



INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

WATER

Service Provider: The Water Division of the Public Services Department provides drinking water services to Manitou Springs. Water system operation, improvements, and maintenance are funded through a Water Enterprise Fund.

Water Source: The City's sole source of water is French Creek, part of the Cascade Creek-Fountain Creek sub-watershed. French Creek originates on the peak of Pikes Peak, and receives water from snow melt and rain runoff. The City also has an emergency connection with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), which can supply the City with water, if needed.

Source Water Protection: Since the City receives its drinking water from just one source, it must take great care to protect the quality of water in the French Creek watershed. To this end, the City has adopted a Source Water Protection Plan that includes a series of recommendations for protecting the creek from contamination. Much of the Source Water Protection Area identified in the plan is within the Pikes Peak National Forest,

Manitou Reservoir: The City also maintains Manitou Reservoir, which the City can draw upon when flows in French Creek are not sufficient to meet the City's water demand. Due to intricacies of water rights, Manitou Springs is not allowed to replenish water taken from the Manitou Reservoir with water from French Creek, and must work a complicated exchange process using water allocated to the City through the Fryingpan-Arkansas project.

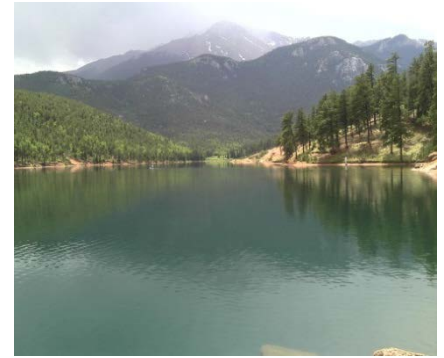
Water System: Water drawn from French Creek is piped nearly 3.5 miles to the City's water treatment plant, which treated roughly 221,346,172 gallons of water in 2015. The entire system is gravity fed and does not include pumping stations.

Water Use: Customers receiving water from the City used an average of 0.606 million gallons of water per day (mgd) in 2015. Water usage peaks in summer, using as much as 1.235 mgd in 2015.

Water Supply: According to the City's 2014 Source Water Protection Plan, the City's water system has the capacity to produce up to 2.4 million gallons of potable water per day, much more than is demanded by users.

STORMWATER

Service Provider: Stormwater services are provided by the Stormwater Division of the Public Services Department. Stormwater and drainage



TRENDS & KEY ISSUES

Aging Infrastructure

Much of the City's essential infrastructure was built over 100 years ago, which presents ongoing maintenance challenges. Age also makes infrastructure more susceptible to damage, as occurred to the City's water line (which carries water from French Creek to the treatment plant) following the 2013 storms. A range of efforts are currently underway or are planned for the near future to replace and repair aging infrastructure, and to better assess its condition.

Drought Preparedness

The City Council has the right to impose one of four defined levels of use restrictions in the event of a water shortage. This typically occurs when the flow in French Creek is less than the City's demand for water, and water from Manitou Reservoir must be used to meet demand. A restriction was last in place between July and October 2012.

TRENDS & KEY ISSUES

Threats to the Water Supply

The greatest threat to the City’s water supply identified in the Source Water Protection Plan was wildfire. A wildfire could impact the quality the City’s water supply by removing natural vegetation, and potentially decreasing infiltration of stormwater during a rainstorm. This could lead to increased erosion, which would pollute the City’s water source with increased amounts of sediment or ash. During heavy rain events, mudslides and debris flows could further impact water quality and even damage water infrastructure. The City is currently working with the U.S. Forest Service to decrease the threat of wildfire in the area.

Conflicts with Wildlife

Bears accessing residents’ and businesses’ refuse is a growing challenge in the City. In response, a citizen’s action committee was formed in 2015 to develop strategies to address this issue, including contracting with a waste removal provider that uses wildlife proof refuse containers. The City Council is still considering this issue.

SOURCES

- City of Manitou Springs
- Colorado Springs Utilities

improvements are funded through the Storm Drainage Management Fund, and enterprise fund.

Stormwater Master Plan: The City has received Community Development Block Grant funding to develop a City-wide stormwater master plan. This project is estimated to begin in fall 2017.

System: The City’s stormwater drainage system is separated from its sewer system. Typically, stormwater and runoff enter the system through a storm drain inlet, and are discharged through outlets, primarily into Ruxton or Fountain Creek. Stormwater and runoff are not treated prior to discharge.

