

Public Works Park & Cemetery



Annual Report 2025



Table of Contents

- 3 Words from the Department Director**
- 5 Park and Public Works Department Goals & Public Works Organizational Chart**
- 6 Engineering Division**
- 9 Building Maintenance**
- 11 Building, Zoning & Compliance**
- 15 Stormwater**
- 16 Parks & Cemeteries**
- 18 Street Division**
- 22 Shop Division**
- 23 Sanitation Division**
- 24 Wastewater Collections & Treatment**
- 27 Water Production, Treatment & Distribution**

Words from the Department Director

The year 2025 marked a year of significant transitions, new initiatives, and progress for the Public Works Department. In March, our long-serving City Engineer and Director of Public Works, Suzanne Loomis, retired after nearly 30 years of dedicated service. This milestone prompted key departmental changes, including my promotion from Water & Wastewater Superintendent to Public Works Director. Additionally, Chris Ciardella advanced to City Engineer, and Nathan Phillips assumed the role of Water & Wastewater Superintendent. These leadership transitions have opened opportunities to grow and consider how business is conducted.

I also want to recognize the exceptional efforts of our team. Several Public Works staff members earned certifications in treatment operations, several employees obtained their Commercial Driver's Licenses, some achieved certification in Playground Safety and pesticide application. Furthermore, some of our staff received honors from the Emerging Leadership Academy (ELA) and training in the Process Communication Model (PCM), and one of our own placed third in the APWA Backhoe ROADEO contest at the spring conference—a testament to their skill and commitment as it relates to self-improvement and service to the organization. Lastly, I want to take a minute to recognize the loss of Mike Headings, who passed away this year after a battle with leukemia. Mike was a valuable member of this organization for over 20 years, and he will be missed.



Mike Headings
Dec 25, 1967—Nov 19, 2025

On the infrastructure front, 2025 presented both challenges and achievements. Early in the year, our water supply approached critical levels, raising the possibility of enacting a citywide water warning. Fortunately, sustained spring rains restored our supplies back to normal levels. However, the wet weather complicated some of our major paving projects. The Spencer project was temporarily paused to improve traffic flow, while Hillside could be focused on for completion. We successfully completed the 12th Street mill and overlay project. The 320 N. Main structure was demolished and is



John Verbeek
Roadeo—3rd Place



being considered for new development. Furthermore, Newton staff contributed to and completed several projects in-house that contributed to the success of the organization. These in-

house projects ranged from the replacement of HVAC units at City Hall to reconstruction of the intersection at SE 4th and Walnut, to water well rehabilitation and the installation of isolation valves at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Looking ahead, the Public Works Department has initiated and has taken part in several



*Joseph Torres (Above)
and Nate Janzen
(Right)*

*Certified Playground
Safety Inspectors*



strategic planning efforts to guide future improvements and direction of the community. These include the Safe Streets for All project, aimed at enhancing safety across the city and county. Furthermore, we are actively participating in the Newton Next Comprehensive Plan, which sets a roadmap for community development, including items pertaining to housing, land planning, and downtown revitalization. In addition to the Newton Next and the SS4A projects we are working to complete an internal Park Master Plan to enhance and consider our Parks and Public spaces amenities and infrastructure needs.

Finally, as I reflect on 2025, I continue to be amazed at the level of skill and dedication of Public Works staff's willingness to contribute to serving our community.

Public Works is the foundation of the city and often their work behind the scenes goes unnoticed. However, without these contributions—from replacing or maintaining a boiler at the treatment plant to patching a road, repairing a water break, cleaning a sewer line, collecting trash, or mowing and maintaining city parks and road rights-of-way, to the inspection of buildings and construction sites through efficient project management, and enforcing city code, and ensuring a high level of water and wastewater treatment—the city would not be in a place to grow, thrive, and prosper.

As we move into 2026, let's build on this momentum. Continue to communicate, partner, and take pride in the work that keeps Newton thriving. Together, we can make the coming year even more successful.

