



South St. Paul

WORKSESSION AGENDA
SSP City Hall
125 3rd Avenue North
Training room

Monday, April 22, 2024
7:00 pm

AGENDA:

1. Pool/Aquatics Update
2. Lois Glewwe Suffrage Memorial
3. Unit #202 Replacement – 2024 GMC Sierra
4. PFAS Update
5. Wakota Scenic Trailhead Grand Opening Celebration – *No Attachment*
6. Council Comments & Questions



AGENDA ITEM: Northview Pool Discussion

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- Continue Discussion on structural and operational concerns related to Northview Pool
- Council direction on disposition of Northview Pool for 2024 season

DISCUSSION:

At the March 25 City Council Worksession ([see here for the March 25 memo for more detail](#)), Staff provided a high level overview of the primary challenges we've experienced and expect to continue in operating the Northview Pool, to provide a summary of estimated costs to repair significant deferred maintenance items at the facility, and to discuss the future of Aquatics in South St. Paul. After productive discussion, Council directed Staff to return with additional and updated detail about baseline costs related to reopening and operating the Northview Pool for the 2024 season, as well as to continue the discussion about the "plan" for aquatics in the future in the anticipation that Northview Pool is at the end of its useful life.

Following the March meeting, Staff contacted multiple vendors to identify costs related to putting a "band aid" on the pool (after an overview and estimated cost of all deferred maintenance items was provided at the March meeting). In Staff's opinion, the minimum work needed to open the pool for 2024 would be to do the following, at an estimated cost of about \$45,000:

- Pressure wash pool shell
- Sandblast pool shell
- Scrape all existing loose coating from pool shell
- Patch existing cracks in pool shell
- Repaint pool shell
- Replace 75-gallon water heater

It should be noted that the 2024 Budget allocated a total of \$17,800 for Repairs and Maintenance at Northview Pool, so this work would add anywhere between 25% - 40% in costs over total budget depending upon the other maintenance and repair needs we might realize in 2024.

Shifting gears to beyond 2024, Staff is prepared to have continued discussion with Council about the future of Aquatics provision in SSP. As a primer to this discussion, a thoughtful and comprehensive memorandum from HKGI, the consultant preparing the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update, is attached.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Northview Pool Financials are attached below, for the past three operational years (the pool was closed in 2020 – 2021). As the table below indicates, operating deficits at the pool have persisted and continued to grow in recent years. It is not unreasonable to expect that if the improvements suggested on page 1 of this memo (est. cost \$45,000) are undertaken, Northview Pool will operate at a loss approaching \$100,000 for 2024. With an understanding that the pool is a public good and some level of subsidy/support is necessary, this continued level of increased subsidy is cause for reflection about the sustainability of the operation in light of the City’s many other capital investment needs.

Description	Actual 2023	Actual 2022	Actual 2019
REVENUES			
PARKS AND RECREATION			
4452 - ADMISSIONS	14,995.53	17,603.73	13,276.07
4453 - CONCESSIONS	9,785.02	10,646.10	11,478.17
4454 - POOL RENTAL	1,141.98	1,174.98	2,862.00
PARKS AND RECREATION	25,922.53	29,424.81	27,616.24
MISCELLANEOUS			
4673 - CASH OVER/SHORT	621.42	327.83	850.08
MISCELLANEOUS	621.42	327.83	850.08
REVENUES	26,543.95	29,752.64	28,466.32
EXPENDITURES			
PERSONNEL SERVICES	59,412.11	55,689.20	45,310.68
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES			
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	18,768.63	16,501.68	18,848.39
SERVICES AND OTHER CHARGES	15,113.37	14,453.47	19,201.82
REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(66,750.16)	(56,891.71)	(54,894.57)
FOR REFERENCE (Season totals for BOTH Pools) NOT included in top number			
10520 - PARKS ADMINISTRATION			
4451 - SEASON TICKETS	14,017.60	11,248.54	16,808.84
4456 - SWIM PROGRAM LESSONS	2,073.34	2,214.32	2,174.00
REVENUES	16,090.94	13,462.86	18,982.84

