



CITY OF IRONTON

Delivering Sustainable Community Water and Wastewater Solutions

Ironton's Journey to Restore Safe, Clean & Reliable Service

The City of Ironton, located approximately 80 miles south of St. Louis in the Arcadia Valley, faced serious water and wastewater infrastructure challenges typical of small municipal systems. Years of deferred maintenance, aging assets, limited municipal budgets and increasingly stringent regulatory requirements created an unsustainable environment for the city's water and wastewater systems. A history of wastewater violations and the significant investment needed to bring the system into compliance even raised the possibility of the utility falling into receivership. Recognizing the urgency and lacking the financial capacity and scale to modernize the systems on their own, city leaders began exploring long-term solutions to ensure Ironton residents could access safe, clean and reliable water and wastewater service.

A Community-Led Choice for Ironton's Future

Ironton's system challenges required a partner with the technical expertise and financial capacity to address long-term infrastructure needs. Missouri American Water emerged as the clear choice, backed by a proven record of supporting similarly sized communities across Missouri. After evaluating options and engaging stakeholders, city leaders placed Proposition S on the ballot to let residents determine the system's future. On November 8, 2022, voters decisively approved the measure—70% in favor—demonstrating strong community confidence in Missouri American Water as Ironton's long-term solutions provider. The Missouri Public Service Commission reviewed and approved the transaction, confirming that the sale served customers' interests and ensured operational integrity and regulatory compliance.

Delivering Solutions for Ironton

On December 13, 2023, Missouri American Water officially completed the acquisition of Ironton's water and wastewater systems for a combined purchase price of \$3.7 million. The acquisition brought over 1,400 water and wastewater customers into Missouri American Water's service area in southeastern Missouri while providing Ironton residents with access to professional water and wastewater service. Since completing the acquisition, Missouri American Water has invested over \$6 million in drinking water infrastructure and over \$2.5 million in wastewater infrastructure to enhance water and wastewater service in Ironton.

Drinking Water Improvements

- Replacement of aging water mains and installation of new meters
- Lead service line replacement
- Investments to treatment facilities to improve water quality
- Modernization of treatment process and distribution monitoring

Wastewater Improvements

- Reduction of inflow and infiltration
- Modernization of treatment process monitoring
- Actively partnering with the environmental regulator (MDNR) to ensure long-term compliance



"What we're doing now is not working. We need to make changes to protect our way of life. Missouri American Water has the experience to improve our systems and has helped communities like ours across the state."

-Bob Lourwood, Former Mayor of Ironton