



Columbus City Utilities

2023 Annual Report





The focus of Columbus City Utilities remains on **responsible growth**, **maintaining infrastructure**, and delivering **high-quality services** to our customers.

Executive Director Letter

Columbus City Utilities (CCU) provides essential water and wastewater services to communities, ensuring a safe and dependable water supply while protecting water resources. CCU is dedicated to improving water treatment processes and infrastructure maintenance. We face challenges such as evolving regulatory guidelines and the need to keep rates affordable. Despite these challenges, our staff consistently meets goals for residential and commercial customers. The focus remains on responsible growth, maintaining infrastructure, and delivering high-quality services to support economic development and community well-being. We see ourselves as a vital community partner, committed to responsible wastewater treatment and providing access to affordable drinking water essential for the community's success.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Kelso'.

Roger Kelso, P.E.

Executive Director

In 2023, CCU undertook several infrastructure projects aimed at improving sanitation and water distribution systems totaling nearly 30 million dollars which included:

- Sanitary Sewer Improvements
- Lift Station Improvements
- Sewer and Manhole Rehabilitation
- Wellfield Improvements
- New Storage Tank and Booster Station
- Water Main Replacement
- Water Plant Distribution Box Rehabilitation

Columbus City Utilities (CCU) and our employees received several prestigious awards and recognitions in 2023:

Wastewater Plant Biosolids Award: The award acknowledged CCU's compliance with regulations, absence of violations, and commitment to renewable resources.

Travis Calhoun Receives Tumble Bug Award: This award recognizes individuals who work tirelessly to support the objectives of the Indiana Water Environment Association (IWEA).

Chris Murray Wins Joe Taylor Spirit Award: Murray's dedication to maintaining high standards at the CCU wastewater plant and his enthusiasm for the industry were highlighted.

CCU Lab Wins Lab of the Year: The award was earned due to the hard work of the Quality Control staff and their dedication to laboratory excellence in the day-to-day operations at the lab.

CCU Team Triumphs in Wastewater Challenge: The team secured first place in several categories including Operations & Maintenance, Collections, and Utility Management. Additionally, they won the Spirit Award and placed second overall, earning the opportunity to represent Indiana at the national Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC) event.

Business Report

Columbus City Utilities (CCU) is pleased to present its financial performance information for 2023.

CCU overall spent less than what was planned in 2023. CCU also received more revenue than expected due to a continued conservative approach to budgeting revenue.

Other Highlights:

- CCU still has some of the lowest utility rates in the state despite the Phase 2 rate increase that went into effect January 1, 2023, and Phase 3 rate increase that became effective January 1, 2024. These rate increases are being used to fund several water and sewer infrastructure projects identified in the Columbus City Utilities Master Plan. Details of these projects may be found in the Engineering section of the report.
- In 2023, CCU sent 233,795 bills to customers, collecting \$23.2M in water and sewer revenues.
- We continued our leasing program with the vehicles in our fleet to help CCU save money.
- We have been working with the City on sharing and implementing the Munis financial system to realize savings and to help provide better reporting for financial analysis and transparency.
- The Service Center renovations were completed in spring 2023. The Service Center was built in 1987 and the improvements improved security and modernized the space for customers and our staff.
- CCU took advantage of lower interest rates with the State Revolving Loan (SRF) program three times in 2022. CCU closed on the Sewage Works Revenue Bonds, Series 2022A and Series 2022B and the Waterworks Revenue Bonds, Series 2022 which were all SRF programs. The money from these funds was used on multiple projects in 2023 (identified in the Engineering section of the report) and will continue into 2024.
- The Field Representatives were responsible for completing 10,419 work assignments in 2023. This is equivalent to 868 per month; an average of 39 per business day.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Brinegar'.

Jamie Brinegar

*Associate Director of Finance
and Business*

Finance/Operations 2024 Goals:

- We continue to work with Tyler Technologies to implement Munis for billing, which is set to begin in June 2024.
- We continued our partnership with Strand Associates, Inc. to help make our information technology more reliable and resilient.
- We have begun a meter replacement program to become more in line with AWWA's meter replacement recommendations.