As it relates to future investments in a replacement of the Northview Pool, this too would obviously have significant financial implications and considerations. While pool replacement does appear in the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan at a cost of \$5,500,000, the funding source for this expenditure is undefined in the CIP. Other metro communities have recently had some level of success in obtaining State assistance to finance at least a portion of their investment into aquatic facilities, and it would be anticipated that the City would collaborate with our legislators on the feasibility of pursuing State assistance in our case. Short of benefitting from a significant influx of State assistance, the City will need to contemplate when and by what means to support the expense of a replacement pool facility. To this end, the City’s recently approved update to the Financial Management Plan ([Ehlers, November 2023](#)) models for a local bond referendum in 2025 to finance both the Pool Replacement (\$5,500,000) and a significant portion of the cost of a new Public

Works Building (\$20,000,000). This Plan sheds some light on the potential impact of a new debt levy for both of these investments, with an overall tax impact of a new debt levy in addition to other programmed expenditures resulting in a \$341 net increase on the median value home in South St. Paul in 2026 over 2025. Additionally, this new debt levy would have the effect of driving our local Tax Rate above 65% (after dipping below 60% in 2024 and projected 2025) for the foreseeable future.

Memorandum

To: Shannon Young, Parks and Recreation Director, South St. Paul
From: Kevin Clarke, HKGi
Subject: Aquatics in South St. Paul
Date: April 3, 2024

Background

HKGi has been supporting the City of South St. Paul with planning and design for the Park System Master Plan. This plan is considering the actions the City needs to take to ensure the park system remains a safe, treasured community asset for the next generation and beyond. The City has a number of features in the park system that will need replacement in the upcoming years, ranging from playgrounds to trails. The most significant single cost for the City will be a decision about how to provide aquatics in the future.

The pool at Northview Park was built in the 1950s as the City expanded. Since then it has served many generations of South St. Paul residents and is a cherished part of the community. Over time however, it has continued to age to the point that the existing pool has reached the end of its functional lifespan. This is not unique to South St. Paul. Many first ring suburbs that grew up post World War II are experiencing similar challenges with aging box pools.

Aquatics In South St. Paul

Currently the Northview Pool is the only full sized pool owned and operated by the City of South St. Paul. There is a wading pool at Lorraine Park with climbing/play features that are geared towards younger children. Until the early 2000s, there had been another full sized pool at Lorraine Park (see image at right from 1957, it appears in images from 1940). The City chose to close that pool as it aged and the costs associated with maintaining two aging box pools mounted.



The South St. Paul School District operates an indoor pool at the Central Square Community Center. The City of South St. Paul is no longer involved at Central Square.

Other proximate public pools include the West St. Paul outdoor pool and the indoor pool at the Grove in Inver Grove Heights.

Initial Feedback

Through surveys provided to the community and conversations at events, it is clear that residents value having aquatics in the City. Many residents young and old recounted stories of swimming at Northview. Older residents have also shared similar stories about Lorraine. Residents are aware that the existing pool at Northview will not last much longer.

Residents value having aquatics in the community for a number of reasons:

- » The pools have been a safe place for the youth to go where they are offered independence in a supervised setting
- » Providing an affordable recreation option for families
- » It is important that people in the community can learn to swim
- » A gathering place for adults/seniors in the community
- » It is a feature that contributes to the character and value of the City

It is clear that the community truly values the service that aquatics provide.

Alternatives

Through the planning process, two concepts have been developed that keep aquatics for the City of South St. Paul. Both concepts have been developed with the intent of keeping a full sized swimming pool in the City's park system.

Concept A - Current Distribution/Layout with Replacements

Concept A generally keeps the same aquatics program at both Lorraine and Northview Parks.

Northview Park:

- » Replacement of the box pool and associated mechanical services
- » Ongoing maintenance and upgrades to the building to improve efficiencies, and better accommodate new mechanical services

Lorraine Park:

- » Repairs of the existing wading pool
- » Replacement of climber feature
- » Ongoing maintenance and upgrades to the existing building
- » Enhanced recreation options outside of the pool
 - Bags, shuffleboard, bocce, pickleball, etc.
 - The pool building can also facilitate equipment rentals
 - Recreation offerings/things to do for parents, families, birthdays, etc. that work in concert with the wading pool

Concept B – Combined Aquatics

Concept B would remove the box pool at Northview Park. A new box pool would be built at Lorraine in generally the location of the previous box pool. The pool would also be more integrated with the wading pool program.

