

Columbus City Utilities

2025 Annual Report





In 2025, CCU opened the new Deaver Road Booster Station, **improving service to the southwestern portion of our area.**



Executive Director Letter

The past year has been one of significant transition and progress for Columbus City Utilities. As we modernized our infrastructure and financial foundations, we remained steadfast in our mission to provide high-quality water and sewer services to our more than 19,000 customers.

Financial Stewardship and Performance

In 2025, CCU demonstrated strong financial health, collecting \$28.4 million in total revenue. While our operating expenses totaled \$13.3 million, we successfully navigated essential rate adjustments—implementing new sewer rates in January and water rates in December—to fund the critical infrastructure repairs necessary for our city’s future. Furthermore, we issued two new bonds to ensure the continued financing of our ambitious 2026 project slate.

Capital Improvements and Infrastructure

Our Engineering Department managed over \$51 million in capital projects in 2025, supported by the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF). Key achievements included:

- **Expansion:** Opening the new Deaver Road Booster Station and elevated storage tank, which added 2 million gallons of storage capacity to support growing industrial demand.
- **System Resilience:** Upgrading critical lift stations (Walesboro, Woodside, Eastern 1, and Royalview) to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows and provide capacity for future regional growth.
- **Modernization:** Investing \$2.7 million in water main replacements at the Bakalar airport and central city areas to address chronic breaks and improve fire flow.

Operational Excellence and Innovation

Our Treatment Operations team processed billions of gallons of water and wastewater with zero permit violations in 2025. Our commitment to innovation is highlighted by the near-completion of our \$3.9 million solar array, which is expected to reduce our energy purchases by 30% starting in early 2026. Additionally, our Quality Control Laboratory was recognized with the Laboratory Excellence award from the Indiana Water Environment Association, reflecting the high standards of our staff.

As we move into 2026, we are launching a new three-year capital plan featuring over \$100 million in improvements. This includes a \$31 million Biosolids Thermal Dryer to reduce waste volume by 80% and a \$24 million Westside Interceptor to support the continued development of our community.

I am incredibly proud of the dedication shown by our 2025 staff. Their professionalism ensures that CCU remains a leader in utility management and a reliable partner for the residents of Columbus.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Kelso' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roger Kelso, P.E.

Executive Director

Business Report

Columbus City Utilities is pleased to present its financial performance information for 2025.

Highlights:

- CCU provided water and sewer services to over 19,000 customers in 2025, and processed billions of gallons of water and wastewater through our treatment plants. In 2025, we billed and collected \$28.4 million in revenue for our water and sewer utilities. Operating expenses totaled \$13.9 million in 2025.
- In 2025, we issued two new bonds. Each utility issued one of the bonds and the funds will be used to finance projects in 2026.
- CCU still have some of the lowest utility rates in the state despite recent rate increases. In 2025, new water rates were approved and implemented starting November 2025 with the next two stages November 2027 and November 2029.
- The rate increases in effect for the sewer utility and water utility are needed for essential infrastructure repair and improvements.
- CCU updated our website's layout and functionality, making it more informative and user friendly



Heather Holzem

Heather Holzem

*Associate Director of Finance
and Business*

2026 Finance & Business Office Goals:

- Continue increasing use of paperless billing by motivating clients to sign up for electronic billing statements.
- Provide superior customer service to all clients in 2026.

CCU Summary Balance Sheet

December 31, 2025

	Water Utility	Sewer Utility
Total Fund Balances	\$7,040,769	\$29,969,006
Total Long-Term Debt	\$50,323,000	\$59,293,000

CCU Summary Budget to Actual

For the year ended December 31, 2025

Revenue was above budget in water and sewer due to increased usage, and the rate increase that went into effect January 2025 for sewer and December 2025 for water. Expenses for water slightly exceeded budget due to unanticipated increase in spending in multiple categories. Expenses for sewer finished below budget due to decreased spending across multiple categories.

Operating Revenue

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Variance	Percentage
Water Utility	\$8,682,711	\$8,771,498	\$88,787	1.0%
Sewer Utility	\$18,903,100	\$19,657,705	\$754,605	4.0%
Total	\$27,585,811	\$28,429,203	\$843,392	3.0%

Operating Expenses

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Variance	Percentage
Water Utility	\$5,703,441	\$5,832,353	(\$128,912)	-2.3%
Sewer Utility	\$8,235,207	\$7,473,639	\$761,568	10.2%
Total	\$13,938,648	\$13,305,992	\$632,656	4.8%

High-level income statement information includes the following:

CCU Summary Income Statement

For the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2025

Revenue was higher than the prior year by 0.5% for the water utility and 16.7% for the sewer utility. Expenses were lower than prior year by 0.1% and the sewer utility were 10.8% lower than previous year.

