

CITY OF NAPOLEON

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Member of the North Dakota League of Cities

The City of Napoleon has the same problem as many of our neighbors. The majority of our critical infrastructure, which was installed in the 1940's, has reached the end of its useful life. Sewer main and water main breaks have caused damage and repair costs are outrageous. To combat the problems, we have invested over \$10M in critical infrastructure since 2019 like trunk sanitary sewer mains, new water mains, storm sewer mains, a new water tower, hooking up to our regional rural water provider, and street improvements.

The DWR's 60% cost-share policy for updating water infrastructure has been a blessing, and the only way we've been able to get done with as much as we have. We are nearly completed with replacing cast-iron pipes in our water system. There are still many blocks of ductile-iron pipe and asbestos-cement pipe that are of great concern, but they will have to wait several years until the community can adjust to our recent rate increases and special assessments we are levying. We do anticipate having to address those other old pipes in the future, and we will rely on the DWR funding at that time.

Our top infrastructure priorities are: 1. street rehab, 2. sewer mains and lift station, 3. remaining water mains. We have been one of the fortunate ones to get some partial federal funding to address some of our sanitary sewer mains getting about ½ of the community done since 2014. Unfortunately, we still have approximately ½ of our sanitary sewer system left to address. According to estimates from our engineers, there is approximately \$6 million worth of sanitary sewer system needs which include some combination of pipe lining, pipe replacement, lift station repairs. These improvements are especially difficult and costly because they are much deeper than the water mains and we have an extremely high-water table. Right now, we are on the CWSRF priority list looking for a \$2.5 million funding package to address a portion of our system. We are currently ranked as the 128th highest priority project.

Without some form of cost-share like a grant or loan forgiveness, we won't be able to address the sewer system. We know our situation, and we can only imagine that the 127 communities ahead of us on the priority list have critical needs as well. As we all know, waiting to address needs will only increase the cost.

We do support the implementation of a cost share program to start addressing the state's sanitary sewer infrastructure needs in large chunks. A proper sewer system helps return our water cleanly back to the environment from which it came.

City of Napoleon

“The City of Napoleon is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”