Northview Park:

- » Splash Pad
 - No sitting water
 - No staffing/ongoing water testing
 - Fills a missing program element in the City
- » Enhanced pavilion for picnics, parties, reunions, etc.
- » Inclusive playground utilizing existing topography
- » Skate park

Lorraine Park:

- » Full Sized Swimming Pool
- » Wading/Splash Pool
- » Ongoing maintenance and upgrades to existing building
- » Expanded Parking

Benefits and Drawbacks

Distribution of Aquatics

Currently the City offers aquatics on both ends of town. The community values this aspect. Many people like that kids on the north end of town can walk or ride bikes to Northview. The immediate neighborhood around Northview Park appreciates having the pool in the park. It is not common for a city the size of South St. Paul to offer multiple pools.

Concept A would retain pools at both ends of town with only a wading pool at the south end.
Concept B would change the offerings at Northview to a splash pad while increasing the offerings at Lorraine.

Operational Efficiency

Today, with two locations, the City doubles up in a number of operational ways such as hiring concessions staff and lifeguards. There are also duplicated maintenance and testing needs. Bringing

all aquatics staff to one location would not halve the expenses, but it would reduce the FTEs needed to run one facility instead of two.

The City is also operating two buildings in these locations. This means the City is paying for energy usage and climate control for both buildings and replacing things as they wear out (roofs, HVAC systems, etc.).

There should also be efficiencies in running one larger pool system instead of two (pumps, water circulation, filtration, etc.).

The existing configurations of pools is not as efficient from an operational standpoint. Concept A would continue this, while Concept B would improve efficiencies for staffing and other ongoing expenses.

Costs to Construct

Both options will be costly to construct. The Parks System Master Plan is not able to provide exact estimates for either alternative as there are still a number of decisions that need to be made regarding design and features to be included in the pools. It is unlikely that anything in the pool or on the pool deck would be salvaged in case of a replacement at Northview.

For context, the City of Apple Valley is replacing their 1965 Redwood Pool facility at an approximate cost of \$6.5 Million. The City of Crystal is repairing only the deep end of their 1968 pool, after most of it was renovated in 2005. The cost for the current repairs is nearly \$3.2 Million.

The pool construction portion of both Concept A and B would be a significant cost. At a high level, the scope of aquatics related work on both projects would be similar, and it is anticipated that the capital costs associated with pools at either concept would be comparable. Other portions of the park designs are not included as part of this statement.

Site Suitability/User Experience

Both sites have operated for a long time with pools and have shown they can both accommodate pool use.

Both sites have adequate roads to handle people coming to the facilities as a potential traffic generator in the summers.

Lorraine Park has more of a Community Park scale and feel that would be consistent with a pool facility. It also has more parking at the site. The park does have more going on (Baseball, shelters, etc.) which can benefit the pool program, but may also make it more busy. The concepts show expanded parking at Lorraine at both the south and north ends of the park.

The existing splash pool at Lorraine also makes for a compelling reason to combine aquatics there. The current pool is not suitable for older kids. At the same time, Northview's pool is not well suited to

younger children. Some parents reported having to choose which park they were going to go to, knowing that it would not work well for all of their children.

Northview has less parking than would be ideal, although many people do arrive on foot or bike. Furthermore the surrounding streets can accommodate overflow. Some respondents to public input also cited parking at the Learning Center in the summer when the regular parking was full.

Typically, community parks are the ones that have aquatics, which would be consistent with Concept B. Lorraine had a pool for a number of years and has shown that the site can accommodate it. Northview is a less traditional site for a pool, as shown in Concept A, but it also has a long history of providing aquatics that has worked relatively well.

In Closing

Ultimately it will be up to the City Council to decide how to proceed with the provision of aquatics. We have developed two concepts to help envision what could occur at either location.

If the plan was being developed without precedent for a pool at Northview, it is unlikely that we would have suggested a pool in this location. The operational efficiencies associated with running aquatics out of one location, the site conditions and user experience, and the potential to add elements that are missing from the system like a splash pad and skate park at Northview would have led to the conclusion that Lorraine was a great location for a full sized pool.

We have also heard, and understand that the community does have experience with a pool at Northview, and people living on the north side of the City appreciate the proximity to a full sized pool. It has become a community institution at that location, and if it is changed, it will be a challenge for some members of the community.

