



December  
2024

# Water Update

## Understanding Water Quality in the Mohawk Valley

Raw water quality has been a longstanding challenge in the Mohawk Valley, and we know how deeply it impacts our daily lives. The geology of our region creates unique issues that aren't limited to the Village of Fonda. Neighboring communities face similar struggles; many of these challenges require innovative and collaborative solutions.

## What Causes Water Discoloration and Quality Issues?

The natural elements found in the Mohawk Valley's water sources, including iron, manganese, organic materials, and turbidity, complicate the treatment process:

**High Levels of Iron and Manganese:** These minerals, while not harmful at low levels, cause water discoloration that can make water appear yellow, brown, or even black when oxidized. This staining can affect laundry, plumbing, and fixtures, creating user frustrations.

**Seasonal Runoff and Turbidity:** Spring thaws, heavy rains, and seasonal runoff bring organic materials into the water system, creating turbidity (cloudiness). Turbidity not only affects the appearance of the water but also complicates treatment by increasing the need for filtration and coagulation processes. High turbidity can overwhelm existing treatment systems and make water quality inconsistent.



Infrastructure Updates

Modernizing Fonda's Water

Regional Cooperative

Water Rates & Effects

## Village of Fonda Water Infrastructure Updates: Improving Service and Quality

We understand how frustrating water service disruptions and ongoing infrastructure issues can be. That's why the Village of Fonda is working hard to address problem areas and significantly improve our water system. Here's an update on our progress to ensure safe, reliable water for our residents and neighboring users.

### Addressing Recurring Water Breaks

Over the years, certain areas in the Village have experienced consistent water line breaks, creating inconvenience for our users. We've identified these areas as priority projects for replacement:

#### Route 5 West

Approximately 3,750 linear feet of 12-inch water line will be replaced. This stretch has been one of the most problematic, and these upgrades will significantly reduce the frequency of breaks.

#### Park Street

Approximately 2,100 linear feet of 8-inch water line will be replaced. This work will provide much-needed reliability to one of the busiest parts of our water system.

### Improving Underserved and Deferred Areas

In addition to the recurring problem areas, we're addressing other parts of our water system that have been delayed or lacked funding in the past:

#### Railroad Street

About 1,050 linear feet of 8-inch water line will be replaced. This project has been on hold for years, and it's time to get it done to prevent future issues.

#### Route 334 (Cayadutta Street, Township Users)

This area has undersized lines serving users outside the Village. Approximately 400 linear feet of 3-inch water line and new lateral connections will be replaced to improve water pressure and flow.

#### Veeder Street

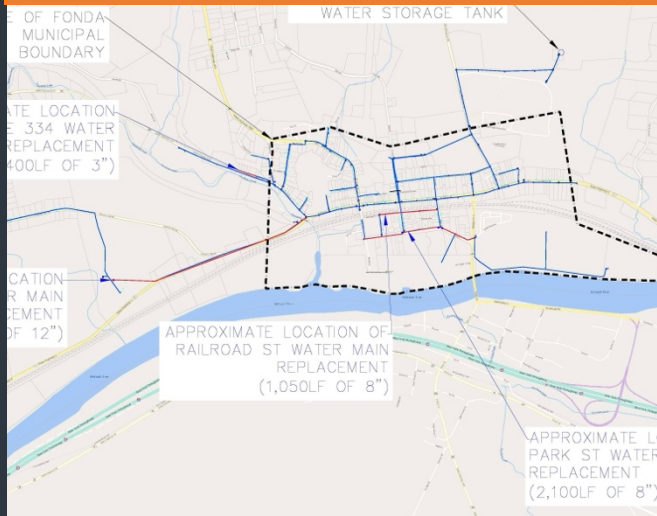
Water lines and sanitary systems here will be completed by the Village's workforce, covering about 180 linear feet of 3-inch water line. This ensures that both water and sewer systems are dependable for the residents in this area.

## The Principles Behind Fonda's Water Upgrades

### What these Upgrades Will Do:

- **Fewer Disruptions:** Strategic isolation valves mean smaller areas are impacted during water breaks, ensuring smoother operations and less inconvenience.
- **Improved System Management:** Upgrades south of the railroad tracks and along key streets allow for better water flow control and maintenance flexibility.
- **Enhanced Reliability:** Tank and SCADA system enhancements provide a dependable water supply with state-of-the-art monitoring.
- **Smart Investments:** Every dollar spent is focused on long-term benefits, such as reducing repair costs, improving service quality, and modernizing the infrastructure.

*With these targeted improvements, we're not just fixing today's problems—we're building a robust water system for tomorrow.*



### Making Repairs Less Disruptive

We know how inconvenient it is when an entire area loses water due to a break. That's why we're also working on adding shutoff valves in key areas. These will allow us to isolate sections of the water system during repairs, reducing the number of users impacted.

#### For example:

- If a water break happens on Route 5 West, we can isolate the village from the main line so users on Hickory Hill aren't affected.
- Similar upgrades will be made south of the railroad tracks, where water mains on Center Street and East Street will allow better system management.