Operating Revenue

	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	Variance	Percentage
Water Utility	\$8,727,553	\$8,771,498	\$43,945	0.5%
Sewer Utility	\$16,844,849	\$19,657,705	\$2,812,856	16.7%
Total	\$25,572,402	\$28,429,203	\$2,856,801	10.0%

Operating Expenses

	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	Variance	Percentage
Water Utility	\$5,838,503	\$5,832,353	\$6,150	0.1%
Sewer Utility	\$8,376,634	\$7,473,639	\$902,995	10.8%
Total	\$14,215,137	\$13,305,992	\$909,145	6.8%

Engineering Report

The CCU Engineering Department consists of 7 staff – Associate Director of Engineering, Engineering Supervisor – Locates and Development, Engineering Project Manager, Water Program Manager, 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 is wrapping up over \$51 million in capital projects, made possible by the 2021 water and sewer rate increases and low-interest loan funding from the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program.

In 2025, CCU started moving forward with a new 3-year capital plan, which includes over \$29 million in water system improvements and over \$71 million in wastewater improvements.



Ashley Getz
Ashley Getz, P.E.
Associate Director of Engineering



CCU completed the following projects in 2025:

Walesboro and Woodside Lift Station Upgrades - \$4.7 million

- The Woodside South lift station, located along South International Drive, serves the Woodside industrial park west of I-65. The lift station was in need of rehabilitation because of age and condition. The project included a full lift station rehabilitation with new pumps, controls, and a new valve vault. The upgraded lift station provides additional capacity for future growth in the area as well.
- The Walesboro lift station, located on the Walesboro airport property, receives flow from the Woodside South lift station and also serves the industrial area east of I-65 and the neighborhood north of Deaver Road. The project included capacity upgrades to handle recent growth in the area but also has room for future growth.

Eastern 1 and Royalview Lift Station Upgrades - \$3.99 million

- The two lift stations included in this project serve areas outside City limits and were originally constructed by other utilities then transferred to CCU. Both lift stations had capacity issues and caused sanitary sewer overflows during rain events. Both lift station capacities were upgraded, and there have been no sanitary sewer overflows caused by these lift stations since the project has been completed.

International Drive Sanitary Sewer - \$4.9 million

- This project included replacing an existing 8-inch sanitary sewer along South International Drive with a new 18-inch sewer. The 8-inch sewer was undersized for current flows and limited growth in the area. Construction was difficult because of the heavy traffic on South International Drive and the number of existing underground utilities in the area, but the construction went smoothly.

Deaver Road Tank and Booster Station - \$11.8 million

- The final part of a larger \$18.1 million water improvements project was completed this year. The new Deaver Road elevated water storage tank provides an additional 2 million gallons of water storage in the system and allows Water Plant 2 to operate more efficiently. The new booster station replaced two undersized booster stations at the end of their useful life and supplies water to the Walesboro/Woodside area and portions of the west side of Columbus.
- This project has significantly improved CCU's ability to provide water for the growing industrial demand and has made the water system easier to operate.



Water Main Replacements - \$2.7 million

- Water main replacements were completed at the Bakalar airport, along 5th Street, and in the area of Central Avenue and 23rd Street.
- These projects addressed areas where CCU has had multiple water main breaks in the past, replaced galvanized service lines in poor condition, and improved fire flow.

Deaver Road Sanitary Sewer Extension - \$3.8 million

- A new sanitary sewer, funded by the Columbus Redevelopment Commission, was installed along Deaver Road. The new sewer serves the new Toyota Material Handling plant and is sized to serve future developments in the area. Residents along the line on Deaver Road can also connect to the new sewer.

Ongoing Construction Projects

WWTP Solar - \$3.9 million

- The WWTP Solar Project includes the construction of a solar field west of the WWTP on property owned by CCU. The approximately 1 megawatt solar array would reduce energy purchased by around 30 percent. This project will reduce electrical costs of the utility and improve power resiliency. The project also will take advantage of tax rebates from the Inflation Reduction Act.
- The project is expected to be put in to service in early 2026.

