

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING – BLACKHAWK WATER TOWER



Blackhawk Water Tower site – from Pioneer/Old Sauk Road, looking southeast

PROJECT CONTACTS:

Project Engineer: Pete Holmgren, P.E. City of Madison Water Utility	(608) 261-5530 pholmgren@madisonwater.org
Consulting Engineer: Jerry Groth, P.E. Baxter & Woodman, Inc.	(608) 347-1542 ggroth@baxterwoodman.com

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Madison Water Utility (MWU) has begun the process of designing and constructing a new water tower – “Blackhawk Tower” on the City of Madison’s far west side. This facility will be critical within MWU’s system for providing adequate water supply and operational flexibility as the west side continues to expand and develop.

The proposed 1 million gallon water tower would:

- Provide additional gravity-fed water storage capacity within existing MWU water pressure boundaries, by supplementing existing storage and supply from other MWU facilities on the west side.

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- Add needed storage capacity to the far west side water pressure boundaries.
- Merge and hydraulically balance two west side pressure boundaries for increased system flexibility.
- Improve and maintain emergency storage and fire flow reserves to support continued development of the far west side of Madison.

The site of this water tower will be on the MWU-owned parcel of land located at the southeast intersection of Pioneer Road and Old Sauk Road.

PROJECT SCOPE:

The major components of the project will include but not necessarily be limited to:

- Public participation and coordination with the City of Madison and Town of Middleton.
- Installation of a new 1,000,000 gallon elevated reservoir on the designated Madison Water Utility-owned parcel of land.
- Installation of a pipeline extending from the water tower to the Old Sauk Road right of way.
- Development of the water tower site to accommodate potential future Madison Water Utility use.

Madison Water Utility has hired the engineering consultant services of Baxter & Woodman, Inc. to develop plans, specifications and contract documents to allow the project to be bid through the Madison Board of Public Works and efficiently complete this facility.

CURRENT PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The following schedule is the current goal for the project’s timeline. Any changes to the project scope, budget, or otherwise may require updates to the schedule.

August 2016	Preliminary design and concept development completed.
October 2016	Project design completed and advertised for contractor bidding.
February 2017	Project bid opening and recommendation to hire contractor.
April 2017	Start of construction.
August 2018	Project completed, water tower operational.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please visit our project website to sign up for the project email list, take a project survey, and stay updated on additional information throughout the duration of the project:

MadisonWater.org/BlackhawkTower

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's):

Q: Why is this project needed?

A: Continued growth on the west side of Madison has introduced an increased water supply demand. Madison's far west side will eventually be fed from a single pumping system; an additional water tower will allow the city to continue to meet supply and fire flow needs now and into the future.

Q: I currently get my water from a nearby private well. Will there be an effect on the existing water table in the area?

A: Madison Water Utility does not plan to drill a well at this location so there will not be an effect on the water table from this project. The water tower essentially functions as a storage and distribution vessel; it will be filled with water drawn and pumped from existing wells and booster stations in the City of Madison.

Q: Why is the water tower sited at this particular location?

A: Water tower location is dictated by ground elevation. Placing a water tower at the top of hills or ridges reduces its height and initial expense. This site has a ridge crossing it which provides a good place for a tower. Due to its ground elevation, Madison Water Utility acquired the land at this site in 2000 in anticipation of the city's west side growth and the need for a water tower. The nearest existing city water tower on High Point Road is an ideal distance away to maximize hydraulic distribution benefits to the areas of the city in between.

Q: Why is a City of Madison water tower being built in the Town of Middleton?

A: The parcel is owned by Madison Water Utility and will be annexed to the City of Madison during the design phase of the project. Current planning agreements between the Town of Middleton, City of Verona, and City of Madison place Madison's future westernmost border along Pioneer Road.

Q: Other than a water tower, what are Madison Water Utility's plans for the site?

A: The total size of the parcel of land is about 17 acres, and Madison Water Utility intends to sell the approximately 15 unused acres after the project is complete. There is no specific plan currently in place for development of the surrounding land, but the City of Madison's Elderberry Neighborhood Development Plan designates the area as a residential zone.

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Q: Once this facility is constructed, will there be a lot of additional traffic around the area?

A: There will not be any significant increase in traffic due to the completion of this project. Aside from uncommon maintenance (repairs, landscaping, painting, etc.), Madison Water Utility staff will be onsite briefly several times a week, usually in a standard-sized pickup truck, to collect water quality samples. A temporary access road to the water tower will likely connect to Old Sauk Road until the area is further developed and a local street system is established.

Q: Will my water rates go up as a result of this project?

A: Madison Water Utility develops a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) annually to update existing facilities, construct additional facilities, and renew infrastructure. Water rates pay for the CIP and all City of Madison rate payers will contribute equally to this project. Rates are routinely reviewed through the Wisconsin Public Service Commission to establish equitable levels based on the Utility's financial needs. Water rates can be expected to change as necessary over time to cover the cost of the overall CIP.

Q: I often see cellular antennas mounted on water towers. Will there be any such equipment on this water tower?

A: Federal regulations require that Madison Water Utility cooperate with cell carriers interested in mounting equipment on our water towers. Given their height and location, water towers are attractive to cell carriers for antenna placement, and we expect cell carriers to be interested in placing their equipment on this tower after it is built. Cell carriers who decide to locate on this tower will construct small, ground-level shelters to house their equipment. These shelters will be constructed to minimize impact to the surrounding area to the greatest extent possible.

Q: Will the tower have any lighting that will impact the surrounding area?

A: The top of tower will have aviation warning lights. Madison Water Utility will also have switched lighting that will be used during maintenance of the tower. No other lights are anticipated for the tower.