

Historical Timeline of the City of Norwalk's Water System

1871 – First Water Plant built on the East Branch of the Huron River, near the current river pump station. At that time, fewer than 20 towns across the state had municipal water systems.

1896 – After some six years of debate, construction began on the Upper and Lower reservoirs along with an adjacent pump station. Site was chosen, in part, because of the abundance of springs in this area. Reservoirs were also called Laning's Lakes after Jay Lanning, councilman who spearheaded project.

1898 – First water pumped from Lower Reservoir, with no additional treatment applied to the water. A tall standpipe is erected next to the pump station to provide better water pressure to city residents.

1915 – City built electric generating plant adjacent to the pumping station.

1917 – Water tower replaces standpipe at the same site.

1924 – Norwalk started chlorination of water at urging of Ohio Department of Health.

1927 – Water filtration plant (building you're now in) put into service, bringing state of the art water treatment to Norwalk.

1952 – 750,000-gallon water tower constructed in area of Maple and Chestnut streets, replacing tower at plant. At the same time, high service pumps installed at water plant to feed the tower.

1954 – Memorial Reservoir built, doubling the amount of water storage for the City.

1963 – Sluice gates added to Memorial Reservoir to better control the water level.

1969 – Lower Reservoir dam failed after city received nine inches of rain in nine hours. In an effort to prevent a repeat occurrence, the railroad trestle at the inlet to Upper Reservoir was reconstructed for better water flow, and a 6,000-gallon per minute pump was installed to divert water from Lower back into Memorial.

1972 – The US 20 pump station is built to ensure adequate water pressure to planned Mason's shopping center (current location of Rural King). Station also created ability to provide water to Monroeville, though that never happened.

1977 – River Pump Station built on Old West Main Street to supply more water to Memorial Reservoir in dry years.

1988 – 400,000-gallon water tower built near intersection of Old State Road and Executive Drive to serve the south and far east ends of town.

1992 – Major rebuild and expansion of water plant completed, increasing capacity from 2.85 to 4.0 million gallons a day.

2010 – Connection made with Northern Ohio Rural Water as a supplemental water supply.

Compiled from information at the plant, along with research of local historian and author, Henry Timman.