CCU Summary Budget to Actual

For the year ended December 31, 2023

Revenue Plan

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Favorable Variance	Percentage
Water Utility	\$7,197,269	\$7,589,677	\$392,408	5.5%
Sewer Utility	\$15,168,671	\$15,574,472	\$405,801	2.7%
Total	\$22,365,940	\$23,164,149	\$798,209	3.6%

Expense Plan

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Favorable Variance	Percentage
Water Utility	\$8,419,263	\$6,849,341	\$1,569,922	18.6%
Sewer Utility	\$16,592,107	\$13,934,089	\$2,658,018	16.0%
Total	\$25,011,370	\$20,783,430	\$4,227,940	16.9%

High-level balance sheet information includes the following:

CCU Summary Balance Sheet

December 31, 2023

	Water Utility	Sewer Utility
Total Fund Balances	\$21,890,003	\$33,949,778
Total Long-Term Debt	\$30,068,920	\$80,201,311

High-level income statement information includes the following:

CCU Summary Income Statement

For the years ended December 31, 2022, and 2023

Operating Income

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	Change	Percentage
Water Utility	\$7,053,180	\$7,589,677	\$536,497	7.6%
Sewer Utility	\$13,886,874	\$15,574,472	\$1,687,598	12.9%
Total	\$20,940,054	\$23,164,149	\$2,224,095	10.6%

Operating Expenses

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	Change	Percentage
Water Utility	\$6,254,884	\$6,849,341	\$594,457	9.5%
Sewer Utility	\$11,033,990	\$13,934,089	\$2,900,099	26.3%
Total	\$17,288,874	\$20,783,430	\$3,494,556	20.2%

Engineering Report

The CCU Engineering Department consists of 6 staff – Utilities Engineer, Engineering Supervisor – Locates and Development, Senior Engineering Technician, GIS Coordinator, and two Engineering Technicians. The Engineering Department is responsible for developing and maintaining the Utility’s capital plan, reviewing site plans for development in the City, reviewing and issuing sanitary sewer construction permits, managing capital projects from planning through construction, and assisting other departments as needed.

Columbus City Utilities has over \$51 million in capital projects planned over the next 3 years, made possible by the 2021 water and sewer rate increases and low-interest loan funding from the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Getz".

Ashley Getz, P.E.

Associate Director of Engineering



Over \$30 million will go towards improving the City’s wastewater infrastructure by replacing assets past the end of their useful life, upgrading capacity to serve existing and future growth, and extending service to Strategic Growth Areas within the City.

Over \$22 million will go towards improving the City’s drinking water infrastructure by replacing aging water mains, eliminating lead goosenecks in water service lines, increasing capacity to serve future growth, and creating additional aerial storage.

CCU had the following projects under construction in 2023:

Southeast Sanitary Sewer Improvements - \$3,500,000

- This project is nearly complete and will alleviate

capacity constraints and update aging infrastructure in the southeast portion of the collection system.

- The project includes upgrades to 6 lift stations and over 17,000 feet of new force main.
- CCU received \$2 million in grant funding for this project from the State Water Infrastructure Fund (SWIF). The remainder of the project is being funded through a low-interest SRF loan.

Bakalar North, 35th Street, Gropp’s, and 200 South Lift Station Improvements - \$6,159,500

- This project will replace three lift stations that are past the end of their useful lives and in poor condition. One problematic lift station will be eliminated, which will decrease maintenance requirements.

- In 2023, the 200 South Lift Station was completed, and Bakalar North was nearly complete. The remaining lift stations will be completed in 2024.

Sewer and Manhole Rehabilitation - \$1,423,294

- This project includes the rehabilitation of over 16,000 feet of sanitary sewer using cured in place pipe (CIPP) lining, which is installed without needing to dig up the existing pipe.
- The project also includes coating several manholes that are in poor condition.
- The rehabilitation of pipe and manholes using these trenchless methods can extend the life of the infrastructure up to 50 years.

Wellfield Improvements, New Storage Tank, and Booster Station - \$14,900,000

- This project includes the addition of 4 new groundwater wells in the wellfield serving Water Plant No. 2, a new 2 million gallon elevated storage tank along 175 West, and a new water booster station to replace two existing stations that are undersized and have exceeded their useful lives.
- In 2023, test and monitoring wells were installed, and the new tank foundation construction was started.

Woodside Water Main Replacement - \$3,230,000

- This project includes replacing over 5,500 feet of existing water main in the Woodside Industrial Park and upsizing the water main to a nominal 12-inch diameter pipe, which is standard sizing for industrial service.
- The existing water main has experienced many breaks since it was installed in the 1970s.
- In 2023, a new water main was installed on Inwood Drive and Barker Drive, and the old main was abandoned. A new 20-inch water main on South International Drive was nearly completed.



Water Plant No. 2 Filter Distribution Box Rehabilitation - \$660,000

- The last major rehabilitation project at the water plant was in the 1990s. As part of this project, the metal boxes that distribute water to the gravity filters will be sandblasted, repaired, and painted. The existing aluminum handrail and treadplate will be replaced with corrosion resistant FRP, and corroded electrical conduit will be replaced.
- In 2023, two of the four filter boxes were rehabilitated. The remaining two filter boxes will be completed in 2024.