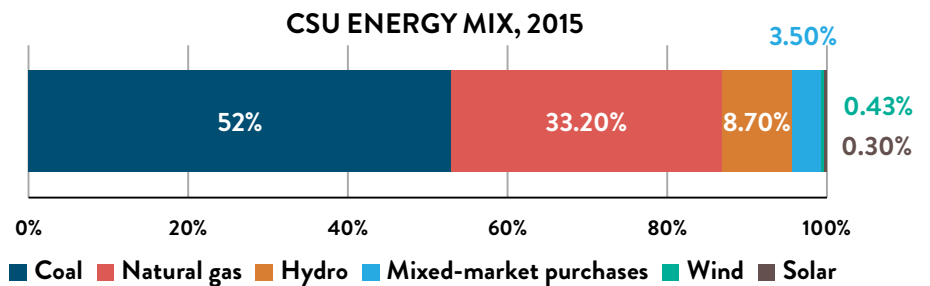
SEWER

Service Provider: Sewer services are provided by the Sewer Division of the Public Services Department. Operation, maintenance, and improvements to the system are funded through a Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Wastewater Treatment: Wastewater treatment services are provided by CSU. A new service agreement between the City and CSU began in February 2016 and extends to February 2023.

ELECTRICITY & NATURAL GAS

Service Provider: Electricity and natural gas are provided to the City of Manitou Springs by CSU.



Power Plants: CSU generates electricity from a variety of sources, including two hydro-electric plants located in Manitou Springs along Ruxton Creek. Together, these plants generate 6MW of electricity.

Energy Vision: CSU has a stated energy goal of providing 20% of its electricity through renewable sources by 2020. It currently provides just over 11% of its electricity from renewables.

OTHER UTILITIES

Cable & Internet: A number of providers offer cable and internet services in Manitou Springs including Comcast/Xfinity, CenturyLink, and Exede.

CITY FACILITIES

City Hall: City Hall is located at 606 Manitou Avenue, and serves as the main place of contact between City staff and residents. The building also includes Memorial Hall, which serves as the primary venue for a broad range of public and community events.

Police & Fire: Both the Police and Fire Departments are located at 606 Manitou Avenue, next to City Hall. In addition, the Fire Department is proposing to build a new training facility near the Public Services site.

Public Services: Located at 101 Banks Place, the Public Services site includes the offices for the Public Services Department (Parks, Streets, Water, and Sewer Division) as well as equipment used by the department.

SUSTAINABILITY

Solid Waste & Recycling: Solid waste removal, disposal, and recycling services are provided by a single hauler to all single-family dwellings, and multi-family dwellings of 7 units or less.

Solar Power: Manitou Springs was the first municipality in Colorado to power all of its City buildings using electricity generated from solar power.

Hydropower: As part of upcoming repairs, the City is considering adding an electric generator to the water pipe that brings water from French Creek to the water treatment plant. The turbine would generate about 237,000 kWh of electricity annually. This amount of energy is enough to power as many as 22 homes.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals: In 2007, the City Council approved a resolution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations, as well as the larger community by 30% from 2005 levels by 2020. The resolution also states that the City “commits to ensuring all new buildings and developments can and will be carbon-neutral—generating or offsetting as much energy as they consume—by 2030.”

RELATED PLANS & STUDIES

- *City of Manitou Springs Source Water Protection Plan (2014)* – City of Manitou Springs
- *Manitou Springs Climate Action Plan (2008)* – City of Manitou Springs
- [*Resolution Establishing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets \(2007\)*](#) – City of Manitou Springs
- [*Colorado Springs Utilities 2015 Environmental Annual Report \(2015\)*](#) – Colorado Springs Utilities

TRENDS & KEY ISSUES

City Facilities and Hazards

Both City Hall and the Police and Fire Departments are located along Fountain Creek within the 100-year flood zone, and are evacuated each time a flood warning is issued. Other facilities, such as Public Services, the City’s reservoir, and the water treatment plant are in areas that are susceptible to wildfires.

City Hall and Department Space Needs

The City has evaluated potential sites and pursued funding sources for an alternate location for City Hall. However, both site and funding constraints make this option not viable at present. In 2016, City Council approved funding for a study to reallocate space in City Hall to better address department needs. In addition, the City will continue to pursue a possible alternate location for the Police Department. If substantial improvements are made to City Hall, the City may need to meet building code requirements for building in the floodplain.