MANKATO'S WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY...A REGIONAL ASSET

The City of Mankato seeks a $44.5 million bonding appropriation (H.F. 145 and S.F. 190) to fund a portion of the $89 million cost.



HIGHLIGHTS

Mankato's Water Resource Recovery Facility:

- Is a regional asset that serves about 65,000 people in Eagle Lake, Madison Lake, North Mankato, Skyline, South Bend Township, the Lake Washington Sanitary Sewer District and Mankato.
- Removes 95 percent of the phosphorus that comes into the facility and discharges phosphorus at approximately 75 percent below the permitted discharge limit allowing for trading to occur with partners where improvements necessary to meet treatment requirements may not be financially feasible.
- Supplies reclaimed water to a local energy company for cooling, which helps reduce phosphorous levels discharged into the river and avoids depleting water from deep aquifers by approximately 400 million gallons per year. Secondary benefits include reuse for irrigation and street sweeping.
- Provides nutrient rich biosolids to agricultural partners in the surrounding townships that supports approximately 300 acres of corn and soybean production annually.
- Relieves phosphorous trading partners from making major capital investments. These partners include the cities of Walnut Grove and Granite Falls, the Lower Sioux Indian Community, Granite Falls Energy and Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) in Marshall.

The City of Mankato:

- Supports surrounding communities by sharing information to help them reduce inflow and infiltration entering the sanitary system.
- Proactively looks for opportunities to reduce phosphorous discharges and increase biosolids by working with partners in agriculture production and other communities in the Minnesota River Basin.

CONTACT

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WHY IS FUNDING NEEDED?

- ***Build regional resiliency.*** Jurisdictions served by Mankato's Water Resource Recovery Facility generally do not have the funding available to build and/or maintain their own wastewater treatment facility. By serving the region, Mankato's facility provides access to quality wastewater treatment at a reasonable cost. Mankato's phosphorous trading partners benefit because they do not have the funding needed to make major capital improvements that would meet effluent standards.
- ***Benefit the environment.*** Capturing more biogas, a natural energy source produced by the breakdown of organic matter, helps reduce use of natural gas, storage and hauling needs for biosolids and the potential for landfilling biosolids. This decreases capital and operations costs, which protects rate payers from swings due to volatility in fuel costs.
- ***Address growth needs.*** Although the facility is designed to treat 11.25 million gallons of wastewater per day, solids handling limits the ability to effectively meet this capacity. Expansion allows opportunities for additional regionalization, providing effective wastewater treatment through economies of scale.
- ***Replace aging infrastructure.*** The facility is more than 65 years old. Many of the items that need to be replaced have been operating since the facility first opened in the 1950's. Most of the items have been modified or repurposed during subsequent facility improvements and have now reached the end of their useful life.
- **Update technology.** Technology has made significant changes in how the wastewater treatment process works. Updates will bring technology current to help more efficiently operate the facility.



"This regional facility is an asset that serves people in six communities. If not funded, the financial impact to these communities will be significant."

Susan MH Arntz, Mankato City Manager

WHO BENEFITS?

People who live in:

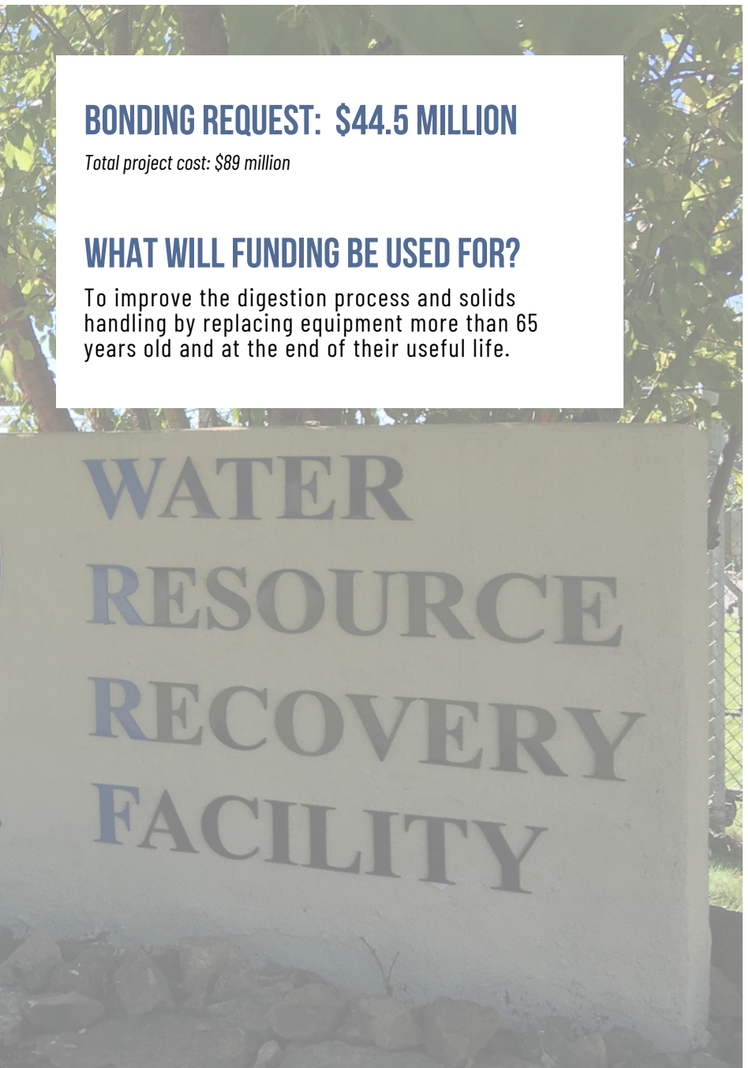
- Eagle Lake
- Madison Lake
- North Mankato
- Skyline
- Walnut Grove
- Granite Falls
- Lower Sioux Indian Community
- South Bend Township
- Lake Washington Sanitary Sewer District
- Mankato