Sincerely,

Edward Bonham, Director of Public Works



*Doug McFall
KU Emerging
Leadership Academy*



*Joel Barker
KU Emerging
Leadership Academy*

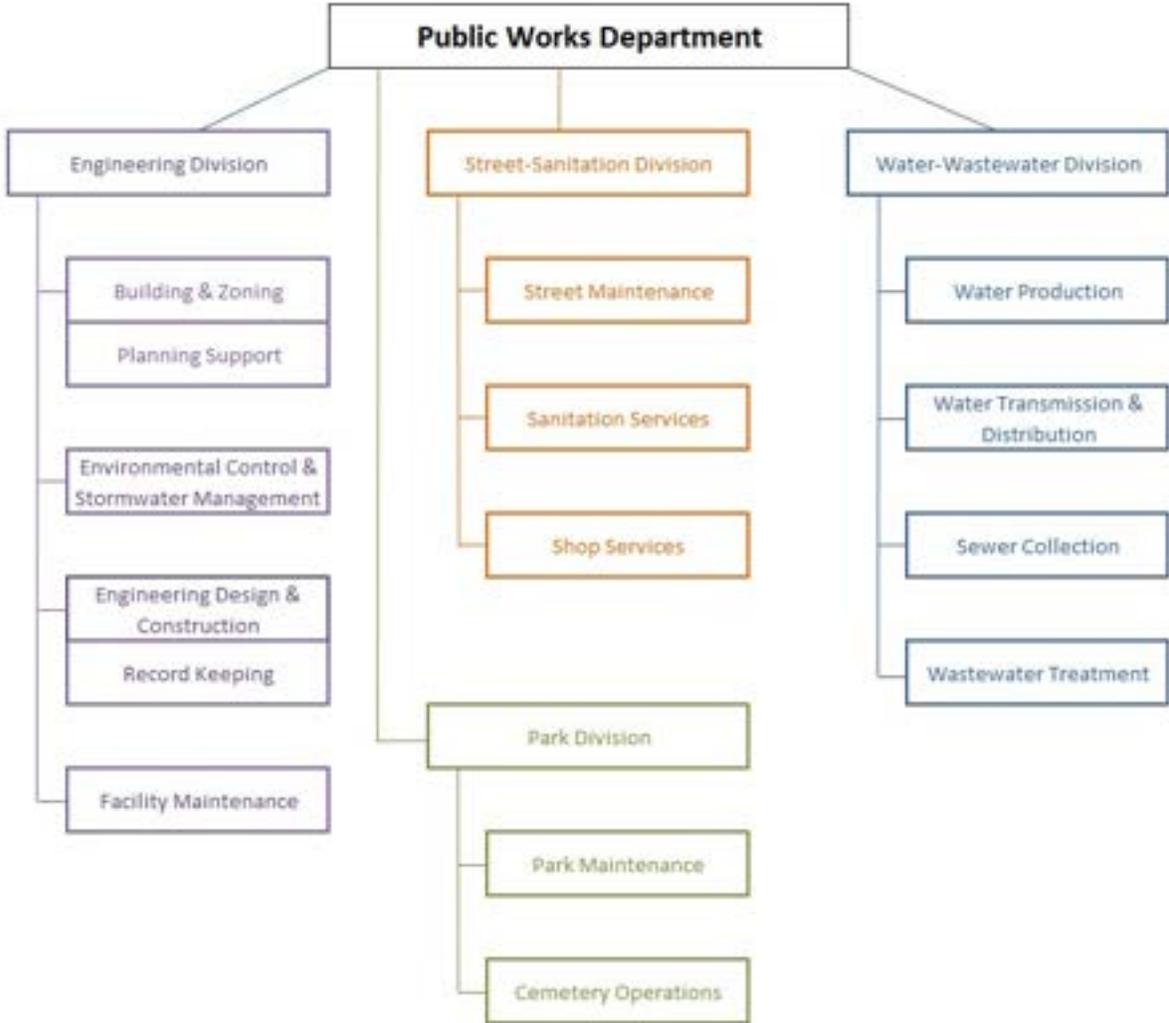
Communicate in a compassionate and professional manner, treating everyone the way we would like to be treated, with honesty and respect.

Be good stewards of public dollars.

Public Works Department Goals

Plan, design, and maintain quality and safe public infrastructure.

Hire, train, and retain excellent employees who care about our community and want to serve.



Engineering Division



The Engineering Division is responsible for managing the vital infrastructure that supports our community's way of life. This includes engineering design, infrastructure construction, planning support, stormwater management, building inspection, zoning, public building maintenance and environmental control.

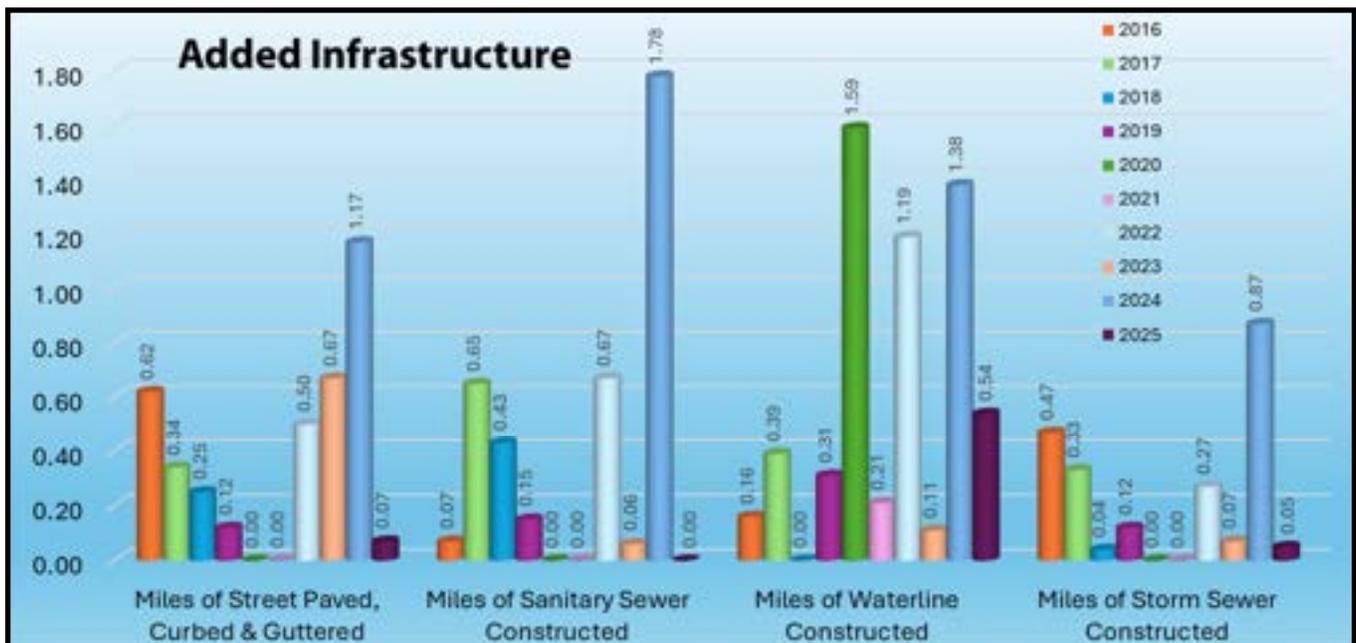
Engineering services provided by city staff are wide ranged and vary depending on the year and the priorities set forth by the city commission and our changing community. However, one area tracked constantly to monitor growth in Newton is the development of capital improvement infrastructure projects. Staff provides design, plan review, staking, inspection, and project administration duties for multiple projects in a year's time.