LORRAINE PARK CONCEPT (OPTION A)



LEGEND

- ① IMPROVE WARMING HOUSE
- ② REPLACE EXISTING PARKING LOT
- ③ ADD NEW ENTERTAINMENT AREA, INCLUDING PICKLEBALL COURTS, SHUFFLEBOARD AND BOCCIE BALL COURTS, AS WELL AS GREEN OPEN SPACE FOR LAWN GAMES
- ④ REPLACE SPLASH POOL
- ⑤ IMPROVE SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT
- ⑥ REPLACE PLAYGROUND
- ⑧ REMOVE HORSESHOE COURTS AND PLANT TREES
EXPAND EXISTING PARKING LOT

PRECEDENT PHOTOS



Precedent photos are intended to illustrate the general character of improvements, not necessarily the specific details or exact design.

Tell Us What You Think!

LORRAINE PARK CONCEPT (OPTION B)



LEGEND

- ① REMOVE EXISTING ICE RINK AND WARMING HOUSE AND ADD NEW PARKING LOT
- ② ADD NEW SWIMMING POOL
- ③ REPLACE SPLASH POOL
- ④ IMPROVE SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT
- ⑤ ADD NEW PLAYGROUND
- ⑥ IMPROVE PLAY AREA WITH HORSESHOES AND BOCCIE BALL AS WELL AS A SMALL SHELTER
- ⑦ EXPAND EXISTING PARKING LOT

PRECEDENT PHOTOS



Precedent photos are intended to illustrate the general character of improvements, not necessarily the specific details or exact design.

Tell Us What You Think!

NORTHVIEW PARK CONCEPT A



THE POOLS AT NORTHVIEW AND LORRAINE ARE IN NEED OF SUBSTANTIAL UPGRADES, REPAIRS, AND/OR REPLACEMENTS. TWO OPTIONS ARE BEING EXPLORED FOR THE FUTURE PROVISION OF AQUATICS IN SOUTH ST. PAUL.

A- REPLACE THE FACILITIES IN THEIR CURRENT LOCATIONS (BOX POOL AT NORTHVIEW AND SPLASH POOL AT LORRAINE)

B- CONSOLIDATE POOLS AT LORRAINE AND PROVIDE A SPLASH PAD (NO STANDING WATER) AT NORTHVIEW

LEGEND

- 1 RESURFACE EXISTING PARKING LOT
- 2 REPLACE SWIMMING POOL
- 3 REPLACE PLAYGROUND
- 4 RESURFACE BASKETBALL COURT
- 5 IMPROVE SOFTBALL FIELD

PRECEDENT PHOTOS

Precedent photos are intended to illustrate the general character of improvements, not necessarily the specific details or exact design.



Tell Us
What You
Think!

NORTHVIEW PARK CONCEPT B



LEGEND

- 1 ADD NEW PARKING LOT
- 2 ADD NEW SKATE PARK
- 3 ADD NEW PICNIC AREA AND RESTROOMS BUILDING
- 4 ADD NEW SPLASH PAD
- 5 ADD NEW INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND
- 6 ADD NEW FULL-SIZE BASKETBALL COURT
- 7 IMPROVE SOFTBALL FIELD

PRECEDENT PHOTOS

Precedent photos are intended to illustrate the general character of improvements, not necessarily the specific details or exact design.



Tell Us
What You
Think!



City Council WorkSession Report

Date: April 22, 2024

Department: Community Affairs

Administrator: _____

2

Agenda Item: Lois Glewwe Suffrage Memorial

Desired Outcomes:

- Update City Council on the Lois Glewwe Suffrage Memorial plan
- Obtain permission to place historic marker at Lawshe Park
- Answer City Council questions and receive any additional feedback/direction

History: On February 16, 2023, Lois Glewwe, local historian, former City Councilperson, SSP Centennial Coordinator and resident passed away at her home. Inquiries about how Lois could be recognized and remembered were received by the City, Dakota County Historical Society and her church. Local groups, organizations and friends wanted to create some kind of memorial for Lois. After months of independent conversations and confusion as to who was doing what, I presented an idea to Ryan Garcia as to how we could proceed to come to a resolution and create a loving memorial for Lois. Ryan liked the idea and directed me to proceed.

Action: A committee met to discuss and brainstorm the creation of a memorial. The committee includes:

- Matt Carter, Executive Director, Dakota County Historical Society
- Eleta Pierce, First Presbyterian Church
- Carol Mladek, South St. Paul Garden Club
- LouAnn Goossens, Lois's niece/Chapter CC PEO
- Ryan Sanford, local photographer
- Deb Griffith, City of South St Paul

The committee discussed a variety of ideas but determined that the following would be most fitting to recognize Lois. The committee would like to place an historic suffrage signage recognizing the August 27, 1920 vote in which Marguerite Newburgh, along with 89 other South St. Paul women were the first in the Nation to vote after the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The signage would be placed at the Fred Lawshe Park, the location of the original City Hall, where the vote took place. There is no signage recognizing this historic vote. This signage in turn would be in memory of Lois Glewwe with a brief paragraph on how Lois made sure that the public was aware that South St. Paul women were the first to vote in the nation. The style of the signage is much like the signage along the river trail and would be incased in cement. (photo attached).