The following projects are scheduled to start in 2024:

Walesboro and Woodside South Lift Station Improvements - \$5,500,000 (estimated)

- This project will address existing hydraulic constraints and create additional capacity for continued growth in the industrial area.
- The project includes upgrades to the two major lift stations serving the Woodside Industrial area.
- The lift station improvements are scheduled to start mid-year.

Royalview and Eastern 1 Lift Station Improvements - \$3,990,922

- This project includes the rehabilitation of the Royalview lift station and a capacity increase to handle wet weather flows in its service area.
- The Eastern 1 lift station will be completely reconstructed in a new location to help reduce sanitary sewer overflows.
- The lift station improvements are scheduled to start in early 2024.

Westside Interceptor - \$20,000,000 (estimated)

- This project will address an existing hydraulic constraint, replace aging infrastructure, and allow for future growth in the city west of State Road 11.
- The project includes approximately 13,000 feet of 42-inch sewer, Southside lift station upgrades, and will serve all customers west of the East Fork White River.
- This project is in the land acquisition phase.

I-65 Water Main Crossing at Deaver Road - \$2,272,166

- CCU currently has 3 water mains that cross under I-65. To add redundancy and improve water flow to the west side of the service area, a new 20-inch water main will be installed under I-65 along Deaver Road.
- The project includes over 2,500 feet of new 20-inch water main.
- This project is scheduled to start in early 2024.

Water Main Replacements

- The capital program includes implementing a water main replacement program to replace aging mains prone to leaks, mains with lead service goosenecks, and undersized mains. The extent of main replacement will be dependent on available funding, but the following are priority areas:
 - Flatrock Drive
 - 7th Street
 - 23rd and Cottage Avenue

- Lafayette Avenue
- Middle Road
- Construction on some of the water main replacements are scheduled to start in early 2024.

Planning for the Future

As the capital projects funded through the 2021 rate increase start moving into construction, CCU is planning for the next round of capital improvements that will address aging infrastructure, future regulations, and continued growth in the service area. Future areas of focus are discussed below.



Master Planning

- In 2023, CCU worked with consultants to update the water and sewer master plan.
- The Master Plan includes a 20-year capital plan for sewer and water, which will help financially plan for future work.
- An Executive Summary of the Master Plan will be released in 2024.

Water Treatment Plant Planning

- CCU worked with consultants to plan for future upgrades at the two water treatment plants. Since major upgrades have not been completed since the 1990s, much of the upcoming work will focus on replacing aging equipment and optimizing existing processes.
- CCU is also staying aware of and planning for emerging contaminants, such as PFAS and manganese.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Planning

- CCU worked with consultants to plan for future upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant. The new plant has been in operation since 2011, and many pieces of equipment have a 20-to-30-year lifespan. Equipment replacement costs have been included in the 20-year capital plan.
- One of the major constraints at the WWTP is biosolids processing. CCU's biosolids processing has been undersized since the plant was built because the proprietary Cannibal solids reduction system never performed as the manufacturer intended. The Master Plan includes projects to improve biosolids handling.
- The Master Plan also includes a project to increase capacity in the existing oxidation ditches, which were loaded nearly to capacity in 2023.

Lead and Copper Revised Rule (LCRR) Compliance

- EPA issued the LCRR in 2022. To comply with the current LCRR, CCU must inventory all water service line materials on both the public and customer sides of the water meter by October 2024. CCU continues to work on this task.
- Once the inventory is complete, CCU must develop a plan for replacing any lead service lines discovered during the inventory. A new rule that has not been finalized yet requires replacement of all lead service lines within 10 years.

2024-2025 Capital Projects

The following projects are scheduled to be the next round of capital improvements for CCU.

- Water Treatment Plant 2 (WTP 2) New Roof – the roof on WTP 2 is original to the building and has had several leaks over the past few years. The leaks have been repaired, but the roof is due for replacement.
- Oak Ridge Trail Booster Station – This project is included in the 2024 capital budget and includes installing a new booster station for a neighborhood near Water Tank 4 that experiences lower pressures than the rest of the system.
- WTP 2 SCADA – This project is included in the 2024 capital budget and includes updating the water plant SCADA system. The existing system has reliability issues and is preventing us from becoming 4-log certified.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Centrifuge Replacement – One centrifuge was replaced in 2020 to increase sludge dewatering capacity at the WWTP. This project will replace another centrifuge to increase capacity again. Sludge production has nearly doubled from January 2023 to January 2024.
- Woodside Sewer Extension – A sewer extension from South International Drive west along State Road 58 is needed to serve newly annexed areas in the industrial park.
- Clifty Lift Station Upgrades – Capacity upgrades are needed at the Clifty lift station as all the lift stations that pump to it are being upgraded this year.
- Oxidation Ditch Improvements Phase 1 – Additional aeration capacity is needed at the WWTP to continue to provide reliable treatment with increasing loadings. This project includes installing additional aeration rotors on each ditch.
- 8th Street Lift Station Upgrades – Capacity upgrades are needed at the 8th Street lift station to serve the continued development southwest of Lowell Road and US 31.



