

## City of Trenton Water and Sewer System – Past and Present Information

The Trenton Public Water System (found within the city limits) dates back to the early 1900's. Prior to having any official water treatment works, the city used a series of wells to supply citizens with water at little or no charge. In 1937, the Trenton Water Treatment Plant, a 75,000 gallon "Witches Hat" elevated storage tank and necessary distribution lines along US-41, was installed. Even though the storage tank and treatment plant are no longer in use, the distribution lines remain in use today. No system of billing was established until the late 1960s when the city's water system received several much needed improvements and upgrades. Upgrades consisted of a new 150,000 gallon elevated storage tank, distribution line extensions and extensive water treatment process improvements. During this period, only one employee maintained the Water System, which served around 150 customers from three wells. Today, our water is treated and supplied by the Logan-Todd Regional Water Commission. Water is pumped from the Cumberland River in Clarksville, Tennessee to Guthrie, Kentucky and treated at the George W. Arnold Water Treatment Plant. After treatment, water is then distributed to 12 different community water systems, including Trenton. Our present day water distribution system continues to utilize the 150,000 gallon elevated storage tank and more than 16 miles of distribution lines which serve customers up to five miles beyond Trenton city limits.

At the same time the Trenton Water Treatment and Distribution System received upgrades, a complete Wastewater Collection and Treatment System was constructed within the city limits. Since its initial installation in the mid-1960s, several wastewater collection extensions have been added throughout town. Despite these upgrades, much of the original terracotta clay-tile collection piping remains in use today along with the original wastewater treatment plant. Having initially been constructed to use an Activated-Sludge Process, the wastewater treatment plant has received several modifications and upgrades to enhance its efficiency of operation and final water quality. Today the Trenton Wastewater Treatment Plant operates under the concept of an Extended Aeration Treatment Process. Prior to being discharged, waters are disinfected utilizing ultra-violet light. Trenton began the use of this technology in October 2010 as an environmentally friendly alternative to reliance on chemicals for the disinfection of harmful bacteria present in wastewater. By reducing the use of chemicals, adverse effects to the receiving stream (West Fork Branch of the Little River) have been minimized. Significant cost reductions due to the use of the Extended Aeration Treatment Process have been realized, as well.

Currently with 315 drinking water connections and 200 wastewater connections, Trenton maintains the Water Distribution System, Wastewater Collection System and Wastewater Treatment Plant with one full-time Utilities Superintendent and one full-time City Clerk.