

WASHINGTON COUNTY SERVICE AUTHORITY

IN THE PIPE

NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2022

No. 38

How Long Does a Water Line Extension Project Take?

WCSA's water line projects are crucial for providing access to public water service for Washington County residents. These projects are also important for updating existing infrastructure to ensure customers have reliable service for many years to come.

Over the past several years, WCSA has completed numerous water line projects. One of the largest projects undertaken by WCSA is the \$50 million Galvanized Line Replacement Project. Phases 1 and 2 were completed in 2013 and 2017, replacing lines in Abingdon, Glade Spring and nearby outlying areas.

Phase 3, the final phase of the project, is currently underway, with seven divisions spread across Washington County. Once completed, the entire project will have directly impacted 40% of WCSA's water customers and indirectly impact many more, improving pressure challenges for approximately 8,000 existing connections, eliminating 80% of leak issues, adding more than 700 new fire hydrants to the system and providing more reliable service.



Galvanized Line Replacement – Phase 3 Project

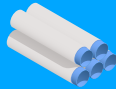
So how long does a water line extension project take from start to finish? A water line extension project doesn't begin when construction starts. It can actually begin several years before any ground is broken.

Here's how the process works:

- 1) WCSA is contacted by residents interested in a water line extension to serve their area.
- 2) One or more of these residents is assigned the task of project champion to obtain user agreements from other residents in the area.
- 3) More than 50% of existing residents are required to sign a user agreement indicating their commitment to purchasing a connection.
- 4) WCSA evaluates the user agreements and develops an estimated construction cost, then evaluates the proposed project to determine financial feasibility.

Continued on Page 2

Galvanized Line Replacement Project



212,000 linear feet of new piping installed in Phase 1



Nearly **2,700** connections received improved service in Phase 1



Nearly **242,000** linear feet of new piping installed in Phase 2



Approximately **1,850** connections received improved service in Phase 2

1,450 connections will receive improved service when Phase 3 is completed

INSIDE

WCSA Project Updates	2
Backflow Prevention Devices for Irrigation Systems	3

A Dozen Ways to Conserve Water Outdoors	4
Calendar and Board Meetings.....	4

WCSA Project Updates

To learn more about WCSA projects, visit www.wcsawater.com.

Ongoing Projects:

The **Galvanized Line Replacement — Phase 3 Project** is the third step in a three-phase project to replace all galvanized pipe in WCSA's distribution system. The project is widespread across Washington County and consists of seven divisions. The approximately \$30 million project is funded by USDA Rural Development. Construction is underway and expected to be completed by summer of 2022. Divisions 1 and 2 are complete and replaced 49,000 and 27,000 linear feet of water line respectively. Division 2A is also complete and replaced 26,300 linear feet.

The **WSL-010-21A Combined Water Line Project** will provide 13,250 linear feet of water line to serve 22 residences along a section of Green Springs Road from the Tennessee state line, and sections of Monroe Road, Prices Bridge Road and Taylors Valley Road. The project began in March and is expected to be completed in September.

The **WSL-010-21B Combined Water Line Project** will provide 12,400 linear feet of water line to serve 18 residences along Abrams Falls Road, Fleenor's Memorial Road South and Hobbs Road. The project began in March and is expected to be completed in September.



WSL-010-21B Combined Water Line Project



Galvanized Line Replacement – Phase 3 Project

Upcoming Projects:

The **Mendota Road Water Line Extension Project** will complete the installation of more than 15 miles of water line infrastructure begun nearly 20 years ago, and will deliver service to the remaining residences in this community — 48 of the 82 existing residences along a more than 10-mile section of Mendota Road. It will also allow the entire length of Mendota Road to be served by WCSA's water system from its Middle Fork Water Treatment Plant. The project is expected to be advertised for bids this spring.

The **Mary's Chapel/Archery Range Road Water Line Project** will enable WCSA to bring water service to homes along Mary's Chapel Road and a portion of Walker Mountain Road, along with an unserved section of Archery Range Road. The project will include 19,000 linear feet of water line and a pump station, and will provide service to 14 of the 25 existing homes in the project area. The project is expected to be advertised for bids this spring.

The **Lee Highway Corridor Sewer Expansion Project** is a multi-phase project that began in 2012 when the Board of Supervisors, Industrial Development Authority and authority boards determined to bring much-needed sewer treatment capacity to the west-central portion of Washington County. The project is funded by USDA Rural Development. Easements are being acquired for the next phase of the project, which is currently in the final design stages. 💧

How Long Does a Water Line Extension Project Take?

Continued from Page 1

- 5) The process up to this point can take up to two years.
- 6) Identification and solicitation of project funding is the next step, which can take anywhere from a few months to several years, depending on availability of funding, project cost and additional factors.
- 7) Once funded, the project moves into the design stage, then WCSA begins soliciting necessary easements, properties, permits and approvals for the project.
- 8) Once this is complete, the project is advertised for construction bids, which are then evaluated.
- 9) The process from soliciting funding to evaluating construction bids can take up to two and a half years on average.

- 10) Once bids are accepted by WCSA's board of commissioners, construction begins on the project, which can take up to a year to complete.

