



Office of Governor Mark Dayton

Communities Across Minnesota Need New Investments to Ensure Clean, Reliable, and Affordable Water

In 2017, Governor Mark Dayton worked with the Legislature to secure new funding for local water infrastructure projects through the Public Works Bill, which has already helped advance 22 projects this year, with another 39 potential projects in line for funding.

Despite this progress, at least 171 local projects will require additional funding to move forward this year, or in the years ahead. That is why [Governor Dayton's 2018 Public Works proposal](#) would invest \$167 million to better ensure more Minnesotans have access to clean, reliable, affordable water.

Below, see two communities that are already seeing the benefits of last year's investments in local water infrastructure, and two projects that require new investments from the Legislature this year. To see a full list of water infrastructure projects funded – and those waiting on additional resources – [CLICK HERE](#).

Projects Moving Forward Thanks to 2017 Public Works Bill

Thanks to the \$88.7 million in new clean water grant funding secured in the 2017 Public Works Bill, at least 22 critical water infrastructure projects are moving forward in Minnesota communities. Below, see two examples that highlight the progress made to protect clean, accessible water.



Photo: City of Breckenridge

Breckenridge – Last October, the City of Breckenridge received nearly \$9 million in grants and loans for construction of a lime-softening water treatment plant. The new water treatment plant will replace system that was nearly 90 years old, with rust threatening major leaks and some replacement parts no longer in production. The new plant, funded through a combination of grant and loan programs, will help ensure clean, affordable drinking water for the city's residents and businesses.



Morris – Last September, the City of Morris was awarded nearly \$18.4 million in grants and loans for a new water treatment plant and supporting infrastructure to reduce water hardness and reduce the discharge of chloride. The new facility will help the city provide better quality drinking water to residents, while meeting state standards for what is put back into Minnesota's waters. The new, larger facility will be able to store a day's worth of water, which will also allow the city to retire its old reservoir, in addition to its old treatment plant.

Projects Waiting on Additional Funding

While at least 22 local water infrastructure projects are moving ahead this year thanks to public works investments made last year, at least 171 projects will require additional funding to move forward this year, or in the years ahead. Below are two examples that show the importance of additional public works investments in local water infrastructure.



Photo: City of Redwood Falls

Redwood Falls – The City of Redwood Falls is seeking state funding to assist with a \$16 million project to rehabilitate their aging wastewater treatment facility and reduce the amount of phosphorus discharged into Minnesota waters. The system was last upgraded nearly 30 years ago. Without additional state funding this year for grant and loan programs, local ratepayers could face significant additional utility costs to pay for these clean water upgrades.



Photo: City of Houston

Houston – The City of Houston is seeking state funding to assist with construction of a new filtration treatment plant to remove naturally occurring radium from the city's drinking water. The new treatment plant will also treat water for excess iron, and will replace a 40-year-old system that is reaching the end of its useful life. The new plant is estimated to cost \$2.6 million, and without additional state funding this year for grant and loan programs, local ratepayers could face significant additional utility costs to pay for these clean water upgrades.

About Governor Dayton’s Proposal for Clean, Local Water

[Governor Dayton’s 2018 Public Works proposal](#) would invest \$167 million to ensure Minnesotans have access to clean, reliable, affordable water, including \$142 million for these grant programs to modernize Minnesota’s aging clean water infrastructure in communities throughout Minnesota. To learn more about how Governor Dayton’s 2018 Public Works proposal would invest in clean, affordable water, [CLICK HERE](#). To see a full list of water infrastructure projects funded – and those waiting on additional resources – [CLICK HERE](#).

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