



Frequently Asked Questions – Gages Lake Water Tower

Why is the water tower needed?

The Wildwood water system serves a population of 14,000 people along with community amenities, including multiple Woodland School District schools, the College of Lake County, and a number of businesses, churches and other uses. The existing system does not have adequate storage reserves, and the system's existing tower has reached the end of its service life.

Why are water towers important?

In addition to providing vital water storage reserves, water towers optimize system operations and reduce energy use. Resilient and reliable water systems should have 72 hours of storage capacity, which supports the water system in the event of an emergency interruption to service or planned maintenance of water supply transmission infrastructure. Furthermore, adequate water reserves provide vital fire flows in the event of a fire threatening human life and property.

Why was this site chosen?

LCPW hired an independent consultant to complete a robust report on water system storage, which included extensive research on project sites. The selected site best suits a long list of design considerations. In 1990 this site was designated for construction of a water tower, and underground infrastructure was built to support the tower. Lastly, this is the most cost-effective site.

Why not at existing John Mogg Tower site?

The existing tower must stay in operation to maintain operational pressure on the system and to provide storage. There is insufficient room on the John Mogg site to construct the new tower and keep the existing tower in operation.

How big will the water tower be?

The water tower will be 1.25 million gallons, 150 feet tall and 79 feet in diameter at the bulb. The base of the tower will be 40 feet in diameter.

Will the water tower be painted?

The water tower will be painted a dark blue and neutral white color. "Gages Lake" lettering will be added on the south side of the tower.

What's wrong with the existing water tower?

The Wildwood water system is served by the existing John Mogg Water Tower, located at the intersection of John Mogg Road and Route 120. LCPW regularly inspects its water storage structures and completes recommended repairs and maintenance. The John Mogg Tower will remain in service with anticipated improvements in the future.

When will this project start and how long will it last?

Pending County Board approval in November 2023, construction is set to kick off in early 2024 with site improvements and the tower foundation construction anticipated in February 2024 with completion in spring 2025.

Will I have water during the project and will my water be safe to drink during the project?

Yes – your water will be safe to drink during the project. The system will be fully operational during construction.

What will happen to the John Mogg Water Tower?

The John Mogg Water Tower will remain in service to provide additional storage capacity and pressure on the system. Improvements to the John Mogg Water Tower are anticipated.

Will the water tower affect my property value?

There is no evidence that water towers negatively affect property values. As the housing market has fluctuated, so have home values near existing water towers.

Will the water tower cause flooding?

No, the new water tower will not cause flooding. The site will comply with the requirements of the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance, and the existing depressional storage volume will be maintained on the site.

Will the project impact area roadways?

The project is not anticipated to have major effects on vehicular traffic on area roadways, but the project may require intermittent roadway lane closures during construction.

What will the site look like from the street?

The tower will have a driveway access on Gages Lake Road for daily operations visits, and landscape buffering will be installed along Gages Lake Road.

Will the tower cause traffic backups?

LCPW personnel generally visit water towers once per day, and traffic impacts are not expected.

Will there be antennas on the top of the tower?

LCPW will have two antennas on top of the tower. One is for collecting meter reading data and one for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition for operation of the water system.

Will there be lights on top of the tower?

There will be aircraft warning lights on top of the tower per FAA guidelines.

Who should I talk to if I still have questions?

Contact the Lake County Department of Public Works office at 847-377-7500 or publicworks@lakecountvil.gov.