Ashley Getz, Columbus City Utilities' Engineer has completed Phase 1 of the Certified Public Manager program through Ball State University. Phase 1 of the program enables students to learn the tools, techniques and concepts that help a public manager direct and manage personnel within the manager's organization. The methods taught in Phase 1 facilitate the adoption of results-oriented perspective toward public management. By "beginning with the end in mind" public managers can better organize their own activities and the activities of their staff members to produce public value. Ashley was awarded the designation of Certified Public Supervisor by completing the year-long rigorous course and by demonstrating proficiency in essential supervisory competencies.

Ashley is now enrolled in Phase 2 of the program. Upon graduation, she will qualify for membership in the American Academy of Certified Public Managers[®]. Columbus City Utilities staff and Columbus Utility Service Board congratulate Ashley on this achievement.

Field Operations

Collection Systems Department

The collection systems department is staffed by 1 supervisor, 1 lead maintenance, 3 equipment operators, and 3 laborers. One equipment operator position and one laborer position are currently open. Staff maintains 275 miles of gravity sanitary sewer, including 105 miles of combined sewer, using a jet sewer maintenance truck, a vactor truck, and a camera video truck. The collections staff is also responsible for maintaining 22 miles of force mains and over 5,600 manholes.

During 2023, the collections system staff maintained over 451,931 feet of sewer, which represents 31 percent of the total gravity system.

During 2023, the sewer collections system crew started performing sewer repairs in-house and completed 14 repairs. In the past, CCU would have hired a contractor to complete the repairs. The sewer collections crew also completed 2,974 work orders since mid-April when new maintenance management software was implemented.

Three employees were certified in the Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) in 2023, and there was also an effort made to cross-train all staff on all equipment used in the department.

Water Distribution Department

The water distribution department staff includes 1 supervisor, 3 crew chiefs, 3 equipment operators, two meter technicians, a field representative, and 2 laborers. The water distribution crews maintain and repair 307 miles of water main, 2,086 fire hydrants, and 4,764 valves. They also install new water services and replace water meters.

Distribution staff administer a cross connection control program, which is designed to keep contaminants from flowing into the public water system from sprinkler systems, irrigation systems, industrial processes, etc. There are over 3,000 backflow devices in the distribution system.

During 2023, the distribution staff repaired 28 water main breaks, exercised or repaired 63 valves, and tested, inspected, or replaced nearly 100 percent of the hydrants in the distribution system. They completed 1,783 work orders.

A contractor was hired to flow test 600 hydrants in 2023. The American Waterworks Association (AWWA) recommends flow testing 20 percent of a distribution system per year, and the 600 hydrants completed in 2023 exceeds that goal. CCU intends to continue the flow testing program on an annual basis.

Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS)

In 2023, CCU implemented a new computerized maintenance management system, Cityworks, for field operations. All work orders are tracked in this new system and include labor, materials, and equipment used. Having this data will be beneficial as we try to target the most problematic areas of our systems. Cityworks is planned to be extended to other departments in 2024.

Operations Report

The Columbus City Utilities Operations Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of two drinking water treatment facilities, the wastewater treatment facility and laboratory services offered by the utility.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Columbus Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was placed in operation during May of 2011. The design capacity of the WWTP is 13.9 million gallons per day (MGD) average daily flow and 39.0 MGD peak daily flow. The treatment type is an extended aeration treatment process with Biological Phosphorus Removal. There were no permit violations during 2023.

The WWTP is staffed with 1 superintendent, 1 maintenance supervisor, 4 operators, 1 truck driver and 8 maintenance personnel. WWTP staff are also responsible for the preventive maintenance and repair of 82 wastewater lift stations, Haw Creek Headworks and Mariah Excess Flow Basins.

The WWTP operates unattended on weekends and holidays and staff can access controls through a laptop computer and automated devices. The level of plant automation has allowed staff to be flexible regarding plant operations.

There have been no permit violations since plant start-up in 2011.



