

GARDEN CITY

\$3 Million Acquisition of Water and Wastewater Systems



CHALLENGES

For years, Garden City faced mounting challenges in maintaining safe, clean and reliable water and wastewater services. Between 2015 and 2021, the community accumulated 27 drinking water treatment violations from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, signaling ongoing regulatory noncompliance due to a deteriorating system. By March 2021, the city’s wastewater system was out of compliance leaving Garden City with potential enforcement actions. Deferred maintenance and chronic underinvestment in an effort to keep rates low had created significant barriers to the city’s ability to stabilize service or return to compliance.

SOLUTION

Recognizing that the community could no longer sustain the technical, financial, and regulatory pressures, city leaders began evaluating long-term options. Initial discussions with neighboring water districts did not offer sufficient relief or the opportunity to make investments in modernizing the infrastructure. Missouri American Water was identified as a clear solution for both systems delivering the investment, expertise, and operational support needed to overhaul the city’s failing systems. In November 2020, more than 67% of Garden City voters approved the sale for \$3 million, enabling the community to retire municipal debt and redirect resources toward broader community priorities. The Missouri Public Service Commission approved the sale and Missouri American Water officially took over operations in December 2021.

MISSOURI AMERICAN WATER INVESTMENTS IN GARDEN CITY

Year	Water	Wastewater
2022	2,100,000	\$400,000
2023	3,100,000	\$800,000
2024	2,900,000	\$600,000
2025	1,900,000	\$700,000
Total	\$10,000,000	\$2,500,000

RESULTS

Selling the water and wastewater systems allowed the city to retire municipal debt and address additional community needs.

Since the acquisition, Missouri American Water has invested \$10 million in drinking water system improvements and \$2.5 million in wastewater system improvements including:

- critical upgrades to water treatment equipment
- replacing aging water mains and water meters
- construction of a more efficient, local service center
- updated technology to improve safety and performance.

GARDEN CITY

- Population: 1,642
- Located in southeast Cass County, Missouri
- Within the Kansas City Metro Area

WATER SYSTEM

- 655 water customers
- Water source: Surface water from two lakes
- 23.5 miles of water main

WASTEWATER SYSTEM

- 611 customers
- Treatment: Three-cell aerated lagoon plant
- 11.7 miles of wastewater pipe

“After thoroughly reviewing the options, I believed Proposition S was the right choice for the future of Garden City.”

– Mayor Marc Walton, Garden City