

DAF Monthly Message

WATER TREATMENT PLANT, NEW PRE-TREATMENT SYSTEM

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What's the latest?

The trail is open, roads at the facility has been paved (*pictured below*), and we are working towards planting the various vegetation around the site. And, the amazing “story of water” fence (funded by the “[1% for the Arts](#)” program, *pictured at left*) has been dedicated. We are very close to the finish line. (Really!)

And what else?

The new Dissolved Air Dissolved Air Flootation (DAF) building is now functional and serving its purpose of removing solids from the lake water before it reaches the water treatment plant.

We are testing the new low-strength hypochlorite (safer for operators) and that work is nearly complete. Once this is completed, the new systems will be officially ready for City use. The contractor is also working on installing the access driveway, replacing various chemical pipes, cleaning up the site, and working on a short list of items that need attention before we can close out the construction.

What IS left to do?

Not much! The landscaper is working towards planting, some chemical piping is being installed, and the contractor has a bit of touch-up work still to complete.

Also good to know: Work hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 3:30 p.m. on Fridays, with occasional Saturday work. Flaggers may still be on-site at Whatcom Falls Park.

If you've missed any of these monthly updates, they are archived on the [City's website](#), along with more project information. From the home page, “search” Capital Projects, then DAF. You'll find the updates going all the way back to 2016 when construction first began.

Why we're doing this: To make sure the City's drinking water, which is drawn from Lake Whatcom, is as clean and safe as it can be. We're building the Dissolved Air Flotation pre-treatment plant to remove as many particulates as possible from the water, to maximize the City's Water Treatment Plant efficiency. And because the goal for this new facility is to ensure that it will *maximize the efficiency* of



our current water treatment plant in the *safest way* possible, we are leaving behind chlorine gas and moving to hypochlorite which we create on-site because it is safer.