyed to the wastewater collection system. Please contact DPW Superintendent Dennis Jameson if you have questions about separating your clear water from the sanitary sewer.

Wastewater Treatment –

State certified staff operate and maintain the \$30 million West Branch Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility, which treats wastewater 24 hours per / 7 days a week from portions of Ogemaw and West Branch Townships, as well as most of the City's 1.5 square miles. The plant treats an average of 700,000 gallons of wastewater each day and discharges a high-quality effluent to the Rifle River. Details about the Treatment Plant can be obtained by contacting West Branch City Hall at (989) 345-0500, or you are welcome to contact Wastewater Treatment Plant staff directly at (989) 345-2182. They will be glad to provide you with additional information regarding plant operations, or even offer tours of the facility to interested groups and/or individuals.

Between 2010 and 2012, the City of West Branch, in cooperation with Ogemaw Township and West Branch Township, invested over \$14,000,000 in improvements to the collection and treatment facility via the creation of the West Branch Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Authority. These improvements play a key role in our ability to preserve our surface water (creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes), the environment, and our overall quality of life. However, these investments would not have been possible without the support of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Office (an equal opportunity lender), which provided the West Branch Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Authority with much needed financing in order to facilitate improvements to the facility.

The continued operation of the wastewater collection and treatment systems are supported only by user fees, which are based on usage and collected on a quarterly basis.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Dan Robb can be reached at (989) 345-2182. Department of Public Works Superintendent Dennis Jameson can be reached at (989) 329-7035. City of West Branch City Manager and West Branch Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Authority (WBAWTPA) Board Member Heather Grace can be reached at (989) 345-0500. WBAWTPA Board Chairperson Denis Stephens can be reached at (989) 345-3440. WBAWTPA Board Member Rusty Showalter can be reached at (989) 345-0561. WBAWTPA Board Member Ryan Veeder can be reached at (989) 345-5450.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age disability, religion, sex, familial status, sexual orientation, and reprisal.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to:

**USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410
Washington, DC 20250-9410**

Or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

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The West Branch Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Authority is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.