2nd Street Water Main Replacement - \$3.3 million

- This project includes the replacement of water main in 2nd Street from Brown Street to State Street ahead of a future INDOT road improvement project. The project, which is being funded by the Columbus Redevelopment Commission, will replace some of CCU's oldest water mains.

Oak Ridge Trail Booster Station - \$223,500

- This new booster station on Oak Ridge Trail will increase the water pressure for the homes in this area to match the pressure in the rest of the system. Current pressures are lower than ideal because of the location of the homes in relationship to CCU's water tank 4.
- The new booster station has a long lead time but should be in place summer 2026.

WTP 2 SCADA Improvements - \$0.5 million

- The SCADA system at WTP 2 has been inconsistent and problematic for several years, which makes operation of the water plant more difficult. CCU is currently in Phase 1 of this SCADA improvements project, which will improve the reliability and operation of WTP 2.
- This project is expected to wrap up in early 2026.

WWTP Centrifuge Replacement - \$3.1 million

- The centrifuge project will replace and upsize two existing biosolids centrifuges. This project will allow CCU to keep up with growth in the City and be more flexible with biosolids operations.
- The new centrifuges are expected to be operational in spring 2026.

Water Main Replacements – Newsom Ave and 7th Street – \$1.0 million

- These water main replacements are an extension of the water main replacements in 2025 and are being completed with water project savings. These areas should be complete by spring 2026.

Upcoming Water Projects

CCU's rate case with the IURC was successful, and it included funding for nearly \$30 million in projects, listed below.

Water Treatment Plant No. 1 Improvements - \$2.7 million

- Upgrades to WTP No. 1 are planned to increase plant capacity from 3 million gallons per day (mgd) to between 6 and 8 mgd. The extra plant capacity will allow CCU to make improvements to WTP No. 2 without disruptions to the customer.
- The project includes improvements to the filters, the backwash handling system, and the chlorine disinfection system.
- The disinfection improvements will improve the safety of the water plant by eliminating the use of chlorine gas.
- Construction is expected to start in 2026.

Water Treatment Plant No. 2 Improvements - \$6 million

- The plan is to rehabilitate WTP No. 2 over a period of time with several projects that can be combined or completed separately. WTP No. 2 requires significant rehabilitation that will be done over several years. Once complete, the plant will be able to consistently supply water to our consumers for years to come.
- Some of the early action projects include backwash handling and storage improvements, chemical storage improvements, and disinfection improvements. Like with WTP No. 1, the disinfection changes will improve safety by stopping the use and storage of chlorine gas on site.
- Construction is expected to start in late 2026.

Water Tank Modifications - \$10 million

- Water tanks 1 and 2 are both not tall enough, meaning the system pressure has to be lowered to empty the tanks and ensure the water turns over often enough.
- A preliminary engineering study phase was completed to review the cost and feasibility of raising two existing water tanks compared to the cost of pumping out of the tanks or constructing a new tank.
- The best long-term solution that incorporates future Master Plan work was to construct a new elevated storage tank at the existing Tank 1 site and to build a booster station to pump out of Tank 2.
- Construction is expected to start in 2026.

Water Transmission and Distribution Projects - \$6 million

- WTP No. 2 Raw Water Main Replacement
 - This project includes the construction of a parallel raw water main from the Marr Glick wellfield to WTP No. 2 for redundancy and capacity.
- 16" Transmission Main (Directionally Drilled) – Marr Road
 - This project includes the replacement of an existing portion of 16" transmission main under Haw Creek. The existing main is currently visible in Haw Creek due to erosion of the creek over time.
- 16" Transmission Main (Directionally Drilled) – 10th Street
 - This project includes the replacement of an existing portion of 16" transmission main under Haw Creek. The existing main is currently visible in Haw Creek due to erosion of the creek over time.
- These water main projects are expected to start in early 2026.



Upcoming Sewer Projects

CCU finalized a water rate case and funding for a new round of capital projects in 2025.

