



Public Works

Monthly Report

Administration ♦ Airport ♦ Engineering ♦ Maintenance ♦ Parks & Open Space ♦ Wastewater

September 2020



Engineering

The 2020 Wastewater Master Plan was adopted in August. This was a multiyear effort to update the 1992 Urban Sanitary Sewer Master Plan and provides a plan for the next 20 years of system rehabilitation, upgrade and expansion for development. Kudos to Teri Higgins (now retired), Jennah Maier, Patrick Cox (now living in Indiana) and Doug Singer for their great work!

The complete report is available at: eugene-or.gov/1644

Wastewater

Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Project Update

The RNG project continued to make progress towards producing renewable natural gas for vehicle fuel from MWMC biogas in partnership with Northwest Natural (NWN). Construction of the facility is underway and walls are going up. The hydrogen sulfide removal tanks (right) were set and some of the processing equipment is on site. Underground utilities are being placed and backfilled in preparation for the beginning of the wet weather season. NWN will install the four-inch gas transmission line through the bike path south of our facility to River Road beginning in October. Completion of the work and startup is planned for the spring/summer of 2021. For more information or to learn more about the process, please contact Mark Van Eeckhout or Sharon Olson.



Wastewater Collects Samples for COVID-19 Analysis

Public health and clean water go hand-in-hand, especially in today's COVID crisis. Nationally, preliminary research indicates that monitoring wastewater for the presence of the genetic marker of SARS-CoV-2—the virus that causes COVID-19—may be useful as a sensitive early indicator of low levels of infections in the community. This month, Wastewater began collaborating with Oregon State University (OSU) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to monitor wastewater for COVID-19. Samples are taken weekly and sent to the OSU laboratory for analysis. This project is funded by the OHA to provide data about the onset, duration and termination of COVID-19 outbreaks throughout Oregon. These results will be used with other available data (caseloads, hospitalizations, etc.) to aid county and state health authorities in knowledge-based decision-making processes. Having an early warning system to alert public health officials about infection, or the lack of infection, could be helpful to direct resources to communities that need it the most.

