

City of Newark Water System Capacity Planning- Question and Answer

What is happening?

The City of Newark is evaluating the purchase of a parcel of land in southern Knox County.

Why is this land being evaluated?

The City of Newark currently has adequate water supply. However, long-term planning is necessary to ensure adequate water for Newark and the region for the next 20-50 years. This effort could help plan for the long term, not an immediate one.

Where is the land located?

The land is located north of Utica in Morgan Township, Knox County.

Why Knox County?

Newark currently uses water from the North Fork Licking River as its source water to treat for domestic potable water for Newark and surrounding communities. As the City and region grow, additional source water will be required in the long term.

What is the schedule?

The City will conduct its evaluation of the property through early 2028 to determine if it is suitable. If the decision is made to purchase, no immediate plans are in place for construction. Future capital planning efforts, public outreach, funding and stakeholder involvement will be planned in the distant future.

What will happen in the next 18 months?

The City's consultant will complete desktop assessments to identify potential environmental, geological, hydrogeological and geotechnical issues on the property. Additionally, some physical on-site work will be completed to evaluate existing ground conditions. High level construction cost estimates will also be generated.

What is being built on the property?

No construction is planned at this time and any future facility design will take time to plan. At this time, two optional scenarios are being evaluated. First, a reservoir or lake could be constructed to store surface water that could be slowly released to the river. Second, a well field could be installed that could be used to provide ground water to the river or directly to a Water Plant.

What is a reservoir?

A natural or artificial body of water used to store, regulate or control water. Most reservoirs have man-made berms built to hold water for communities.

Who will ensure the berm or dam is safe and maintained?

If a reservoir is constructed, the City will be required to ensure long term Operation, Maintenance and Inspections are routinely conducted to ensure long term safety and reliability of the dam. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources would be involved in the permitting and inspection of the reservoir and dam.

What impact will this have to existing water users in the area?

During the 18-month study, the City will evaluate water availability and potential impacts to existing groundwater users.

Will the surrounding area benefit from this project?

Due to the property bordering Utica, there is a great potential to develop community recreational use such as a park, walking path or other community uses. This property could benefit many communities in the region for long-term water reliability.

What are the concerns and challenges?

The 18-month due diligence period will guide the City if purchasing the property is a responsible decision. After purchase or not, there are many long-term decisions and cooperative discussions that will occur with regional communities, townships, and stakeholders to ensure a future project is valuable for Newark and surrounding communities without disrupting the river and groundwater in the area.

How is this project being funded?

The 18-month due diligence study will be funded by the City of Newark Division of Water. After the study is completed, if the City determines the project will work for the property, a bond or loan will likely be secured that will be paid by Water customers and not tax dollars. Funding for future construction of a reservoir or well field is unknown at this time and more consideration will be needed to determine the most effective use of available resources.

How can I get more information?

Please visit the City of Newark Construction Project website at:

<https://www.newarkohio.gov/water-wastewater-construction-projects/> or email the City of Newark Water Department at wateradm@newarkohiowater.net or by phone at 740-670-7946.