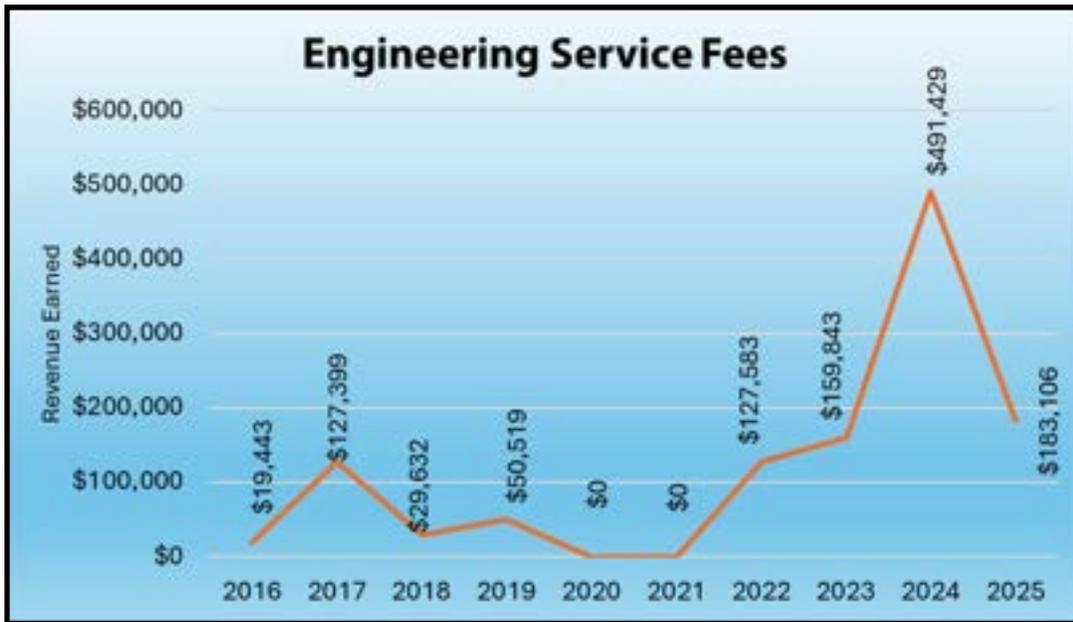
Engineering services provided for the development community, generates revenue for the city general fund, and those services provided for city capital projects are dollars saved by using in-house staff as opposed to hiring outside professionals.



Ember Hope Waterline

Public infrastructure consists of paved streets, waterlines, sanitary sewer lines, drainage systems, and public buildings. Each year infrastructure is added to city owned assets.



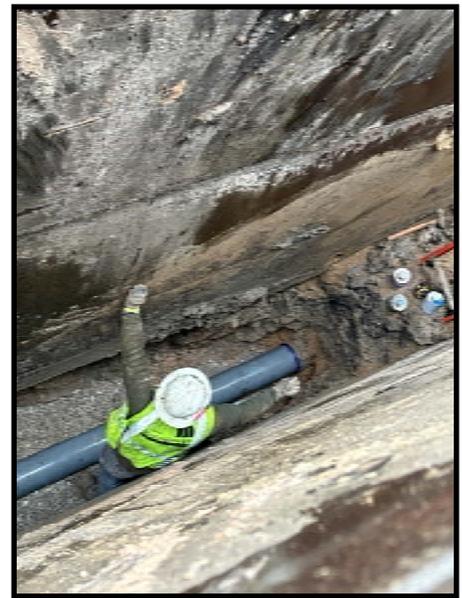


Actual fees collected for plan review, design, staking, and inspection.



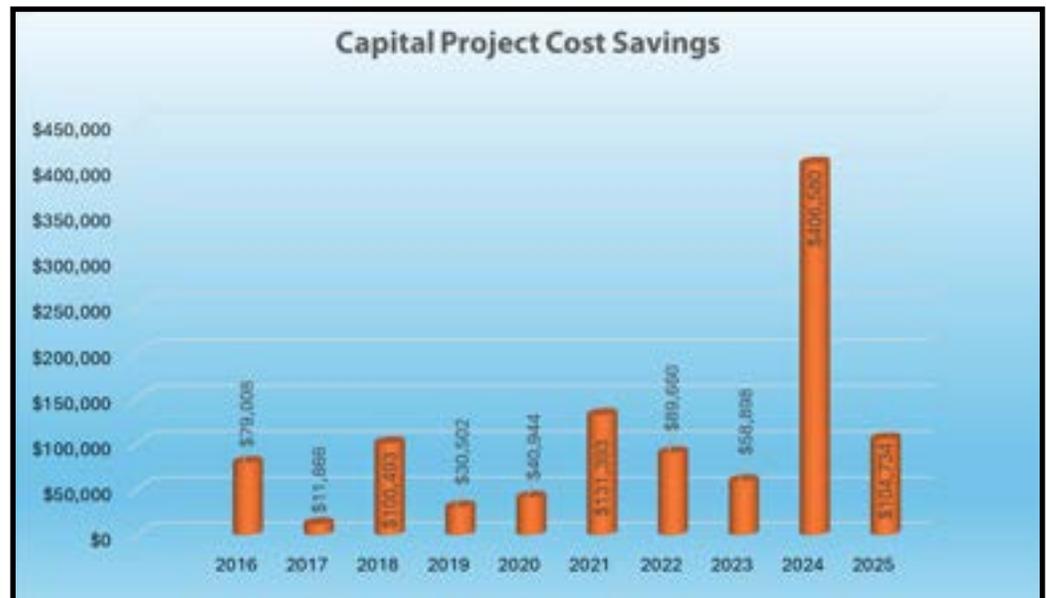
Pine Street Fireline Project

- 2025 Capital Improvement Projects**
- Ground Water Tank
 - Country Club Lift Station Rehab
 - Aiport Doors for Hangar's A & J
 - NDV Plaza Addition Waterline Extension
 - E 12th Street Mill & Overlay
 - Airport Hangar J Recon
 - Quail Creek Paving
 - Annual Overlay 2025



GAF sewer line project

These dollars represent money saved by doing in-house design, staking, or inspections on capital improvement projects instead of hiring consultants to do the work.