The following projects are upcoming over the next three years.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Biosolids Thermal Dryer - \$31 million

- When the sewer rate increase was approved, it included bonding for several projects, including biosolids improvements. Our Master Plan included digester improvements and continuing to produce Class B biosolids. Over the past 2 years, CCU has been reviewing biosolids alternatives, including thermal drying. We have elected to change our biosolids management plan to include drying for the following reasons:

- Reduces biosolids volume by 80%.
- Produces Class A biosolids.
- If PFAS becomes regulated in biosolids like it is in other states, we have more options and less volume to handle. Drying is also a precursor to incineration, which is currently the most viable way to eliminate PFAS in biosolids.
- Reduces annual biosolids operating costs by reducing amount of hauling and landfill tipping fees. For reference, we spent over \$500,000 on biosolids disposal in 2024.
- Opens up more disposal options, such as cover for the Bartholomew County landfill, compost, and/or continued land application.
- This project is currently in design with construction expected to start in 2026.

Westside Interceptor and SR 11 Force Main - \$24 million

- Westside Interceptor – The interceptor portion of the project includes approximately 13,000 feet of new 42-inch gravity sewer that will eliminate the State Road 46 lift station and serve the undeveloped area south of State Road 46 and west of Garden City. The State Road 46 lift station is in poor condition and is undersized for current flows. The cement-asbestos force main from the State Road 46 lift station is unlocatable and is under the new SR 46/SR 11 overpass.
- SR 11 Force Main – The force main portion of the project includes a new small-diameter force main installed along State Road 11 to serve three properties with existing grinder pump connections to a cement-asbestos force main. This would also allow some residents and businesses with failing septic tanks to connect to City sewer.
- Southside Lift Station – The Southside lift station is a regional station that serves all areas of the City west of the East Fork White River. The existing wet well is too small for existing flows, leading to inefficient pump operation. The project includes reconstructing the wet well so that it's deep enough to receive the Westside Interceptor and improve pump operation.
- The Westside Interceptor, SR 11 force main, and southside lift station projects will provide capacity for growth on the west side of Columbus far into the future, make operations more efficient, and eliminate potential sewer overflows.
- Construction for this project is expected to start in 2026.

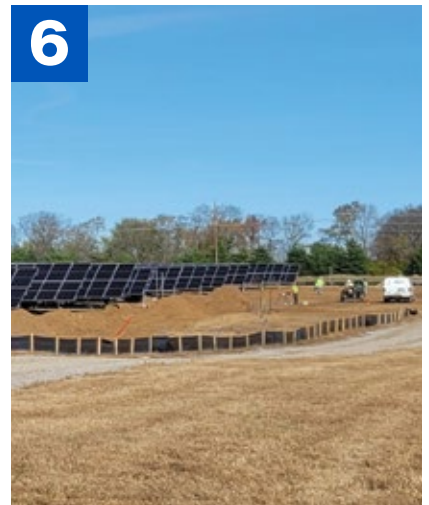
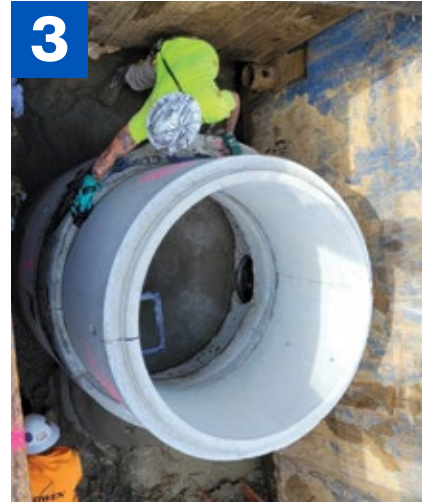
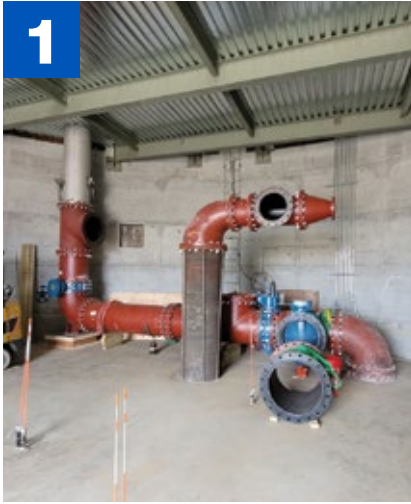
Clifty Lift Station Upgrades - \$4 million

- The Clifty lift station receives flow from a large gravity sewer area as well as three remote lift stations outside of the City. The project will increase capacity to address infiltration and inflow in the collection system and will make lift station maintenance easier.
- Construction is expected to start in early 2026.

