



For Immediate Release
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City Studies Site for New Water Tank

Harrisonburg, VA – The City of Harrisonburg has begun studying site locations and the feasibility of a new water tank in the Park View area.

Public Utilities staff and the City's consulting engineers had determined that the existing tank was nearing the end of its useful life and would likely need to be replaced within the next ten years. In addition, further development in this area has been restricted unless a new tank or other water infrastructure improvements are made. The new tank will not only enable further development but also provide reliability and sustainability to the backbone of the water system that serves neighboring homes and businesses in the Park View area.

The water tank that currently serves this area is located on Summit Street and was constructed in 1960. It holds approximately 75,000 gallons of water.

With more homes and businesses in this area over the past 53 years, as compared to when the existing tank was constructed, additional water is needed for fire flow and to continue providing service to the neighborhood.

Fire flow is a term used to describe the amount of water that must be delivered from the water source through the fire hydrants. The fire flow requirement in this area would be anywhere from 750 to 3,000 gallons per minute and would need to continue for a duration of up to three hours. The numbers vary based on residential, commercial, or institutional areas.

The new tank will hold approximately 500,000 gallons of water and is estimated to last for the next 75 years.

The City and Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) have partnered during the planning phase and will continue to work together throughout the implementation of this project.

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A geotechnical study of the preferred site location was conducted to determine if the site met the proper elevation requirements and to evaluate if the subsurface will support the tank. The preferred site, which is located on EMU's campus, has been validated through this test.

The next phase of this project includes drilling into the ground to determine the exact center location of the tank and width of its base. Neighbors should expect to see a small amount of construction equipment in the Park View area in the coming months.

After this study is conducted and before any construction takes place, a request for approval and financing for the project will be presented to Harrisonburg City Council.

The City will soon host an informational forum with data, drawings, and background information on the water tank location and its purpose. A date for this forum has not yet been set but an announcement will be made to notify and invite the public.

Additionally, the city is in the process of launching an online portal where comments and ideas can be posted pertaining to this project. More details about this online tool will be announced next week.

Input from residents in the nearby neighborhood and faculty and staff from EMU will be sought and consideration will be given to blend the water tank in with the existing surroundings.

"Now that the preferred site has been validated, it is our goal to work with the community throughout the planning, design, and construction of this project," said Mike Collins, Director of Public Utilities.

A website has also been created to provide updates and keep the community informed as to the progress of this project. To stay informed, visit www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/Park-View-Water-Tank.

*The **Harrisonburg Department of Public Utilities** is responsible for providing water and sewer services to residences and businesses. The Department currently manages approximately 16,000 accounts. For more information about these functions of the city, visit www.harrisonburgva.gov/public-utilities.*

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