

The first pipes of the Freeport Water Company were laid in July of 1882 after Nathan Shelton of Annapolis, Maryland, answered a plea in the newspapers for a water system. By 1889, 12 million gallons of water a month were being pumped through 12 miles of mains and an 88-foot water tower on Whistler St.

In 1937, the city bought the water system and established a commission headquartered in City Hall. This has led to the management of three elevated tanks, six wells, 28,000 customers, and 120 miles of mains. Currently, over 4 million gallons of water, is pumped through the mains daily.

The earliest sewer system of Freeport dumped untreated sewage into the Pecatonica River. In 1934, Freeport was warned by the state that a treatment plant must be built.

In 1968, over 5 million dollars was raised through grants and bond sales to fund the project. The project included five new lift stations, treatment plant expansion and a pilot research program.

In 1999, the wastewater plant is about to be expanded again with new treatment equipment, processes, and upgrades. This \$12 million project will help to keep the wastewater plant running smoothly for the next 20 years.

The Water and Sewer Commission has provided water since 1937 and sewer since 1939, and we will carry the city proudly and safely well into the next millennium.

The 2015-2016 City of Freeport Water and Sewer Commission, Phase B-Water Main Replacement and Upgrade Project is made possible by the financial assistance and cooperation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and its State Revolving Fund (SRF) providing low interest infrastructure loans to protect or improve Illinois' quality of drinking water resources.