### Planned Improvements and Associated Costs

The Village of Fonda is making significant

investments to modernize its water system. Below is a detailed breakdown of the planned improvements:

- **Route 5 West Waterline:** \$1,031,250.00  
Installation of 3,750 linear feet of 12-inch waterline (\$275/foot). This equates to approximately \$1.45 million per mile for a 12-inch line.
- **Park Street Waterline:** \$525,000.00  
Installation of 2,100 linear feet of 8-inch waterline (\$250/foot), or \$1.32 million per mile.
- **Railroad Street Waterline:** \$262,500.00  
Installation of 1,050 linear feet of 8-inch waterline (\$250/foot).
- **Route 334 (Cayadutta Street) Waterline:** \$96,000.00  
Installation of 400 linear feet of 3-inch waterline (\$240/foot), or \$1.27 million per mile.
- **Strategic Isolation Valves:** \$75,000.00  
Install five valves to isolate water breaks, minimize user impact, and improve flow control.
- **200,000-Gallon Tank Improvements:** \$140,000.00  
Includes tank upgrades and temporary backwash tanks to ensure reliability and compliance.
- **SCADA System Enhancements:** \$25,000.00  
Expansion of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to enhance monitoring and operational efficiency.
- **Supplemental Bonding Costs:** \$15,000.00  
Related to rebonding for critical improvements.
- **Contingency Fund:** \$100,000.00  
Reserved for unforeseen costs that may arise during the project.

**Replace – Upgrade - Enhance**



## A Regional Collaboration to Improve Water Quality

Recognizing the shared challenges Fonda and our neighboring municipalities faced, we've taken a bold step forward by forming a Regional Water Cooperative. This cooperative is designed to explore additional water sources from the North that could provide cleaner, higher-quality raw water.

Here's why this matters:

1. **Improved Raw Water Quality:** Water sourced from northern locations often contains fewer natural contaminants, reducing treatment complexity and costs.

2. **Shared Resources:** By pooling resources with other municipalities, we can access advanced filtration technologies and infrastructure that may only be affordable for some communities.

3. **Addressing Turbidity and Seasonal Issues:** Access to better raw water will reduce the burden of seasonal turbidity spikes, ensuring consistent water quality throughout the year.

The cooperative is currently working on an **engineering review** to assess the feasibility of connecting to northern water sources, applying for **state and federal grants**, and engaging the community to build support.

The progress we aim to achieve will be a testament to the strength and dedication of all involved. As we move forward, the collaboration between the Village of Fonda, our neighboring communities, local municipalities, and individuals will continue to drive our shared success.

### Why These Investments Matter

The Village of Fonda is committed to making responsible decisions with public funds. These projects address critical infrastructure needs:

- **Replace** aging waterlines to prevent costly failures.
- **Upgrade** storage capacity to meet safety and regulatory standards.
- **Enhance** system reliability with strategic valves and advanced monitoring.

By investing in these improvements, the Village ensures that residents and businesses have access to clean, safe water while supporting future growth and development.

## The R&R Fee

To ensure the system's long-term sustainability, water rates are structured to include a Repair and Replacement (R&R) Fee, which funds infrastructure improvements. Here's how it works:

- Current R&R Fee: \$9.16 per month.
- New R&R Fee (including improvement costs): Based on the 30-year bond and interest rate, the R&R fee will increase by approximately \$25.10:
- New Monthly Fee: \$34.26 (current \$9.16 + increase \$25.10)

This increase is essential to cover the \$2.34 million cost of the improvements, which will be distributed across all users over the 30-year bond term.

*"By working together, we will tackle challenges, find innovative solutions, and create opportunities that benefit not just the Village of Fonda but the greater community we call home. This spirit of collaboration shows that we can accomplish extraordinary things when we unite with a shared vision."*



## Moving Forward Together

Water is essential, and we're committed to making the necessary improvements to ensure the reliability and safety of our system. We're building a stronger foundation for the Village of Fonda and our neighbors by tackling infrastructure projects and working regionally to address water quality.

*Thank you for your patience and trust as we make these improvements. Together, we'll ensure a sustainable and dependable water system for generations.*

### Current Water Rates

#### Water Rates

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the system, water rates are structured as follows (effective since October 1, 2017), with a focus on affordability for our users:

- **Inside Village Limits:**
  - \$2.72 per 1,000 gallons for 0–20,000 gallons.
  - \$2.61 per 1,000 gallons for 20,001–70,000 gallons.
- **Outside Village Limits:**
  - \$5.44 per 1,000 gallons for 0–20,000 gallons.
  - \$5.22 per 1,000 gallons for 20,001–70,000 gallons.

*Water rates are established to cover the basic maintenance needs of the water system, including filtration, treatment, distribution, and daily management. Filtration ensures water meets safety and quality standards, while management involves routine upkeep, system monitoring, and addressing operational needs. Costs for larger projects, such as pipe replacements or system upgrades, are covered by a separate Repair and Replacement (R&R) fee, ensuring that regular water rates remain focused on sustaining the system's essential functions.*

### Comparing Costs to Statewide and National Averages

To put these rates into perspective:

- **Statewide Averages:**  
The average monthly water bill in New York State is \$50.81 or \$609.72 annually.
  - In New York City, combined water and sewer rates equate to \$16.86 per 1,000 gallons, costing approximately \$674.40 annually for an average user.
- **National Averages:**  
The national average monthly water bill is \$39.16, or \$469.92 annually.

Fonda's water rates and R&R fees remain competitive and structured to balance affordability with the need for critical system upgrades.

*Data Sources: NYS Department of Public Services, Statista.*