8th Street Lift Station Upgrades - \$2 million

- The 8th Street lift station is a regional station that receives flow from the Indianapolis Road corridor and Driftwood Utilities. The 8th Street service area has seen significant growth over the past five years, and growth is expected to continue in the area. The project will increase lift station capacity and improve power resiliency with a permanent standby generator.
- Construction is expected to start in early 2026.

2025 Construction Projects



1. Deaver Road Tank Interior;
2. Water Street Construction;
3. Deaver Road Sewer Manhole Construction;
4. International Drive Sewer Construction;
5. Royalview Lift Station;
6. Solar Panel Construction at WWTP;
7. Walesboro Lift Station Construction;
8. Woodside Lift Station

WWTP Solar Field is featured on the cover of this report.

Field Operations

Manholes
maintained
916

16.6%

Percentage of sewer
mains that were
maintained via footage

Hydrants
Flow Tested
591

Number of in-house
sewer repairs

33

94

Number of sewer
tap inspections:

Completed
Collections
Work Orders
4,532

Number of water
main break repairs

30

Completed
Distribution
Work Orders
1,977

7

Number of repaired
and exercised valves

Hydrants tested,
inspected, replaced,
or maintained

145

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 2025.

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 80 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.



Travis Calhoun

Travis Calhoun

*Associate Director of
Treatment Operations*

Operations Data

Operations Influent Data

Average Flow: 7.696 MGD
Average BOD: 221.17 mg/L
Average TSS: 174.25 mg/L
Average NH₃N: 25.7 mg/L
Average Total P: 5.838 mg/L

Operations Effluent Data

Average Flow: 7.704 MGD
Average TSS: 2.5 mg/L
Average CBOD: 2 mg/L
Average NH₃N: 0.07 mg/L
Average Total P: 0.33 mg/L

Maintenance Report

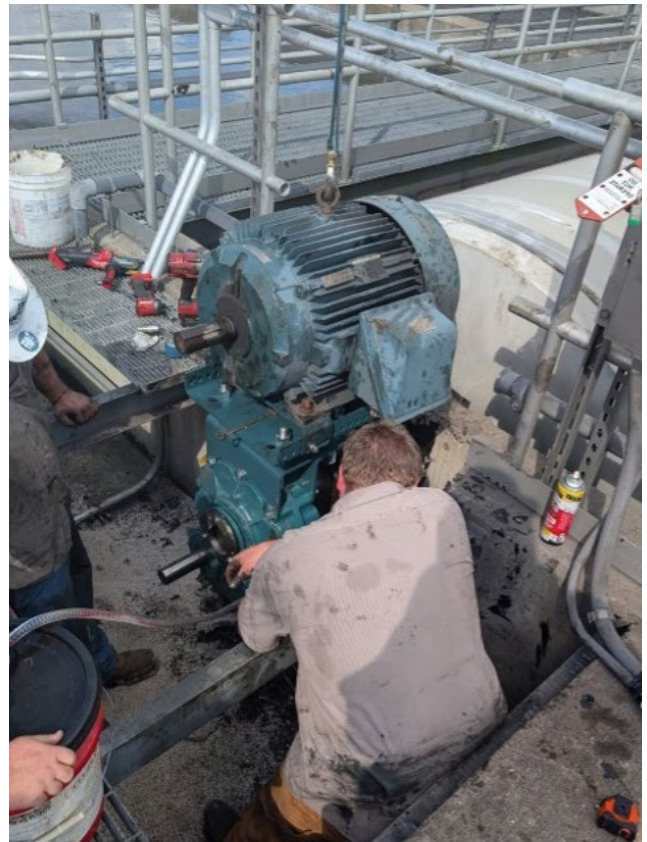
The wastewater maintenance department consists of the Maintenance Supervisor and 8 maintenance personnel.

The maintenance department is responsible for 3 wastewater facilities: The Wastewater treatment plant, Haw Creek headworks, and the Mariah Basins. The wastewater maintenance department is also responsible for 80 lift stations, 3 stations were eliminated and one new station was added. 79 of the 80 stations are converted to OmniSite monitoring.

Along with performing preventive maintenance on all wastewater facilities, checking all stations on a weekly basis, the department performs repairs as needed at all wastewater facilities and lift stations repairing or replacing equipment when needed.



Newly added Sutter Place lift stations



New gear drive installed on aerator 15-14.

