

DAF Monthly Message

WATER TREATMENT PLANT, NEW PRE-TREATMENT SYSTEM

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What's happening at the site now

The single biggest and most visual change is that all the concrete walls have been poured. So we now have all perimeter walls for the new pre-treatment facility at the Water Treatment Plant. And all the interior walls – for the first floor, including the basins – have been poured. It's now possible to see where the windows and doors will be.

As a reminder, the goal of this new facility is ensure that not only will it *maximize the efficiency* of our current water treatment plant – it will do so in the *safest way* possible. That's why we are eliminating the need to transport or store chlorine gas which we currently use to clean water, by switching to hypochlorite which is safer and will be produced right at the plant. So, related to that, we have set up temporary tanks to be able to phase-in the hypochlorite as it replaces chlorine gas as a disinfectant. We got the connections in place now and are working with the electrical subcontractor to set up the electronic controls.

The biggest change you never saw:

Massive planning and preparation helped ensure that an overnight transition from the old transformer to the new one and the new automatic transfer switch went flawlessly. City crews and our electrical contractor literally worked through the night so that there would be no interruption of water service for City customers. Mission successful.

And then what?

Coming up, we'll be pouring concrete for the second floor walls and begin making electrical connections between the existing Water Treatment Plant and the new pretreatment facility. We'll be testing the temporary hypochlorite.

Also good to know:

As always, weather conditions could influence activity at the construction site. Flaggers are posted at the corner of Arbor Court and Silver Beach Road, and near the intersection of Silver Beach Road and Lakeway Drive, entering Whatcom Falls Park as needed. The crew is still on a scheduled 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday work week. However, there could be occasional Friday work.

If you've missed any of these monthly updates, they're archived on the [City's website](#). From the home page, "search" Capital Projects, then DAF. You'll find the updates going back to November 2016.



And... why are we doing this?

This is to make sure the City's drinking water - drawn from Lake Whatcom - is as clean and safe as it can be. We're building a Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) pre-treatment plant to remove as many as particulates as possible from the water, in order to maximize the City's Water Treatment Plant efficiency. For more project information, [click here](#).

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