

Is this Village planning to work with the Northwest Water Commission? Could the Northwest Water Commission pay for a new water plant?

The Village was approached by the Northwest Water Commission in 2012 regarding their interest in a redundant water supply line from Lake Michigan where the Village would supply raw water to the Northwest Water Commission in exchange for financial assistance in building a new water plant. The Northwest Water Commission was formed in 1957 to provide Lake Michigan water to four communities in Chicago's northwest suburbs, including Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Palatine and Wheeling. The Northwest Water Commission currently purchases treated water from the City of Evanston. While the Village remains a potential option, the Northwest Water Commission is considering alternatives outside of Glencoe. The Village is currently evaluating alternative intergovernmental cooperation opportunities.

Can the Village purchase water from another community? Would it be more or less expensive to do so?

The option of the Village getting out of the water production business and purchasing water from another community or supplier is a significant decision that would impact the residents of the community for the next 100 years. The true cost to the Village and its water customers, current and future, requires a comprehensive evaluation. Purchasing water from another supplier would result in Glencoe residents and water customers being charged at retail rates, including annual increases, established by the outside water utility. A comparison of the costs of paying outside water rates to Village rates over the long term results in a tipping point at approximately 30 years. Thereafter it becomes more costly to pay for water from the outside. The other significant factor in the Village becoming a water customer is the loss of control over treatment process, water quality and water pressure. Eliminating the water plant from the lakefront would also require the need for pump stations and the construction of additional storage facilities within the current system.

If we bought from Highland Park, could it be a long term contract, such as 50 years?

If the Village chooses to purchase water from another community, the duration of the contract would be negotiated. Some communities have water purchase contracts for less than 50 years.

If the Village purchases water, then households would pay additional costs. Would that be a wash for the Village?

There are two components to the Village's water service: production and distribution. If the Village did not produce water and purchased from another entity, there would still be distribution and other related costs. The rate for purchasing water would be negotiated through a formal contract. As of now, the Village has not discussed potential rate structures with any other entity.

If water is purchased from Highland Park, are there any state or federal rules about how much they are allowed to charge and could we negotiate more favorable terms because we have other options, for example, building our own water plant?

There are no state or federal rules governing the amount a municipality can charge for water. The rate the Village would pay would be negotiated through a formal contract with Highland Park. As of now, the Village has not discussed the fee and rate structure for purchasing water from another community.

Would taxes increase to pay for the distribution system if we decided to purchase water from Highland Park?

The Village's water production and distribution operations are funded through user fees that customers pay (i.e., water bills), rather than property taxes. The Village has not yet completed a rate analysis, and therefore we have not yet determined the potential impact of purchasing water from Highland Park on our water rate. No matter who produces the water, it remains the Village's responsibility to maintain water quality standards and the infrastructure of the distribution system, and the cost of maintaining the distribution system must be factored into the water rate.

Does Highland Park have the capacity to produce water to sell to Glencoe? If so, what are the costs?

We have had very preliminary discussions with Highland Park. The City has indicated that it has the capacity to sell Glencoe water. There are many variables that go into negotiating an agreement with another community as a sole provider of water, which we have not yet negotiated, as we have only had preliminary discussions with Highland Park thus far. We haven't completed the rate analysis yet to know the full difference between buying from Highland Park and maintaining our own water treatment plant.

Is the cost to connect to Highland Park included in all options?

The total opinion of probable construction cost (OPCC) to connect to Highland Park is included in all options. This OPCC includes \$4,100,000.00 for a 6 mgd booster station and 16" transmission main, and \$1,500,000.00 for a 2 mgd booster station at existing reservoir. Table 5.05-1 in the Strand Report shows the Water Supply OPCC summary, which also includes the anticipated cost to purchase water during construction. It is important to note that this OPCC is different than the OPCC to permanently purchase water from Highland Park, which is \$11,717,000.00. This information can be found in Tables 5.02-1, 5.04-3, 5.04-5, 5.04-7 and 5.05-1 of the Strand Report.

Would there still be a need to have a connection with Highland Park if a new water plant is constructed on the beach?

Yes. A connection with Highland Park would be needed to provide water during planned outages that would occur during construction if a new water plant was built.

Why did Highland Park create additional capacity in its water plant? How did they handle building a new plant and how was water being supplied during construction?

The City of Highland Park added on to its existing water plant to build a capacity that it believed was appropriate while it was still in service, allowing the City to continue to produce its own water during construction.

Do we know why some municipalities no longer purchase water from Highland Park?

The Village has not discussed the reasons for other customers leaving Highland Park. However, we know that Riverwoods and Deerfield both purchased water from Highland Park but now purchase water from Northbrook.

If a connection is built with Highland Park, would Highland Park be able to use Glencoe as a backup water source?

We currently have emergency interconnections with all of our neighboring communities, including Highland Park. However, these emergency interconnections have limitations relative to pipe capacity and are intended to provide water during times of emergency outages or short-term planned outages. For example, a few years ago, work was done to improve fire flow and the interconnection was used in the interim to supply that area. There are both short-term construction needs and long-term benefits to both communities with an enhanced interconnection.

Is Highland Park required to maintain records of its water quality and do we know of any quality issues with its water?

All surface water producers, including Glencoe and Highland Park, are required to adhere to the same regulatory requirements and publish their annual water quality reports. We are not aware of any specific quality issues with the water Highland Park supplies to its residents and purchasing communities.

What is the estimated life span of the Highland Park plant?

Highland Park recently completed construction of its plant and, based on IEPA standards, plants have a 50 to 70 year life span.

Do we need a new reservoir and pump station if we connect to Highland Park for a long-term water supply?

Yes. A new reservoir and pump station would be required for a long-term water supply to the Village. This would be required to meet our maximum day demand because the maximum available flow and existing storage capacity without these improvements would be insufficient.

Has there been an assessment of Highland Park's plant infrastructure? Is there an insurance policy to mitigate potential sourcing issues? How big of a risk is it to purchase water from Highland Park?

The Village has not undertaken a formal assessment of Highland Park's plant infrastructure. However, as part of the overall evaluation of potential options, the Village will likely do so to some extent in the future. Potential insurance clauses and other risk aversions would likely be part of negotiations if the Village chooses to purchase water from Highland Park or another community.

If water is purchased from Highland Park, what would happen to the Village's existing water plant?

No decision has been made whether it would be demolished or re-purposed.