

# City of Maple Hill Completes New Water Storage Tank Project



The new 150,000-gallon elevated storage tank at Maple Hill.

**T**he city of Maple Hill completed a water storage tank replacement project this past winter. Maple Hill is located twenty-five miles west of Topeka on the north side of I-70. According to 2019 counts, the city has a population of 602 with 182 residences. The city was founded in 1882 and incorporated in 1908. In the 1920's through the 1960's, the population was in range of 250, and remained steady until the 1970's when the population was approximately 320 and since increased to more than 600 by 2019.

With the increased population and water use, utilizing the old 50,000-gallon elevated storage tank constructed in the 1920's was no longer adequate. The city contracted BG Consultants to design a new water storage facility. The recommendation of the consultant and agreed by the city was for a new 150,000-gallon ground storage tank to be located west of the city on a high hill. As you drive to Maple Hill from the south from I-70 you can see the new tank is an imposing fixture on the hill to the north. To access the new tank a person has to enter a locked gate and travel a steep winding road. The view from the hill overlooking Maple

Hill is spectacular in the spring and should be more so during the fall as the leaves change color throughout the city.

The new tank has a fill pipe from the wells, and a separate 12-inch discharge to the distribution system. This configuration allows for better chlorine residual and mixing in the tank. The 12-inch pipe to the distribution system allows for more capacity to supply residences and businesses and for fire protection and water usage during warmer weather. With that large of a discharge pipe from the tank, there should be no problem with friction loss due to demand.

The city funded the project with a bond issue of approximately \$1,000,000. The cost of the project was approximately \$900,000. The city had started a fund when they decided to proceed with the tank project and increased user fees dedicated for the water tank improvement fund. The result was more than \$150,000 in the account at the start of the project. This money was used to purchase land and to pay for the engineering fees. The project includes the new storage tank, more than 9,000 feet of piping ranging

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The top of the old tank being removed and on the ground.



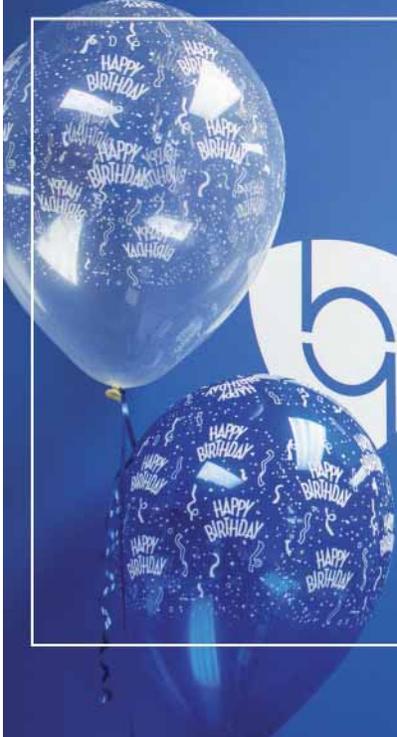
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According to City Superintendent Tom Mayer, the demolition was interesting process to watch. The demolition required only one day. The cost of demolition was \$60,000. A person may think, “Wow, that’s pretty good money for one day of work!” – but you must consider all the cost associated with the tank removal such as the equipment needed to include the crane, torches, safety equipment, personnel, insurance, and mobilization to and from the site to list just a few.

from 12-inch to 4-inch in size. The project also included installation of 13 various sized valves, six fire hydrants, and the demolition of the existing 50,000-gallon elevated storage tank.

*Charlie Schwindamann has been Wastewater Tech at KRWA since September 1999. Charlie holds Class II Water and Class I Wastewater Operator certification. He has also served as a member of the Marysville, Kansas city council.*





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