



IOWA

AMERICAN WATER

WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®



BLUE GRASS

Blue Grass was Iowa American Water's first wastewater operation in the state. Since 2017, Iowa American Water has had the privilege of partnering with Blue Grass to provide clean, safe, and reliable water.

SOLUTIONS AT WORK

Iowa American Water partnered with Blue Grass to become their water provider in 2017, and again in October 2022 when the company acquired its wastewater system. Blue Grass is located about 5 miles west of Davenport, Iowa. The wastewater system serves about 750 customer connections and is comprised of a 3-cell aerated lagoon system.

CHALLENGES

- **Infrastructure:** It was identified that \$4M was needed to invest in infrastructure repairs to address issues as well as upgrade safety & security systems.
- **Water Quality:** Blue Grass was not in compliance with the Ammonia Nitrogen and/or e.coli compliance schedule. Due to the city being out of compliance, they were required by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to get an extension on their compliance schedule.

SOLUTION

Blue Grass officials met with Iowa American Water to explore the benefits a sale of their wastewater system would bring to the community. Public information meetings regarding the sale were held to address residents' questions and concerns.

After an endorsement from Mayor Brad Schutte and the City Council, the acquisition of the City's wastewater system proceeded.

BENEFITS

- **Rates:** With approval from the Iowa Utilities Board, wastewater rates in Blue Grass cannot be set or changed without the public utility filing a rate hearing for review and approval.
- **Infrastructure:** Sewer and manhole replacements will be constructed to prevent sewer backups during large rain events along with major improvements to the lagoon system.
- **Water Quality:** The city obtained an extension to its compliance schedule, which provided Iowa American Water with the necessary time to bring the city sewer system back into compliance.
- **Community Partner:** With the \$2 million proceeds Blue Grass received from the sale, investments can be made in other capital projects and community priorities. Iowa American Water will also continue to support the community, not only by providing reliable utility services but also by supporting community events and activities as well.

The partnership between Blue Grass and Iowa American Water has helped the community by providing needed infrastructure upgrades and bringing the wastewater system back into compliance with state regulations.



QUESTIONS?

Frank Grage
Director of Business Development
563-219-4231
Frank.grage@amwater.com

SOLUTIONS. ONE MORE WAY WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING.