High System Water Tank Project

City Project Number: 2017108

Public Meeting
October 26, 2022

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Questions/Comments

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Additional Information:
Project Website:
https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/high-system-water-tank/

High System Water Tank
The City of Spokane and the Washington Department of Health have confirmed the need for a new reservoir in Spokane’s South Hill/Lincoln Heights pressure zone. The additional reservoir will ensure adequate supplies of water for drinking, indoor household uses, fire protection, and irrigation for residents who live on Spokane’s South Hill.

Project Update - September 28, 2022
Please join us for a community meeting regarding the High System Water Tank:

Online Public Meeting
Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
Participate via video link on your computer:
• Join meeting
• Meeting (or Access) number: 237 188 845 474
• Password: WdEuwX
Participate by phone:

Project Survey
The City received 847 responses to the Proposed South Hill Water Reservoir public survey. Eighty-five percent of the survey respondents reside in the South Hill area.

Out of 847 responses, 476 respondents selected Hamblen Elementary as their first choice for the location of the water tank, while only 188 selected 31st and Napa as their first choice and only 183 selected 37th Avenue as their first choice. As such, Hamblen Elementary received the highest ranked choice score.

View an explanation on how Survey Monkey performs ranked choice calculations.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the project and provide us with your feedback.
• View the 2021 survey results (PDF 153 KB)
• View the 2020 survey results (PDF 1.2 MB)
Project Description

- Drinking Water Reservoir:
  - Approx. 2.0 MG Storage

- Piping Connection to High System:
  - 30” Pipe

- Expected Cost:
  - $8.5M–$9.5M

- Expected Timeframe:
  - Summer 2023 thru Spring 2025
Project Objective
(Why here, why now?)

- A new reservoir is needed in the High System pressure zone:
- To increase system reliability – fire flow & peak demand supply during the summer
- To meet Department of Health Standards.
- To Improve the water system operations in High System pressure zone and above.

Existing High System Reservoirs

- 33rd & Lamonte
  - 125 feet tall near Sacajawea

- Garden Park at 37th Avenue near Stone Street
  - 75 feet tall
Homes and businesses must be between approx. 100’ and 200’ below tank water level.

- 100’ below tank = about 43 psi
- 200’ below tank = about 86 psi
Water System Operations
High System Pressure Zone
Water is pumped to successively higher reservoirs.

- Downtown
- Wells
- Lower South Hill
- High System (Mid South Hill)
- Upper South Hill
- Lower Browne’s Mtn.
- Upper Browne’s Mtn.
Project Background

• 2014 – The need for an additional water reservoir identified in water system plan.

• 2018 – City’s capital planning group did preliminary site selection, identified 31st and Napa as an ideal site and the City acquired it.

• 2018 (Fall) – Initial presentation of the 31st & Napa site to Lincoln Heights neighborhood council.

• 2019 (Spring) – Conditional use permit (CUP) process for 31st & Napa site.

• 2019 (Winter) – Neighborhood & stakeholder meeting held to discuss project impacts.

• 2020 (Spring) – Started in-depth design at 31st & Napa site, determined site would cost several million dollars more than other alternatives.
• **2020 (Summer)** – Expanded site evaluation to include about a dozen potential sites:
  - Our Lady of Fatima
  - Private parcel on SE Blvd near 31st
  - 31st & Napa (original site)
  - 37th/Stone next to the existing tank
  - Hamblen Park
  - Hamblen Elementary
  - Ferris HS (37th & Ray), Hazel’s Creek (42nd & Regal), Southeast Sports Complex (46th & Regal), Thornton Murphy Park, & Lincoln Park

• Special focus on Hamblen Park because it met so many of the site criteria which were:
  - Proper elevation so tank not more than about 100' high
  - Adequate parcel size (need space beyond tank footprint)
  - Near transmission main
  - Flat or relatively flat
  - On property owned or acquirable by the city for a reasonable cost
  - Maximize distance from nearby homes

• **2020 (Fall)** – Community meeting held in September at which we presented the evaluation of the sites listed above.
2020 (Fall) – Followed up the September community meeting with an online survey pertaining to the half dozen sites – survey was publicized to area residents only. Survey results indicated:
  o Hamblen Park/school were not popular with survey takers, 37th near existing tank was more popular
  o Survey takers did not weight cost of tank highly

2020 (Fall) thru 2021 (Spring) – Additional site investigation based on survey results. Three below were deemed infeasible:
  o Our Lady of Fatima (not for sale)
  o Private parcel on SE Blvd/31st (not for sale)
  o Hamblen Park (Parks board declined to make it available)

Three sites remained, but had significant challenges
  o 31st & Napa – several million dollars more, right on top of adjacent residents
  o 37th & Stone – at least a million dollars more plus closure of 37th Ave. for 18 months, right on top of adjacent residents
  o Hamblen Elementary – consumes a portion of natural area within school property
• 2021 (Summer) – A second survey was conducted among all ratepayers. Because two of the three site finalists would cost substantially more, a cost that would be borne by all city water ratepayers, the decision was made to solicit the input of all water ratepayers to rank the three site finalists
  o Respondents were mostly upper south hill (south of 29th – 57%) residents, overwhelmingly south hill (both north and south of 29th – 86%).
  o 850 responses – approximate 500% more respondents than to the 2020 survey
  o Survey takers were asked to pick their first, second and third choices. The Hamblen Elem site was chosen as first choice by more than the other two sites combined.

• 2021 (Summer) thru 2022 (Winter) – The proposed project, public outreach history, and survey results were presented to:
  o Joint City/School Board committee (summer 2021)
  o Schoolboard Workshop (fall 2021)
  o Hamblen Elementary Neighbors (fall 2021)
  o Hamblen Elementary PTG (Winter 2022)

• 2022 (Spring thru Summer)– The proposed project, public outreach history, and survey results were presented again to:
  o School Board. Vote was also taken at that time to approve granting the City an easement on the Hamblen Elementary site for a tank.
  o City Council (May) and subsequent vote (June) was held by Council approving the location of the tank.
Proposed Construction

- Composite Elevated Tank (CET) water reservoir.
  - Concrete & Steel

- Piping from new tank to existing water network.

- Repaving of Crestline above water trench and the intersection of 37th & Crestline.
Proposed Construction (cont.)

What’s Inside?
• Concrete Pedestal
• Piping & Control Room
• Access ladders & walkways
Fence Changes:
• Keep separation between school and park.
• Keep access to all parts of the playground

Maintenance Access:
• New driveway apron
• Gravel drive path
• New vehicle gate
  • Walking access maintained.

Pedestal Area:
• Pedestal area = ~2,000 square feet.
  • This is <5% of area outlined in blue.
Construction Phase Impacts

- Fencing & screening fabric.
- Haul route – Walking path between Crestline and Napa will go back to walking only after the project.
- Trees need to be removed, and some trees need to be pruned.
  - Perimeter trees will be highest priority for saving.
  - Replacement of trees will be required and installed in consultation with the Urban Forestry Program.
- No impacts on playground, sports courts, or grass field.
- Crestline & 37th closures.
Proposed Project Schedule:
• Foundation/underground site work & minor piping – Summer 2023
• Pedestal construction and tank shell – Summer/Fall 2023
• Break for winter (Possibly work through if catchup is needed)
• Finish tank shell construction – Spring thru Summer 2024
• Piping in Crestline – Summer 2024.
• Paint – Summer thru Fall 2024
• Final site work and cleanup – Spring 2025.
Questions/Comments

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**FAQ on this site will be updated with questions from this meeting.**