Operations Data

Operations Influent Data

Average Flow: 6.434 MGD
Average BOD: 338 mg/L
Average TSS: 265 mg/L
Average NH₃N: 25.6 mg/L
Average Total P: 7.25 mg/L

Operations Effluent Data

Average Flow: 6.436 MGD
Average TSS: 2.3 mg/L
Average CBOD: 2 mg/L
Average NH₃N: 0.38mg/L
Average Total P: 0.33mg/L

Travis Calhoun, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent and **Chris Murray**, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, completed the IWEA Leadership Development Institute program. The curriculum is specifically designed for water and wastewater professionals looking to advance their careers in the industry. The program consists of 10 courses and students meet over a 12-month period. Each course is handpicked and structured to best develop and inspire future water industry leaders.



Maintenance Report

In 2023 the WWTP maintenance staff repaired mechanical fine screen 11-0; grit pumps 11-01 and 11-0; and grit classifiers 11-01 and 11-02.

The maintenance department assisted in the startup of lift station rehabs for the Southeast Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project that included 5 lift stations and 38 home grinder pump stations. This work included repairing and rebuilding pumps for the lift stations along with electrical repairs.



Quality Control Laboratory

Staffing at the Quality Control Lab (QC) includes 1 supervisor, 2 lab technicians and 1 pretreatment coordinator. The QC Department is responsible for compliance testing and reporting for the drinking water treatment plants, the wastewater treatment plant, and the industrial pretreatment program. There were no permit violations in 2023.

The industrial pretreatment program includes routine collection and testing of samples to ensure compliance with local limits on pollutants, self-monitoring reporting by industries and inspection of facilities for 22 permitted industries. In addition to industrial surveillance and compliance, QC staff manages compliance of all local restaurants for grease traps and interceptors.

During 2023 QC staff performed tests on drinking water, wastewater, industrial flows and performed quality control tests. All compliance test methods are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.



*Quality Control Laboratory Staff: **Heath Oaks**, Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator; **Jenny Betz**, Lead Laboratory Technician; **Angie Bowling**, Quality Control Laboratory Supervisor; **James Bailey-Smith**, Laboratory Technician Fats/Rags/Oil/Grease Inspector*

As a Certified Laboratory, the QC Laboratory is required to participate in Proficiency Testing in water and wastewater annually. QC Laboratory staff received Certificates of Excellence for achieving 100% acceptable data in 2023 for drinking water and wastewater.

Quality Control Laboratory received the 2023 Laboratory of the Year from the Southern Indiana Operators Association.

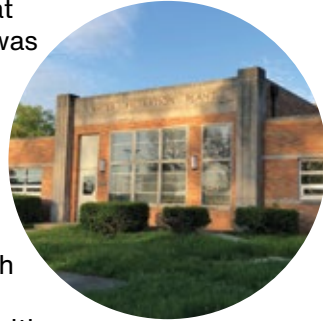
Quality Control Laboratory 2023 Data

Drinking Water Test Count	Wastewater Treatment Test Count	Industrial Pretreatment Test Count	Quality Control Test Count	2023 Total Test Count
5,179	4,440	1,509	7,795	18,923

Water Treatment Plants

Water Plant 1 and Water Plant 2 share the same staff which includes 1 plant superintendent, 1 lead maintenance and 4 maintenance/operators. In addition to the operation and maintenance of two water treatment plants, staff also maintain 4 elevated tanks, one standpipe and two water booster stations.

Water Plant 1 is located at Lincoln Park. The plant was placed in service during 1950 with a capacity of 8.0 MGD. The current daily water production is 3.5 MGD. WP1 is fully automated which allows staff flexibility with operations.

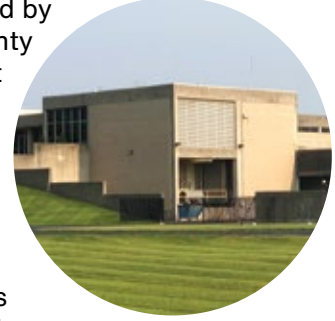


WP1 has two clearwells with a total storage capacity of 1.6 MGD. WP1 receives its water from very close proximity to the plant consisting of seven groundwater wells.

The treatment process consists of pretreatment using chlorine to oxidize iron and manganese, the addition of fluoride for dental hygiene, Polyphosphate for corrosion control, gravity filtration for polishing, and post chlorine for disinfection.

WP1 receives maintenance throughout the year to keep it operating to its potential. Some of these items include the rehabilitation of 1 high service pump; 1 new 150 HP motor to operate this pump; 2 new 14" effluent valves in the pipe galley; and a new electric motor for the waste pump for backwash disposal.