All told, a project can take several years from the time the first residents approach WCSA about a water line extension to project completion. Some projects take less time to complete, while others can take even longer, depending on their scale and cost.

For more information about bringing public water service to an unserved area of Washington County, please contact WCSA at 276-628-7151 or by emailing at inquiry@wcsa-water.net. 💧

Backflow Prevention Devices for Irrigation Systems

Did you know that backflow prevention devices are required on lawn sprinkler and irrigation systems? Whether you're a homeowner or own a business, your irrigation system is a vital component of your lawn's health. However, it's important to understand that there are risks to your home's water supply and the public water system associated with an irrigation system.

Backflow issues can occur, and there have been several cases of injury, illness and even death in the U.S. resulting from the backflow of hazardous and toxic substances, such as pesticides and fertilizers, in potable water systems. The good news is that it's easy to protect your home, family and drinking water system by installing a backflow prevention device on your irrigation system.

What is backflow?

Under normal operating pressure, a cross connection may not present a threat to the drinking water supply. Backflow can happen, however, when pressure is lower on the public supply side than the non-potable side, and non-potable substances flow back into a consumer's plumbing system and/or into the public water system.

Backsiphonage, one type of backflow, can occur when county water line pressure is greatly reduced by a line break or under conditions of high usage, such as nearby firefighting. Non-potable substances can be drawn back into the main water line. For example, if a 6-inch water main develops a leak, WCSA crews have to cut off water service on that particular line to make repairs. As the remaining water in the line flows out of the leak, water in unprotected homes and businesses reverses flow. At this point, something toxic could enter the public water system.



Can my sprinkler or irrigation system be hazardous to the water system?

The Virginia Department of Health classifies lawn sprinkler systems and irrigation systems as a high risk. Sprinklers, bubbler outlets, emitters and other equipment are exposed to substances such as fertilizers, fecal material from pets or other animals, pesticides, or other chemical and biological contaminants. Sprinklers may remain submerged under water after use or storms. Should the water system pressure suddenly decrease, such as in the case of a water main break, line flushing, or during a major fire involving multiple fire hydrants, these harmful substances can be backsiphoned into the water distribution system.

Does my sprinkler system require a backflow preventer?

Per WCSA's Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program, properties with lawn sprinkler systems or irrigation systems that do not protect the WCSA distribution system through the use of approved backflow prevention methodologies require the installation of a backflow prevention assembly. For a list of approved backflow prevention assemblies, please contact WCSA.

If you are unsure if your irrigation system has an approved backflow prevention device, please call WCSA at 276-628-7151 to have a Cross Connection/Backflow representative conduct an inspection of your system. 💧



A Dozen Ways to Conserve Water Outdoors



Summer is right around the corner, and warmer temperatures mean an increase in time spent outdoors. From working in the yard to washing our cars, summer can also bring an increase in our water bills. Did you know that in the summer, water consumption in the average American home can spike to as much as 1,000 gallons per day, compared to 260 gallons per day during the “off peak” season?

Here are a few simple tips to help conserve water and save on your water bill during summer:

1. Water your lawn only when it needs it. If you step on the grass and it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, it's time to water it.
2. Deep soak your lawn. Water it long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots where it will do the most good. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and tends to encourage shallow root systems.
3. Water during the cool part of the day to avoid evaporation. Early morning is generally better than dusk since it helps prevent growth of fungus.
4. Don't water the pavement. Position your sprinkler so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas. Also avoid watering on windy days.
5. Plant drought-resistant trees and plants. Many beautiful trees and plants thrive with far less watering than other plants.
6. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Mulch will slow evaporation and discourage weed growth.
7. Set the mower blade 2-3 inches high since longer grass means less evaporation.
8. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.
9. When washing your car, don't run the hose continuously. Clean the car with a bucket of soapy water.
10. Add a shut-off nozzle to your hose, which can save 5-7 gallons per minute while the hose is on.
11. Even better, use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
12. Get a rain barrel for collecting rain water, which can be used for watering plants or washing your car.



WCSA Calendar

WCSA offices will be closed on the following holidays:

Memorial Day	May 30
Juneteenth	June 20 (observed)
Independence Day	July 4



Board Meetings

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

May 23, 2022
June 27, 2022
July 25, 2022

Board meetings are held at WCSA in the E.W. Potts Board Room at 6 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Actual dates may vary. Please contact our office to confirm meeting schedule.

Customer Contact Information

Should WCSA need to contact you regarding your water service, we generally do so via text message, email or telephone. If you prefer not to be contacted by one or more of these methods, please call our office at 276-628-7151. If you would like to be contacted but are not sure we have your information, please contact us at 276-628-7151 or inquiry@wcsa-water.com with that information.

E-CHECK PAYMENTS

WCSA NOW OFFERS A 24/7 E-CHECK METHOD FOR PHONE AND ONLINE PAYMENTS. YOU MAY PAY BY CALLING 276-628-7151 AND CHOOSING OPTION 2, OR BY ACCESSING YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT. CALL CUSTOMER SERVICE AT 276-628-7151 FOR DETAILS.

WCSA

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