Building Maintenance

In 2025, the Facilities team made significant progress toward building a more organized, efficient, and data-driven maintenance program for the City of Newton. With major improvements in both operational output and internal systems, the division laid the groundwork for a shift from primarily reactive maintenance toward a more preventive and proactive service model.

A major accomplishment this year was the expanded use of our CMMS, MaintainX. We created standardized preventive maintenance schedules, added key HVAC assets across multiple buildings, and achieved a strong 96% work order completion rate. The data from 2025—covering 352 created work orders, with 81 preventive and 253 reactive—provides the first reliable baseline for measuring future progress.

The team also delivered a substantial portfolio of capital and operational projects across nearly all City facilities. This ranged from installing HVAC equipment at Newton City/County Airport and City Hall, to completing LED lighting upgrades at the Meridian Center, to supporting appliance installations and IT infrastructure work at the Police Training Center. Seasonal HVAC service was completed across Fire Stations, the Library, Recreation Center, and other core facilities.

Collaboration with other departments remained strong, especially with IT, where we provided assistance on cable installations, server room upgrades, and mounting new displays. Facilities also maintained security systems and door access for over a dozen City buildings while supporting daily custodial operations at 4 facilities.

Finally, 2025 was a year of team growth and restructuring. With the promotion of the Facility Maintenance Supervisor role and the onboarding of new staff, the division is better positioned for efficiency, responsiveness, and long-term planning.

Overall, 2025 marked a transition year that strengthened our foundation and prepared the team to pursue more strategic, proactive goals in 2026 and beyond.



Joe Reber spends time diagnosing chlorine control.

2025 Building Major Maintenance Projects

Newton Airport:

- Removal and Installation of 4 complete HVAC systems in Hangars D and M

PD Training Center:

- Installation of ice machine, refrigerator, range, and microwave.
- Assisted IT in the running of Cat 6 cables and HDMI cables to all TVs, Wi-Fi modules, and Server room.
- Assisted IT in hanging 5 TVs.
- Installation of Bath Fans in all bathrooms.
- Working with contractor to get the Alley wall waterproofed.
- Installation of shelving in IT server room/custodial closet.

Parks Department:

- Installation of wiring for shop fans in new shop building.
- Installation of wiring for garage doors and outlets in cold storage buildings

Meridian Center:

- LED replacement of 4 parking lot lights, 4 outdoor area lights, and 9 soffit lights.
- Assisted with rearrangement of kitchen appliances and installation of new range.
- Installation of new hot water recirculation line for the main bathrooms.

City Hall:

- Installation of 2 new roof top package HVAC units for administration area on 3rd floor.
- Removal of old administration area HVAC equipment.
- IT office remodel

Sand Creek Station Golf Course:

- LED replacement of 5 parking lot lights.

Warkentine House:

- Working with contractor to finish the repairs of the chimneys and block wall that supports the bedroom over the drive.
- Installation of new electric heat to the air handler.
- Replacement of outdoor water hydrant.

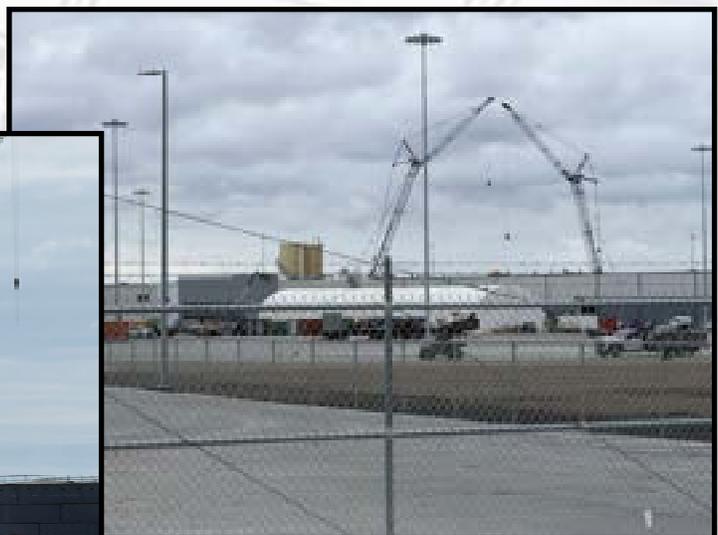
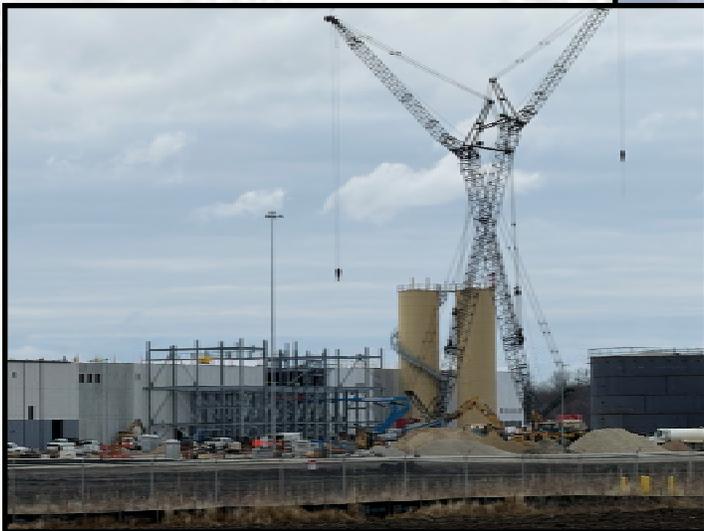
Other Tasks:

