



Why Water Towers Matter

The water storage tank stores treated water already in the system, helping maintain pressure, improve water system operational efficiency fire protection, and ensure reliable service during peak demand and emergencies.

Frequently Asked Questions

Adams Center Water Tower (Elevated Storage Tank)

Where will the water that is stored in the tank come from?

The tank will store treated drinking water produced by City Utilities at the Three Rivers Filtration Plant. The tank will receive and transmit water through the existing Fort Wayne water system transmission mains, as well as new transmission mains constructed and paid for by Google.

Is water being withdrawn from a new source to fill the tank?

No. The water comes from City Utilities' existing water supply and treatment system, which begins at the Three Rivers Filtration Plant.

Where can I find information on the Three Rivers Filtration Plant?

Information on the Three Rivers Filtration Plant can be found on the City Utilities website at <https://utilities.cityoffortwayne.org/about/facilities/three-rivers-water-filtration-plant>.

Will the tank increase the amount of water drawn from the treatment plant or the system overall?

No. The tank does not increase overall water production or use. It will work with the Three Rivers Filtration Plant pumps and other elevated storage tanks in the water system's Central Pressure Zone to help maintain system pressure, not control how much water is used. Water use continues to be based solely on customer consumption.

How does the water tank help customers day-to-day?

Water use typically rises and falls throughout the day and seasonally, with higher demands in the morning, evening and during hot summer weather. The tank allows Three Rivers Filtration Plant pumps to run more steadily by storing treated water during lower-use times and helping supply water during peak demand. This helps maintain reliable service, improves water system operational efficiency and reduces strain on pumps and treatment facilities.

How does the tank help during emergencies or unusual conditions?

The tank provides a local reserve of water that can be distributed quickly in various situations such as:

- Fires: Supplies large volumes of water immediately to maintain strong fire flow
- Hot summer days: Helps stabilize pressure when customer demand is high
- Water main breaks: Provides backup water so service can continue while repairs are made to pipes that would normally transmit water to the area
- Maintenance and repairs: Helps maintain service when sections of pipe are temporarily down
- Power outages: Stored water helps keep water flowing if pumping is temporarily affected

Does the water tank affect water pressure?

Yes—in a positive way. Because the water stored in the tank is elevated, the potential energy of the water and gravity helps maintain consistent water pressure across the area it serves, even when demand increases or parts of the system are under stress.

How will this tank affect other water storage tanks in the system?

It will not negatively impact other tanks. Instead, the added storage improves overall system balance in the Central Pressure Zone by sharing demand during peak times and emergencies. The tank adds flexibility and capacity, supporting—not competing with—other storage facilities.

Which customers will benefit from this water tank?

The primary benefit is for customers in the Central Pressure Zone, which generally extends from I-469 on the north to the airport area on the south, and from Hillegas Road to the eastern edge of the city. The tank helps maintain pressure, improve fire protection and enhance reliability throughout this area.

Will customers outside this area be negatively impacted?

No. Other areas will not be negatively impacted. The tank strengthens service within the Central Pressure Zone without reducing supply, pressure or reliability elsewhere in the system.

Who is paying for the construction of the Adams Center Road water tank?

Google is paying 100 percent of the \$12 million in construction costs for the Adams Center Road elevated storage tank. Once completed, the tank becomes a public asset owned and operated by City Utilities because it will benefit many other existing customers and can be utilized to serve or benefit other future customers in the area.

How are the ongoing operations and maintenance costs of the water tank paid for?

This water tank is a major long-term public investment. It will help serve thousands of customers and is expected to last about 75 to 100 years, benefiting generations of residents. These investments help keep the water system reliable, safe, and sustainable over time.

City Utilities uses revenue from customer water rates to pay for the daily costs of treating water and operating, maintaining, and replacing public water system infrastructure. Much of the revenue collected by City Utilities is based on each customer's water use, so customers who use large amounts of water pay significantly more toward the operational costs of infrastructure needed to serve them.

Who pays for the water stored and used from the tank?

There is no special fee or additional charge associated with this tank, just as there is no special charge for other water storage tanks operated by City Utilities. Customers will continue to pay accordingly to the water they use, based on City Utilities' standard water rates and charges.

Where can I find information on Fort Wayne City Utilities water rates?

Information on the Three Rivers Filtration Plant can be found on the City Utilities website at <https://utilities.cityoffortwayne.org/rates/>