Water Plant 2 is located by the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds. The plant was placed in service during 1972 with a capacity of 20.0 MGD. The current daily water production is 6.5 MGD. WP2



also has two clearwells that are 1.6 million gallons each for a total of 3.2 million gallons of treated water storage at WP2 when full. This plant is also fully automated, which allows staff the same flexibility as WP1.

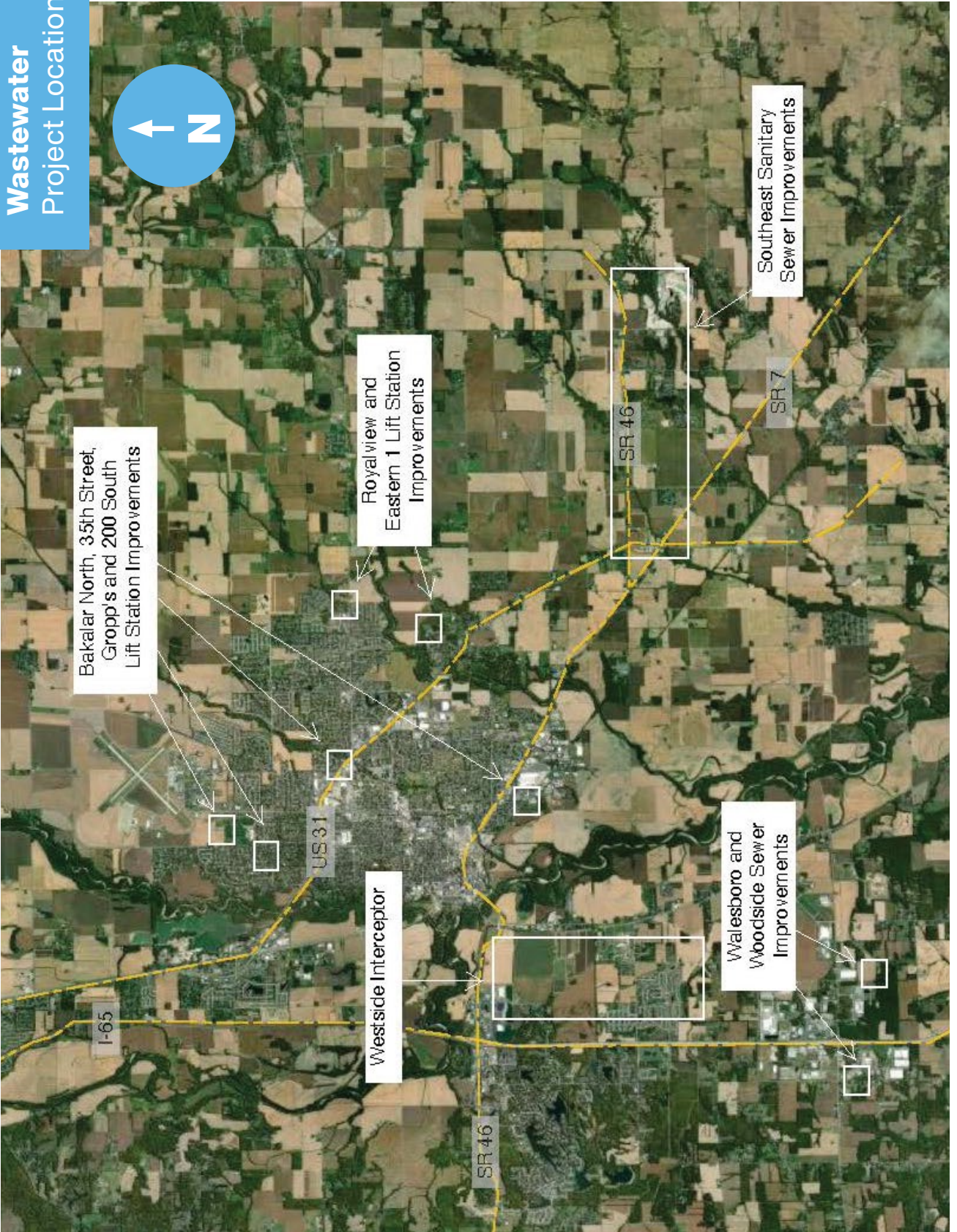
The treatment process consists of pretreatment using chlorine to oxidize iron and manganese, the addition of fluoride for dental hygiene, Polyphosphate for corrosion control, gravity filtration for polishing, and post chlorine for disinfection.

WP2 receives raw water from three well fields located south of Garden city near the fairgrounds. These three well fields consist of a total of nineteen ground water wells. Just some noteworthy things at WP2 for the year are the rehab of 1 vertical turbine high service pump; a 250HP motor for this pump; and the first phase of filter rehab and painting.