FYI - In 2019, City Staff requested funding for a monument for the 100th anniversary of the vote through the State Bonding Bill. Representative Anne Claflin and Senator Matt Klein worked with the City to request funding for a monument, and while we were still on the list of projects to fund, no items were approved in the Bonding Bill that year. In 2020, plans were underway to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the vote, Covid hit and the planned celebrations were not able to take place.

In addition to signage at the Fred Lawshe Park, a tea/luncheon will take place at the Dakota County Historical Society Museum immediately following the unveiling of the signage. The date of the celebration is Saturday, August 24th. This date was picked to coincide with the 124th anniversary of the first vote.

Duties were divided up among committee members including:

- Dakota County Historical Society: Research, design and creation of the signage, along with hosting and overseeing the luncheon
- First Presbyterian Church: Accepting donations for the signage (added note: Jodee Paape will be assisting with this portion of the project), creating Social Media account and Website
- South St. Paul Garden Club: Assist the SSP Blooming Parks Program with the maintenance of the gardens, donate and plant additional yellow roses (suffrage flower) and white marguerites (name of first woman to vote) in the flower beds.
- Chapter CC PEO: Will serve the tea and luncheon at the Museum
- City of South St. Paul: Placement of the signage, SSP Blooming Parks with the flower beds, invitations and overseeing the unveiling program

This celebration will be opened to the public and invitations to the elected officials will be sent since it is an unveiling of a historic suffrage marker highlighting the first vote in the Nation by women after the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

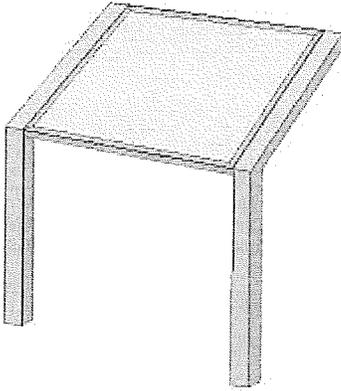
Action Needed:

- Permission to place the historic marker at Fred Lawshe Park
- Any suggestions/feedback as to the plan

Source of Funds:

Funding/donations are being handled and collected by First Presbyterian Church in South St Paul and the Dakota County Historical Society. Once all the expenses are paid, any additional funding will be donated to the City of South St. Paul's Blooming Parks Program for maintenance of the signage and flowers.

\$992.20



Cantilever Framed
Pedestal (NPS Style)

Installation Guide

- Signage holder -
- was recommended by Signage Company in Dakota County as it is a more secure base in if signage needs to be removed or replaced, easier to do!



COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT

DATE: APRIL 22, 2024

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS

PREPARED BY: Howie Steenberg

ADMINISTRATOR: RG

3

AGENDA ITEM: Purchase of Unit #202 - 2024 GMC Sierra 2500 HD

DESIRED MEETING OUTCOMES:

Council approval of the purchase of replacement truck.

OVERVIEW:

The past few years have been extremely difficult for Public Works to get allocated for replacement vehicles under the state contract. In January of this year, we received allocations to order trucks. Vendors could not give any confirmation on when trucks would get delivered. Public Works ordered two trucks from Midway Ford (206 & 208). In early April, North Country Chevrolet reached out and said they had a truck available for us. Public Works decided to purchase this truck not knowing if the other trucks ordered would even show up this year. Unexpectedly, the two trucks from Midway Ford got delivered to Public Works.

Staff are asking that the replacement of truck #202, scheduled in the CIP for next year (2025), can be replaced with the 2024 GMC.

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Central Garage



COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT

DATE: APRIL 22, 2024

DEPARTMENT: ENGINEERING

Prepared By: Nick Guilliams, City Engineer

ADMINISTRATOR: RG

AGENDA ITEM: EPA PFAS Drinking Water Regulation

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

Council discussion regarding new EPA regulation of PFAS concentration in the City’s Water Supply

OVERVIEW:

Background

On April 10th, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made history by issuing the first-ever national drinking water standard to protect communities from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This regulatory action comes after extensive scientific research and input from stakeholders, with the aim of reducing PFAS exposure and its associated health risks. All public water systems have three years to complete initial monitoring for these chemicals. Where PFAS is found to exceed the new standards, systems will be required to implement solutions to reduce PFAS in their drinking water within five years (by 2029).