Quality Control Laboratory

The Quality Control Department (QC) is responsible for compliance administration, monitoring, and reporting for the drinking water treatment plants, the wastewater treatment plant, and the industrial pretreatment program. There were no permit violations in 2025.

Staff at the QC Lab consists of: Angie Bowling, Quality Control Supervisor; Heath Oaks, Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator; Jenny Betz, Lead Laboratory Technician; James Bailey-Smith, Laboratory Technician and Fats/Rags/Oil/Grease Inspector. QC staff provides over 63 years of combined experience and dedication to quality control and compliance to our community.



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

The industrial pretreatment program includes the administration of 24 permits at 20 facilities. Staff perform routine collection and testing of samples to ensure compliance with local limits on pollutants as well as inspections and audits of industrial self-monitoring reports. In addition to industrial surveillance and compliance, QC staff manages compliance of all local restaurants for grease traps and interceptors.

During 2025 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.

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 for drinking water and wastewater.

In 2025, Quality Control Laboratory received the award for Laboratory Excellence in Quality Assurance, Quality Control, Record Keeping, and Laboratory Safety from the Indiana Water Environment Association.

Quality Control Laboratory 2025 Data

Drinking Water Test Count	Wastewater Treatment Test Count	Industrial Pretreatment Test Count	Quality Control Test Count	2025 Total Test Count
5,594	4,529	1,341	9,417	20,881

Water Treatment Plants

Water Plant 1 and Water Plant 2 share the same staff which includes 1 plant superintendent, 1 lead maintenance and 5 maintenance/operators. In addition to the operation and maintenance of two water treatment plants staff also maintain 5 elevated tanks, one standpipe and one booster station.



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. It is fully automated, which allows staff flexibility with operations.

WP1 has two clearwells with a total storage capacity of 1.6 MGD. The current average daily water production at water plant 1 is 2.17 MGD. Water plant 1 receives its water from very close proximity to the plant consisting of 7

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 replacement of HSP 1 motor and HSP 1 soft start.

In the well field, staff installed new flow meters on wells 2 and 6. These allow us to gauge the performance of the wells as well as report accurate information the DNR for yearly reports.



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 average daily water production is 6.846 MGD. WP2 also has two clearwells that are 1.6 million gallons each for a

total of 4.0 million gallons of treated water storage when full. This plant is also fully automated. 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 19 ground water wells.

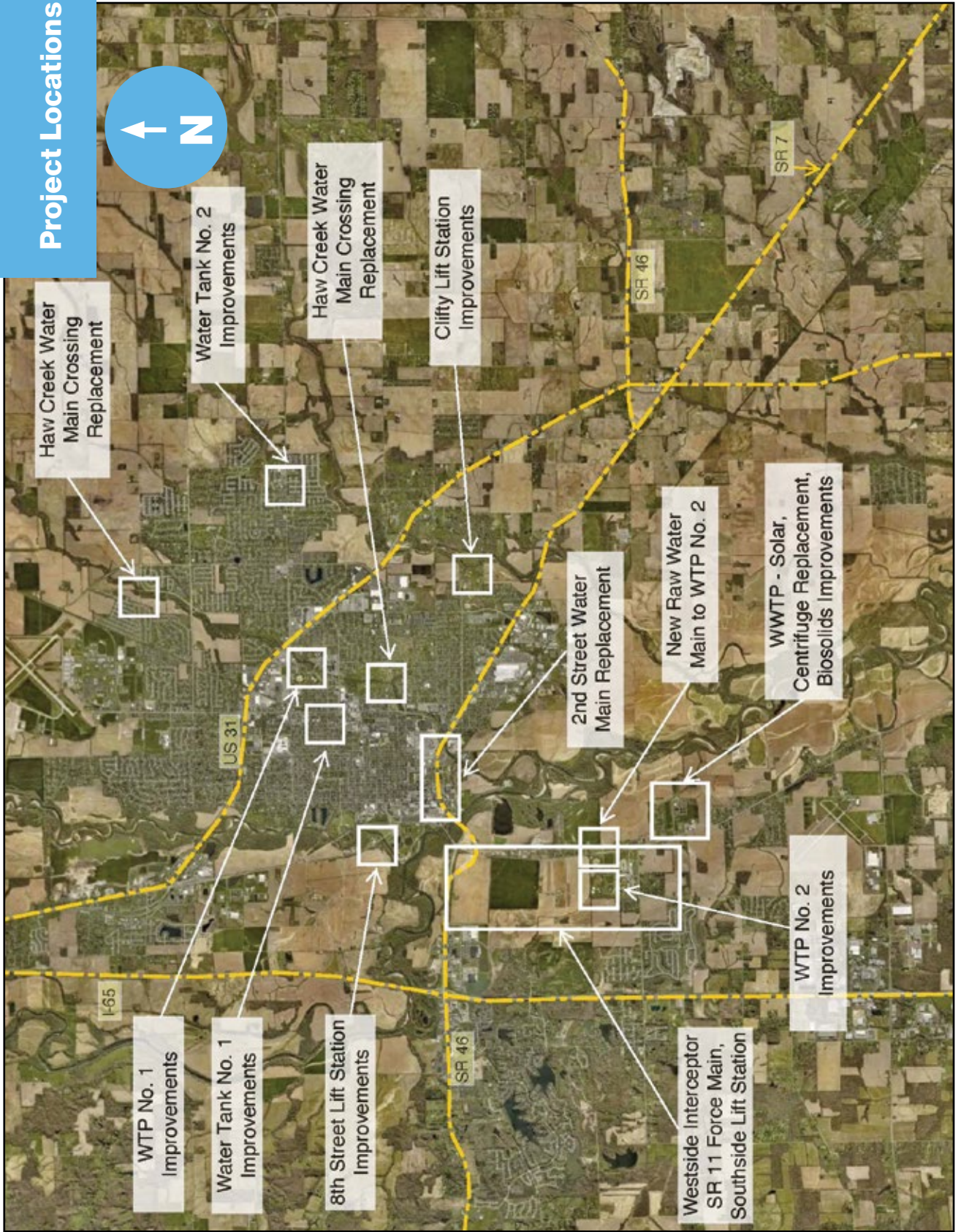
The last set of distribution boxes in the filter room were rehabbed in 2025. While this project took place, the surface wash lines were replaced for this filter train and several troughs inside of the filters were rebuilt and repaired. HSP 5 pump and 400 HP electric motor that drives this pump was also rehabbed. Staff also installed a new flow meter for the plant water measurements.