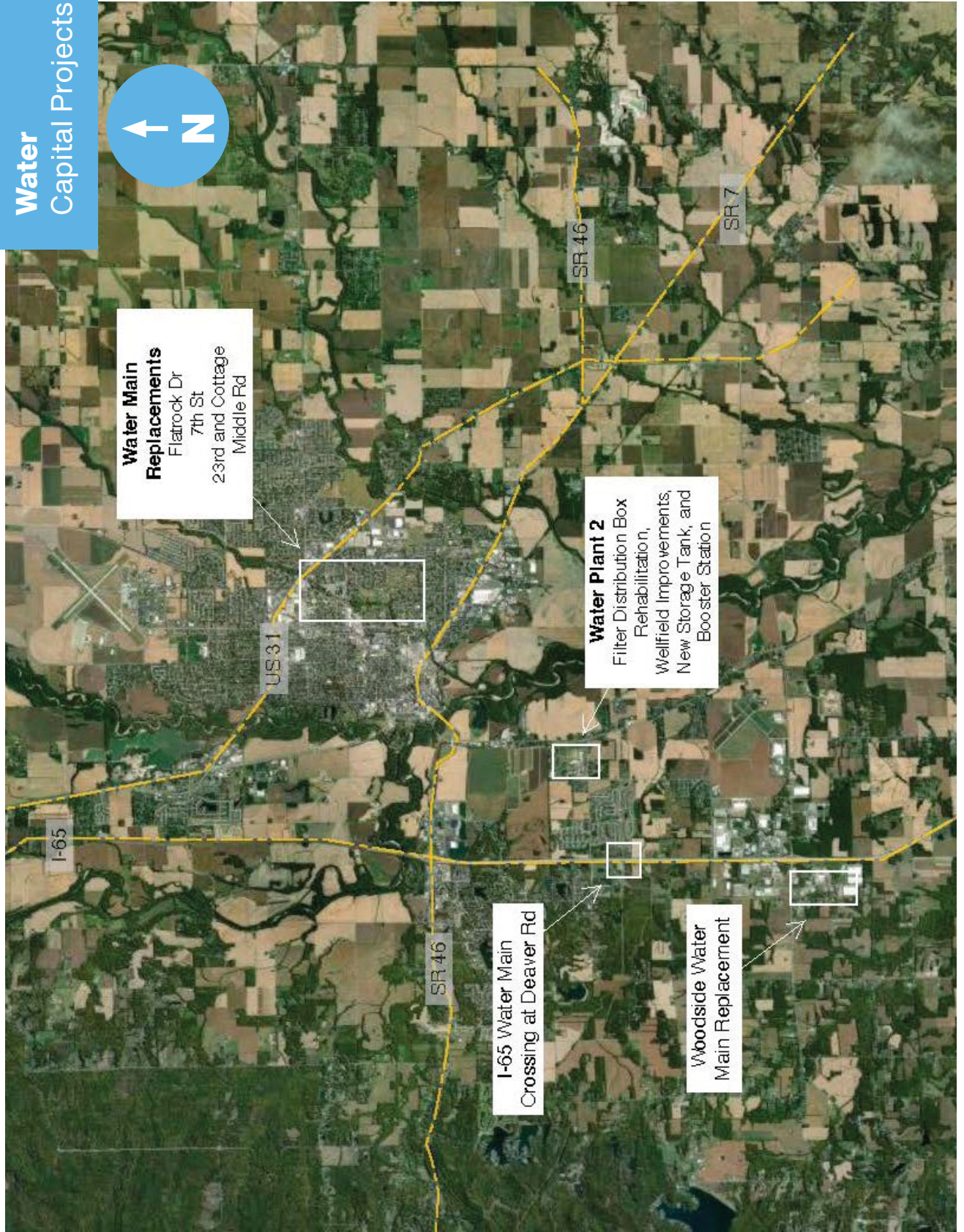
Water Plants 1 & 2: Water Quality Monthly Averages

2023	Water Plant #1 Raw Water	Water Plant #1 Finished Water	Water Plant #2 Raw Water	Water Plant #2 Finished Water
Iron	1.78	0.04	0.52	0.01
Manganese	0.192	0.021	0.143	0.024
Phosphate		0.082		0.91
Free Chlorine		1.13		1.38
Total Chlorine		1.19		1.53

Wastewater Project Locations



Water Capital Projects



Water Main Replacements
Flatrock Dr
7th St
23rd and Cottage
Middle Rd

Water Plant 2
Filter Distribution Box Rehabilitation,
Wellfield Improvements,
New Storage Tank, and
Booster Station

I-65 Water Main Crossing at Deaver Rd

Woodside Water Main Replacement

Photo Gallery

Columbus City Utilities infrastructure is a part of the area landscape. Here's a quick look behind the scenes at just some of the facilities, equipment and people you may see around town.