- Completed seasonal services of HVAC equipment at Fire Stations 1, 2, and 3, City Service Center, City Hall, Newton Public Library, PD Training Center, Meridian Center, and Warkentine House.
- Started working with Trane on a large scale HVAC project to Replace 15 roof top package units at the Newton Recreation Center, 2 chillers at City Hall, and 1 multi-zone split system and 1 residential split system at Fire Station 2.
- Worked to utilize more features of our CMMS software, MaintianX, by creating repeating, preventative maintenance requests for HVAC assets at all facilities we oversee, and adding those systems to an asset catalog in the software to better track what has been done to each piece of equipment.
- Maintained alarm system, panic buttons, and access codes for City Hall.
- Maintained door access codes at City Hall, Fire Station 1, 2, and 3, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Mission Water Treatment Plant, Service Center, PD Locker Rooms, Spencer Pump Station, and 1st St. Pump Station.
- We routinely work with the IT Department on tasks assisting them in running data cable, and mounting TVs or Monitors.
- Our Department is responsible for the daily custodial duties at City Hall, the City Service Center, Police Department, and Police Training Center.

Building, Zoning, and Compliance

The building and zoning staff strives to ensure construction projects are safe and code compliant through the issuance of permits and enforcement of local and national codes and inspections.

The Environmental Inspector handles city violation responsibilities as well as the City Pride Programs and Residential Yard of the Year Program.



Construction Permits and Projects

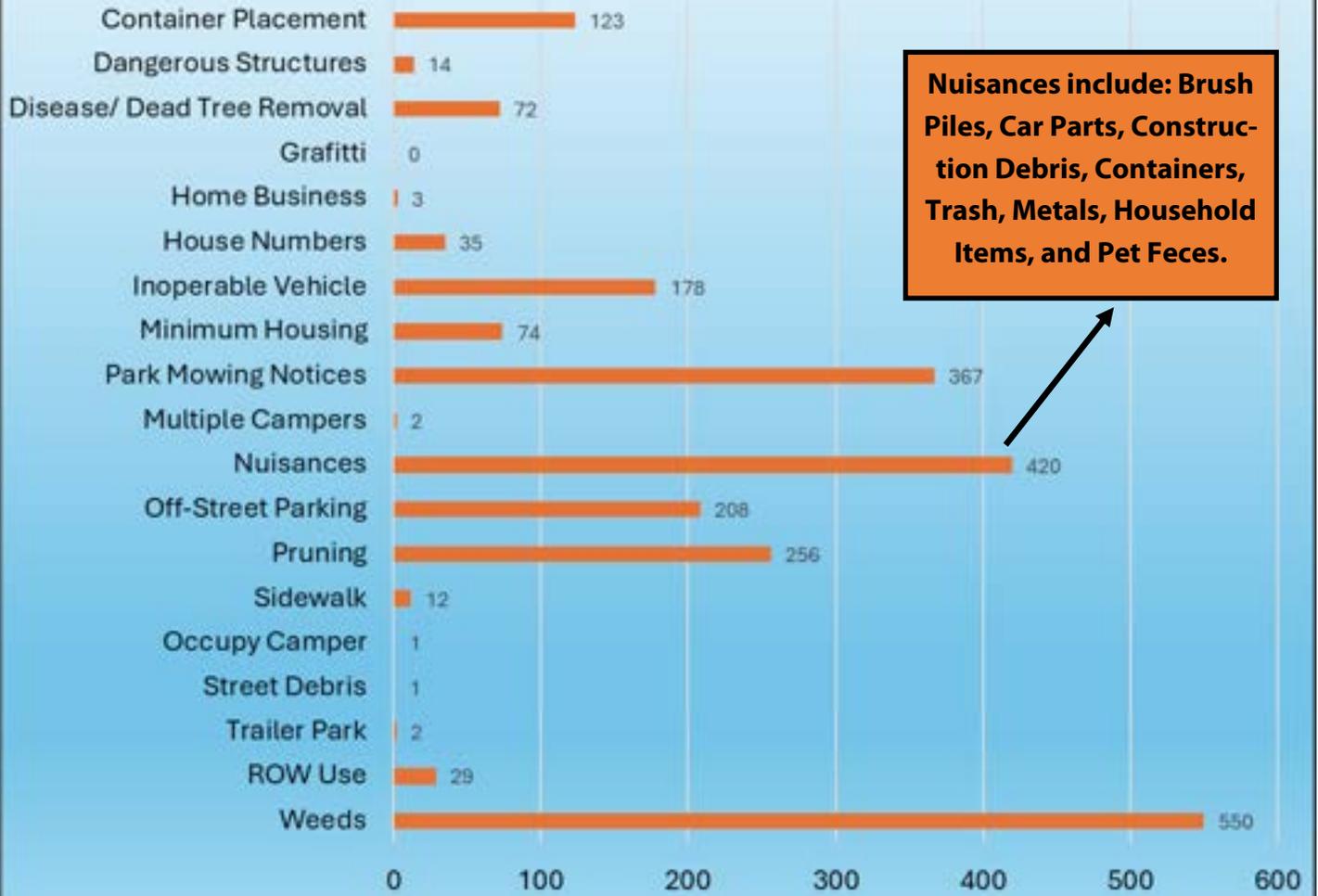


In 2025 there were 18 single family residential housing starts and 32 multi-family starts, resulting in 82 new residential living spaces. A total of 549 building permits were issued with a total valuation of nearly \$45 million. There were 2,423 in 2025, an increase of 347 over the previous year. In addition, 970 permits were issued for construction trades, down 145 from 2024. Trade permits include items such as electrical, mechanical, plumbing, etc.