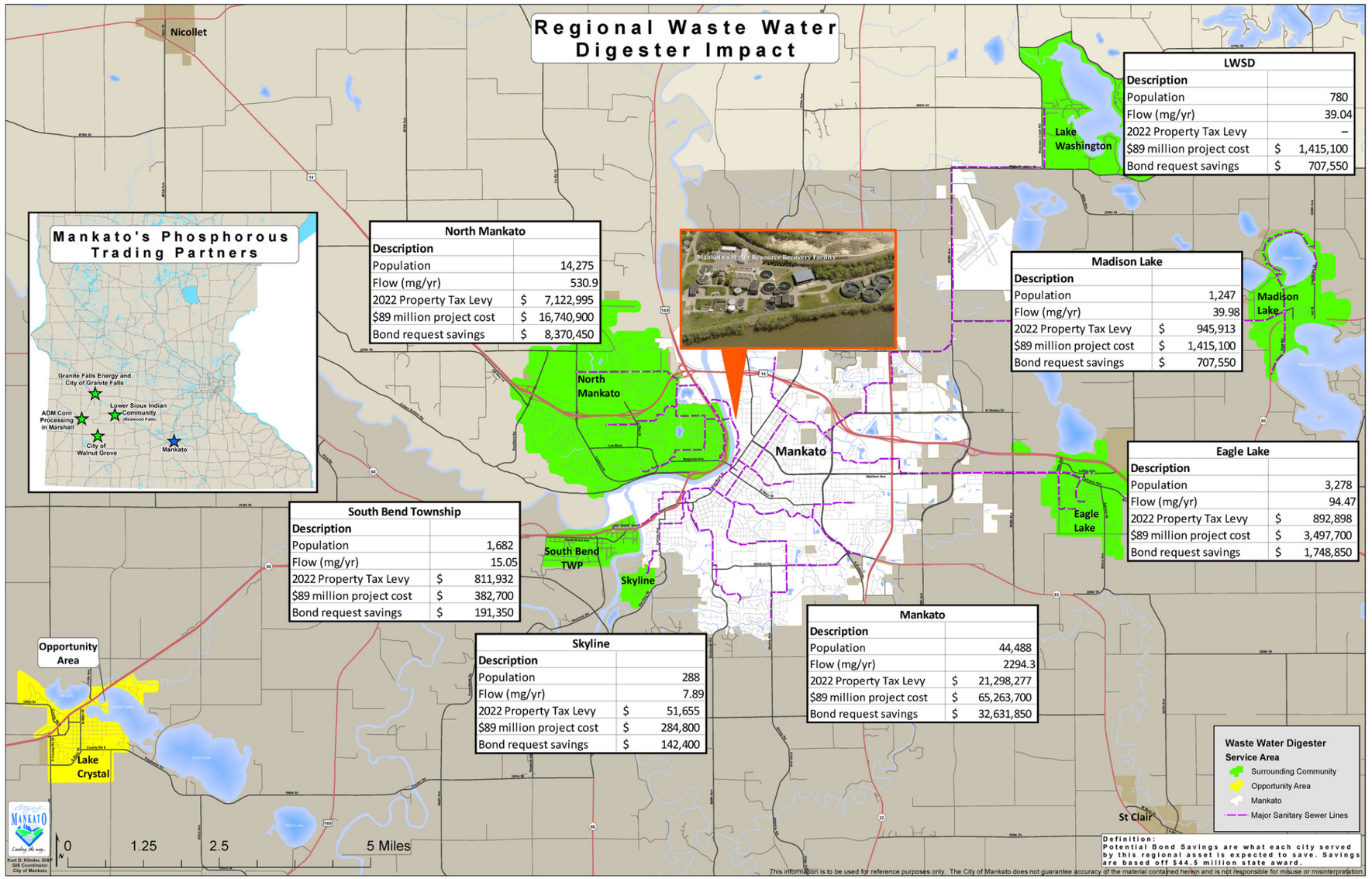
BONDING REQUEST: $44.5 MILLION

Total project cost: $89 million

WHAT WILL FUNDING BE USED FOR?

To improve the digestion process and solids handling by replacing equipment more than 65 years old and at the end of their useful life.





WHAT HAPPENS IF FUNDING ISN'T PROVIDED?



- Surrounding jurisdictions will face large financial and economic challenges in trying to find a way to provide wastewater treatment services to their communities.
- Biosolids will increase in landfills rather than being used as a beneficial nutrient by the region's local agricultural community.
- Maintenance costs will continue to rise and affect affordability for rate payers. Without these necessary and important updates, the asset will decline and eventually fail.
- With limited capacity, the facility will be incapable of serving additional communities. The City of Lake Crystal has needs to replace their wastewater treatment facility and connection to the regional facility is the preferred option.