Columbus Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Columbus Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was placed in service during May of 2011. The design flow of the WWTP is 13.9 MGD average daily flow and 39.0 MGD peak flow. The treatment process is extended aeration with Biological Nutrient Removal.



Haw Creek Headworks

The Haw Creek Pump Station is located at Water Street and Lafayette Avenue. It is the main pump station delivering flow to the wastewater treatment plant. It has the pumping capability to deliver 32.0 MGD to the WWTP during dry weather and during wet weather events, can pump at a rate of 240 MGD.



Mariah Excess Flow Basins

The Mariah Excess Flow Basins are used during some wet weather events. The basins have a combined total of 20.0 million gallons of storage with the capability of disinfection and discharging into the Haw Creek or returning the flow back to the wastewater treatment plant for processing with other wastewater flows.



35th Street Wet Well & Valve Vault



Inwood Water Service Reconnection



Tank Foundation

Wastewater Plant Biosolids Award

Travis Calhoun, Wastewater Plant Superintendent and Chris Murray, Wastewater Plant Operator accepted the Indiana Water Environment Association (IWEA) 2023 Biosolids Award on behalf of Columbus City Utilities. The Biosolids Award recognizes utilities who make significant contributions in the development and implementation of cost-effective, environmentally safe, and publicly acceptable biosolids beneficial use practices, which recycles nutrients, improves soil conditions, or otherwise conserves valuable natural resources.



Columbus Utilities was selected due to not having any violations in the past year, meeting compliance requirements, and having renewable resources. Congratulations to our entire Wastewater Plant staff.

Wastewater Challenge Winners



The Indiana Wastewater Environment Association (IWEA) Wastewater Challenge is an event that happens once a year and brings operators and professionals from around the state to compete in seven different events in one day. These events test the skills, knowledge, and experience in various tasks that are involved with wastewater. This year the seven events consisted of: Operations & Maintenance, Collections, Safety, Residuals, Laboratory, Pretreatment, and Utility Management.

Columbus City Utilities employees competing in the 2023 IWEA Wastewater Challenge were: Randy Duckworth, Special Projects Coordinator; Erin Johnson, Manager of

Operations; Travis Calhoun, Wastewater Plant Superintendent; and Chris Murray, Wastewater Plant Operator. The Columbus City Utilities team placed first in O & M, Collections, Utility Management, Residuals, and also won the Spirit Award. The team placed second overall and advanced to represent Indiana at the Water Environment Federation's WEFTEC event to compete in the National Wastewater Challenge.

Joe Taylor Spirit Award

Columbus City Utilities employee, Chris Murray was awarded the 2023 Joe Taylor Spirit Award by the Southern Indiana Operators Association (SIOA). Chris has worked at CCU for 25 years and was selected as the 2023 recipient due to his commitment to CCU and the wastewater industry. Chris has competed in the Indiana Water Environment Association (IWEA) Wastewater Challenge eleven times and has had the honor of representing the state of Indiana at the Water Environment Federation national WEFTEC event three times. He has played a key role in keeping the CCU wastewater plant operating at high standards over the years. It was stated that Chris has the spirit and enthusiasm that all young operators should strive for as they come into the wastewater industry. Columbus City Utilities congratulates Chris on receiving this award.



Tumble Bug Award



Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent, Travis Calhoun was presented with the Indiana Water Environment Association (IWEA) 2023 Tumble Bug Award. The award was created to recognize IWEA committee members, program presenters and other journeymen within the organization who throughout the year labor industriously on behalf of the Association. Recipients are selected and deemed worthy by the Awards Committee and/or the Executive Committee. Columbus City Utilities congratulates Travis on his continued dedication to IWEA and for his continued efforts to preserve and protect Indiana's waterways.

TANK OVERFLOW PIPE
SEE SHT. 4 AND
DETAIL ON SHT. 8

WALL MOUNT ADJACENT
TO LADDER



Columbus City Utilities

Board of Directors

Clayton Force

Chairman

Patrick Andrews

Vice-Chairman

Cheryl McAvoy

Secretary

David Spear

Member

Barry Turner

Member



In 2023, Columbus City Utilities sent **233,795** bills to customers, collecting **\$23.2M** in water and sewer revenues.





Columbus City Utilities

1111 McClure Road • Columbus, IN 47201 • (812) 372-8861

columbusutilities.org