The revenue obtained from permit fees is deposited in the General Fund.

Environmental Control Violations by Type Through December 31, 2025



Nuisance violations were up by 122 over 2024, for a total of 420 in 2025, while pruning increased by 141 in 2025.



Environmental Reports Through 12/31/2025



■ In Op Vehicle ■ Other ■ Off Street Parking ■ Weeds ■ Nuisance ■ Pruning

Other includes: Container Placement, Dangerous Structures, Dead/Trimmed Trees, Graffiti, Home Business, House Numbers, Minimal Housing, Multiple Campers, Sidewalks, Street Debris, & Parked Trailers.

With the aid of new software in 2024, the compliance inspections are able to be handled more efficiently, creating higher numbers over the past two years. In 2023, the total violations were, 1,071; 2024 showed an increase to 1,907 and 2025 showed another increase to 2,347 violations written.



Roger and Patty Busenitz yard was chosen from 11 yards that were nominated. The property ranked especially high in water conservation, healthy turf and curb appeal.

2025 Yard of the Year



Stormwater

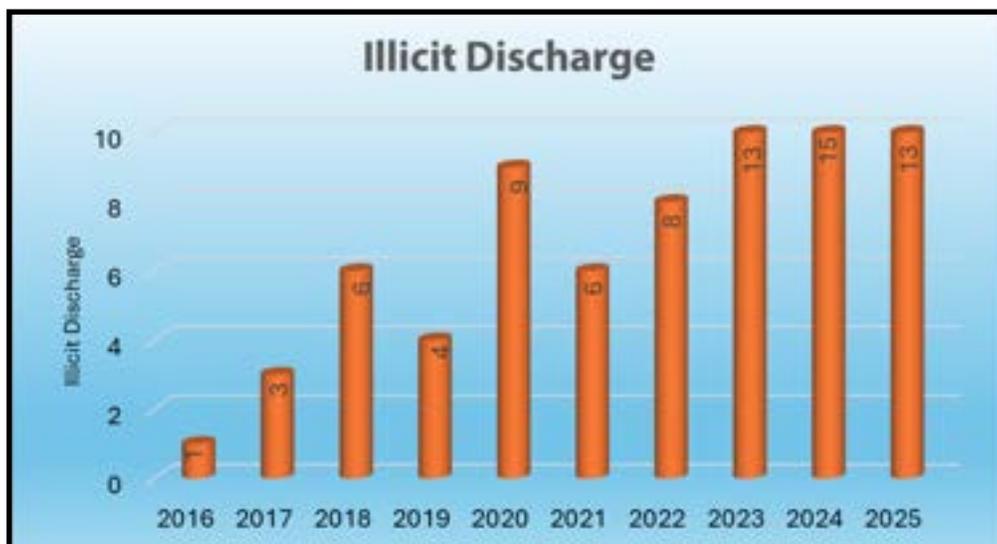
2025 Environmental Sciences Scholarship

To comply with the City's Stormwater MS-4 NPDES Permit, the annual City of Newton Environmental Sciences Scholarship was awarded in the amount of \$500 on April 24th to Margaret Oswald. She plans to study Biotechnology at Bethel College.



Maintenance

- 1,913 lane miles were actively swept in 2025 collecting 2,453yds³ of debris.
- The priority storm drain list was cleaned 10 times throughout the year.
- A total of 186 storm water inlets were inspected for structural integrity.
- Completed cleaning of all intakes within city limits twice in 2025, once in the spring and again in the fall.



Illicit discharges are a re-release of any substance other than stormwater. A few examples are vehicle fluid loss, dirt and sediment runoff, or trash and debris.

Parks & Cemeteries

The Parks and Cemeteries Division works to constantly improve the appearance of the community while maintaining a broad spectrum of outdoor recreational opportunities. The focus is to improve the city's overall appearance through intensive maintenance of park facilities, grounds, and cemeteries.

Park Division responsibilities

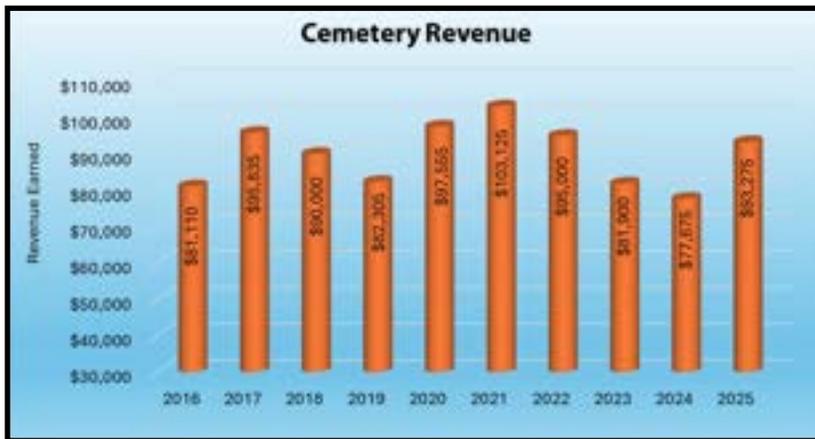
- ◆ Maintenance of 670 acres of parks, Right-of-way's, Cemeteries and Waterways
- ◆ 17 Parks
- ◆ 15 Traditional playgrounds
- ◆ 1 Natural playground
- ◆ 14 Shelters
- ◆ 9 Public restrooms
- ◆ 1 Pool
- ◆ 1 Splash Park
- ◆ 8.91 Miles of Trails/Bikepath
- ◆ 38.48 Miles of sidewalk and curbs
- ◆ Maintenance of the tree canopy
- ◆ Vegetation control
- ◆ Flower, shrub and tree planting
- ◆ Snow removal
- ◆ Cemetery burials and perpetual care