The well field received updates in the areas of wells 10, 12, and 13, allowing for several more years of reliable service. While these wells were out of service, each well was also cleaned, leading to more water that able to access the well. Water plant staff also had new communication equipment installed on all water towers and six of our wells.

Water Plants 1 & 2: Water Quality Monthly Averages

2025	Water Plant #1 Raw Water	Water Plant #1 Finished Water	Water Plant #2 Raw Water	Water Plant #2 Finished Water
Iron	1.48	0.03	0.64	0.02
Manganese	0.206	0.022	0.139	0.022
Phosphate		0.86		0.88
Free Chlorine		1.25		1.39
Total Chlorine		1.35		1.59

Project Locations



Community Outreach

In 2025, Columbus City Utilities took part in multiple community outreach opportunities, including the Columbus Farmer's Market, Mill Race Marathon, and Festival of Lights Parade.



Festival of Lights Parade

Columbus City Utilities celebrated the holiday season by participating in their first Columbus Festival of Lights Parade. The float served as both a festive display and an educational tool, featuring a scaled-down replica of CCU's new water tank located near Deaver Road. To demonstrate the utility's vital role in the community, the display simulated the flow of water from 'tank to tap'.

Our team took great pride in building this float to represent the work we do every day, and it was a joy to have our employees, and their families, connect with the community we serve.



Mill Race Marathon

Our crew had a wonderful time cheering on Mill Race Marathon participants, passing out water, singing and even dancing.

We were thrilled to be part of such a great event!



Columbus Farmer's Market

Columbus City Utilities hosted the community booth at the Columbus Farmer's Market on Saturday, July 25th.

CCU staff answered questions about upcoming projects, water quality, and wastewater treatment.

CCU also participated in markets on Saturday, August 30th and September 20th. Staff provided complimentary water, activity coloring books, stickers, and information about services that we provide to the city.



Dirty Jobs Camp

Columbus City Utilities hosted campers for Columbus Parks & Recreation's Dirty Jobs: Columbus Edition Camp.