Before April 10th, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) only provided communities with guidance on PFAS levels and did not regulate PFAS levels in public water systems. Guidance is not an enforceable regulation. PFAS, like other emerging contaminants, are the subject of active research and study, which means that new information is frequently released. This is evidenced by the table below which shows how much the MDH guidance levels have changed over the years.

MDH Guidance Values (ppt) - 2002 to 2023						
Year	PFOA	PFOS	PFHxS	PFHxA	PFBA	PFBS
2002	7000	1000	0	0	0	0
2006	1000	600	0	0	1000	0
2007	500	300	0	0	7000	0
2009	300	300	0	0	7000	7000
2013	300	300	300	0	7000	7000
2016	70	70	70	0	7000	7000
2017	35	27	27	0	7000	2000
2019	35	15	47	0	7000	2000
2022	35	15	47	200	7000	100
2024	0.0079	2.3	47	200	7000	100

EPA Standard

The new EPA standard set maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for five individual PFAS chemicals and a way to calculate the hazard index for mixtures of certain PFAS chemicals. The table below summarizes the EPA's final MCLs.

Compound	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) in parts per trillion (ppt)
PFOA	4.0 ppt
PFOS	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals)	10 ppt
Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	1 (unitless)*

*When determining the MCL for the mixture of PFAS, an equation that weights the different chemicals is used to calculate the "Hazard Index", which cannot exceed 1.

The MDH informed South St. Paul staff that seven out of eight wells in the City do not meet the new regulatory standards set by the EPA. Some of the wells contain levels of Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and/or Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) that are above the new MCL of 4 ppt. Some wells contain a mix of other PFAS chemicals that do not meet the new allowable standards.

The final EPA rule requirements include:

- Public water systems must monitor for PFAS and have three years to complete initial monitoring (by 2027), followed by ongoing compliance monitoring. Water systems must also provide the public with information on the levels of these PFAS in their drinking water beginning in 2027.
- Public water systems have five years (by 2029) to implement solutions that reduce PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed the MCLs.
- Beginning in five years (2029), public water systems that have PFAS in drinking water that exceed one or more of the MCLs must take action to reduce levels of PFAS in their drinking water and must provide notification to the public of the exceedance.

Current/Next Steps

On Thursday, April 11th, staff posted a press release about PFAS contamination after learning about the new EPA regulation. The press release includes helpful links to the MDH and EPA websites for detailed information. It is important to note that this is not an emergency, and residents do not need to seek alternative sources of water or boil water. Staff previously submitted claims for funding as part of a class action lawsuit with 3M and Dupont for PFAS contamination.

Staff is actively working to meet the new EPA standard. We are collaborating with MDH to

identify the source of PFAS contamination at our wells to better understand how to mitigate it. We are also recommending that we work with a consultant to prepare a feasibility study to identify the best ways to address PFAS in the City's water system. These actions will take several months to implement, and any solution to address PFAS will require significant financial resources. Staff will be applying for drinking water planning and design funds to assist with PFAS treatment and monitoring all grant and funding opportunities to help solve this issue.

Possible Solutions

PFAS treatment can be done either at home or at the source of the water. There are two different types of in-home treatment: point-of-use (treatment of water at one faucet or location) and point-of-entry (treatment of all the water in your home). Point-of-use treatment is usually more cost-effective than point-of-entry treatment.

The MDH and the EPA provide detailed guidance on in-home treatment and identify three treatment methods that are effective in removing PFAS from drinking water when the unit is installed and maintained properly. These treatment options are reverse osmosis, granular activated carbon treatment, and ion exchange resins.

It is recommended that the City conduct a feasibility study to evaluate options for mitigating PFAS levels and costs to treat PFAS at the source. Several options are available to meet the new EPA standards, including blending existing wells to dilute below limits, purchasing treated water from St. Paul Regional Water Services, connecting to the St. Paul Regional Water System, implementing treatment at existing wells, or even decommissioning wells with high levels of PFAS.

ACTION NEEDED

Council discussion regarding PFAS Levels in the City's water system.