2025 Highlights for the Park Division include the following:



- ◆ Maintained Tree City USA status for the 50th year.
- ◆ Achieved Tree Cities of the World designation for the 6th year.
- ◆ Celebrated Arbor Day with a 3rd grade class from Northridge Elementary, by planting a Legacy Sugar Maple.
- ◆ Installed 4 new swing sets and surfacing: two at Centennial Park, one at Roosevelt Park and one at Military Park
- ◆ Installed a new flag pole at Military Park
- ◆ Assisted with 100 community events throughout the year.
- ◆ Certified employees maintained their job certifications while two earned Playground Safety Inspector Certificates.
- ◆ Prepped cemeteries for Memorial day and performed clean-up following the holiday.



CEMETERY STATISTICS		
	2024	2025
Full Size Burials	64	79
Cremations	62	66
Lots Sold	55	76
Headstone Permits	87	69

ACRES MOWED		
Area	2024	2025
Right-of-way	817.55	1,471.59
Waterway	116.16	154.88
Park	5305.8	5,659.52
Cemetery	2420.6	2,766.40
Other	6131.1	6,539.84
TOTAL ACRES	14,791.21	16,592.23



Tree maintenance costs include planting new trees, yearly maintenance of all trees, and removing dead or damaged trees.

Street Division



The Street Division is responsible for street repair and maintenance, traffic control management, and snow and ice removal. The Street Division completes many tasks related to intersection improvement, neighborhood traffic concerns, school zone flashers, traffic signal maintenance & repairs, and road & parking lot striping.

Staff also performs pavement evaluation, asphalt and concrete patching, crack and slurry sealing, utility cut restoration, street cleaning, surface treatment, vegetation management, right-of-way clearing, set up and tear down for community festivals.

2025 Highlights

- ◆ Multiple C3 District Downtown Improvements were completed, including the repairing of multiple electrical outlets being repaired on the decorative lights.
 - ◆ The Street Division helped with 32 community events.
 - ◆ There were 6 winter storm events in 2025 resulting in the use of 269 tons of salt, 7,200 gallons of salt brine compared to 3 winter storms in 2024 using 133 tons of salt and 3,600 gallons of salt brine.
 - ◆ Upgraded PED crossing lights at 7th and Main
 - ◆ Installed new solar powered school speed lights on Old Main near South Breeze Elementary.
 - ◆ Moved speed zone light to extend school zone on E 1st St and replaced AC powered flashers with solar powered flashers.
 - ◆ Repaired 33 pavement failures on asphalt streets in preparation of slurry seal.
 - ◆ Responded to 19 pothole requests from citizens under the 24 hour pothole repair policy.
 - ◆ The grader completed 5 rotations on the gravel road list and responded to 14 citizen requests for road repair outside of normal maintenance.
-