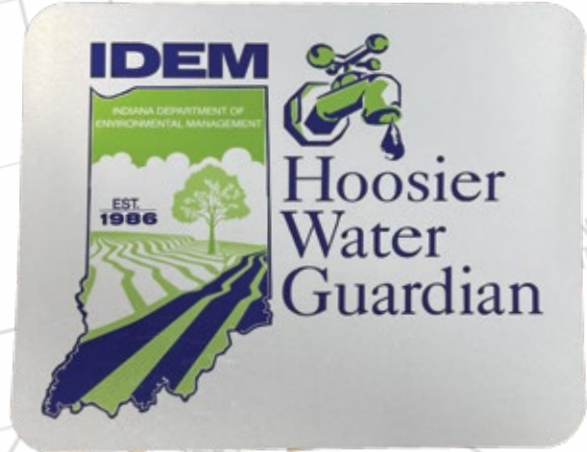
Campers got to dive into the world of water and wastewater treatment; learning about its importance, the process, and how to protect our valuable water resources through fun, interactive activities and hands-on learning. Campers explored the water and wastewater treatment plants, collection and distribution systems, and the quality control laboratory to learn everything there is to know about water quality and protecting our environment.



Water Guardian Award with Distinction

Columbus City Utilities has been awarded the Hoosier Water Guardian Award with Distinction from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. CCU received this award for having “substantially implemented their wellhead protection plan.”

The utility, its staff, planning team, and partners were commended for efforts in developing a comprehensive plan to protect public drinking water supply, and for implementing it in a timely manner. Because of this, CCU was awarded the Hoosier Water Guardian with Distinction.



“We are excited and honored to be recognized as Hoosier Water Guardians. We are very fortunate to have staff and consultants that are passionate about protecting our drinking water sources for the community,” said Ashley Getz, Associate Director of Engineering.

“We are honored to receive this distinction of Hoosier Water Guardians from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. This award exemplifies our staff and trusted consultants’ dedication and commitment to ensure the safety of our drinking water for the community now and future generations,” said Associate Director of Treatment Operations Travis Calhoun.

This is the first time Columbus City Utilities has received the Hoosier Water Guardian Award with Distinction.

Certifications

Chris Buzzard Wastewater Class 2

Chris Buzzard Industrial Class B

Garrett Lucas Wastewater Class 2

Garrett Lucas Industrial Class B

Jon DeMaio PACP/LACP/MACP

Employee of the Month

Our Employee of the Month program, also known as Delivering Really Outstanding Performance, or DROP, is peer-nominated and peer-voted.

July - Tyler Allen

August - Logan Lowe

September - Adam Broderick

October - Gary Wheeler

November - Blaich Allen

December - Logan Combs

CCU Presents at Management Conference



Ashley Getz presented at the national Utility Management conference, hosted by the Water Environment Federation and the American Water Works Association, in Dallas, Texas, in February. She presented “Managing the Public on Sensitive Issues – Case Studies,” where she reviewed CCU’s lessons learned from recent experience with public relations. She presented in a block of professional women from larger utilities across the country that covered the benefits and importance of public engagement and communication in the utility industry.

IWEA Conference Awards

The 2025 Indiana Water Environment Association (IWEA) annual conference was a huge success for Columbus City Utilities. The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) won the Operations and Maintenance award and Safety award. Quality Control Lab won the Laboratory Excellence award. To be eligible for an award, IWEA committee members performed inspections and audits at the QC Lab and the WWTP.

“I am extremely proud of our staff’s hard work and dedication to the industry. Receiving these high honors at this level truly shows their work ethic and professionalism,” stated Travis Calhoun, Associate Director of Treatment Operations.



Columbus City Utilities would like to thank all those involved on the front lines and behind the scenes.

2026 Board of Directors



Patrick Andrews
Chairman



Nicholas Browning
Vice-Chairman



Cheryl McAvoy
Secretary



Melissa Lin
Member



Barry Turner
Member

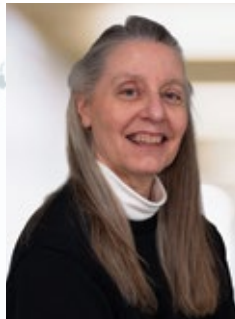
2025 Board of Directors



Clayton Force
Chairman



Patrick Andrews
Vice-Chairman



Cheryl McAvoy
Secretary



Nicholas Browning
Member



Barry Turner
Member



In 2025, Columbus City Utilities sent bills to over **19,000** customers, collecting **\$28.4M** in water and sewer revenues.





Columbus City Utilities

1111 McClure Road



**Columbus
City Utilities**

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

columbusutilities.org