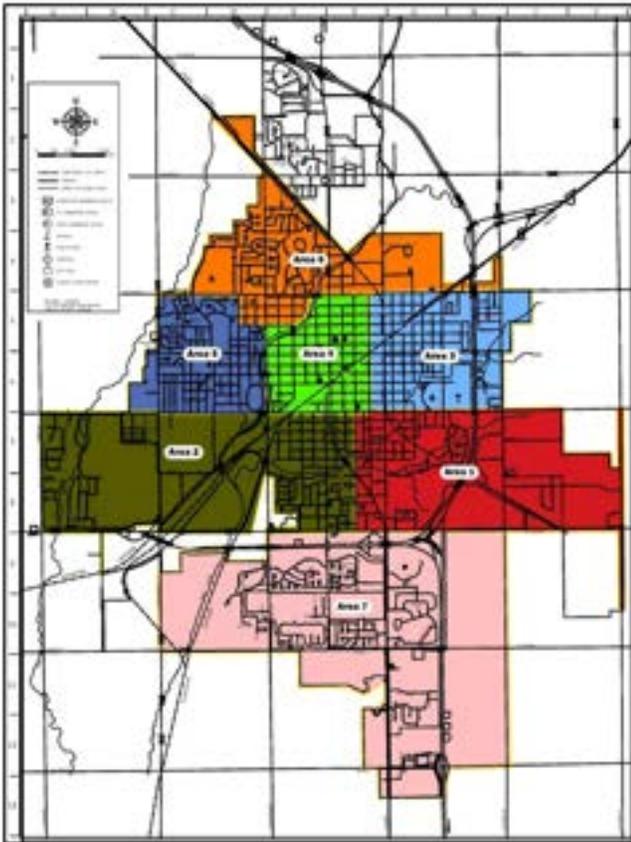


New rock for alley repairs



Snow removal - February 2025 Winter Event

7 AREA
STREET MAINTENANCE MAP

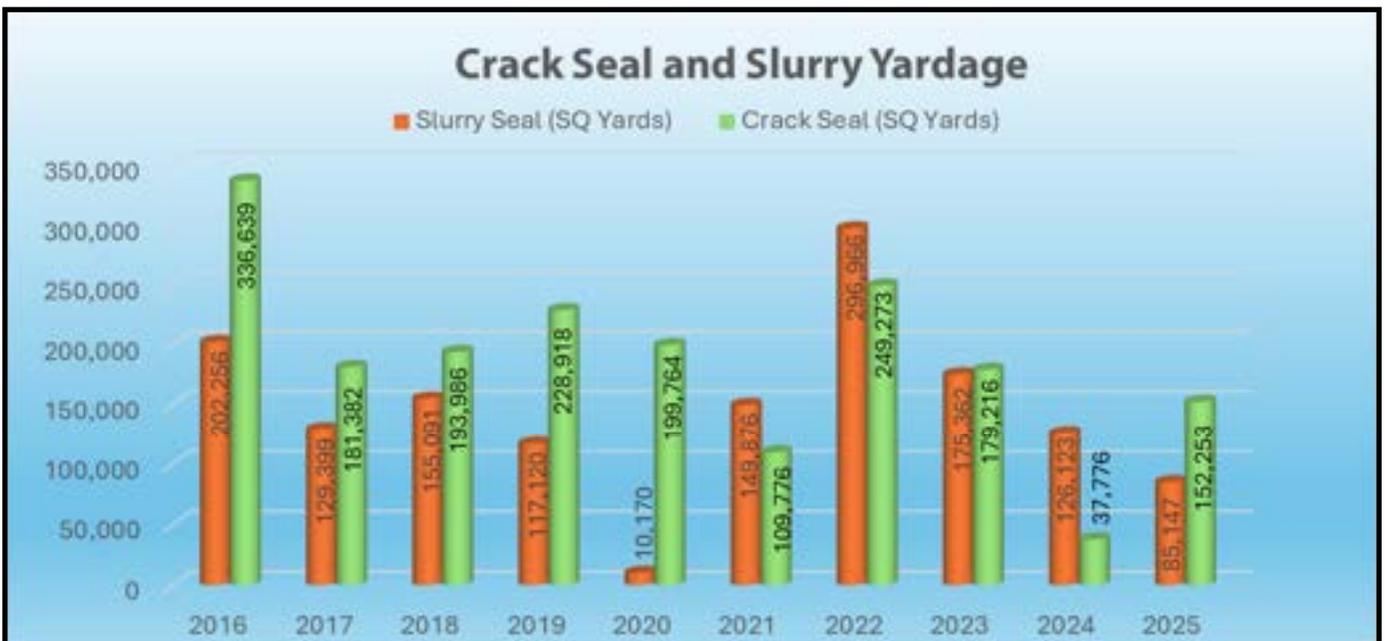


Pavement Maintenance Area Map

The City of Newton operates on a seven zone area for Street Maintenance. Each year a different zone receives the focus for working on issues within that area. This year maintenance efforts were concentrated in Area 1.



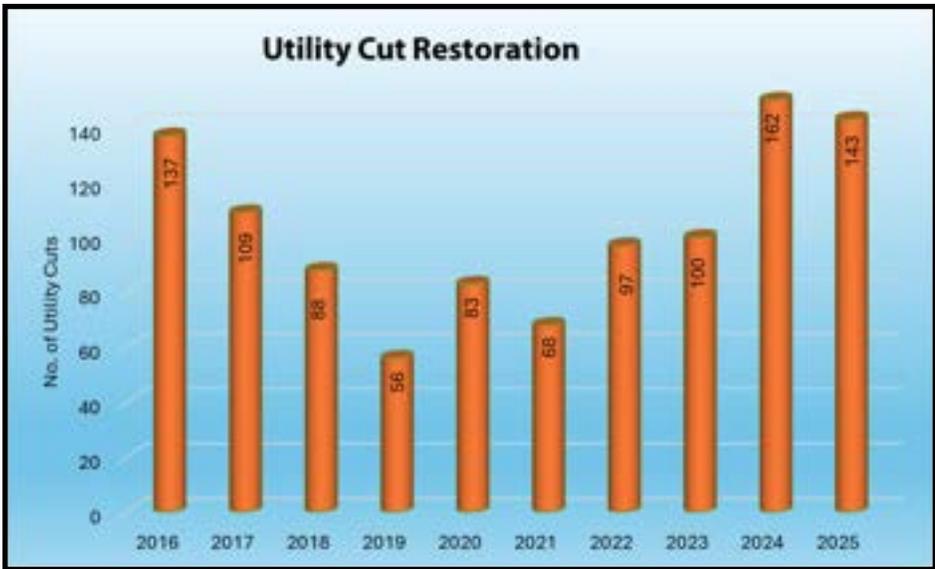
Slurry Sealing





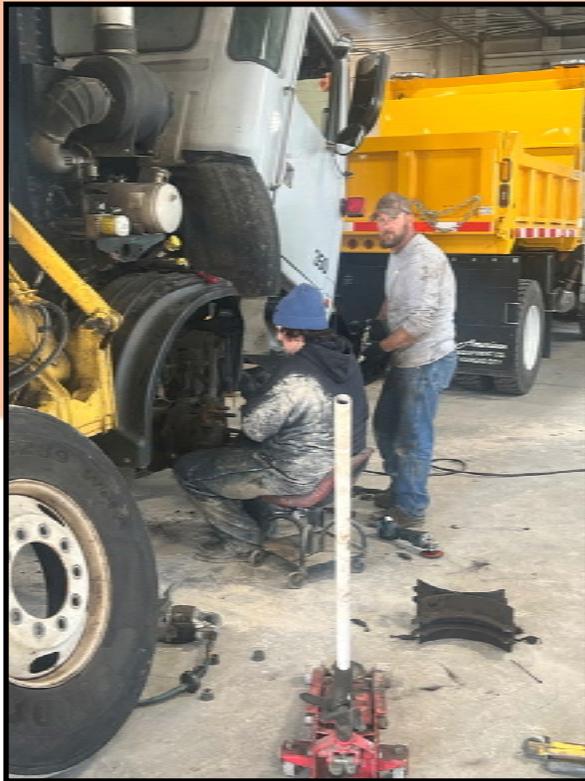
Curb and gutter repairs are focused in the annual maintenance area or along the annual overlay routes.

Utility cut restoration numbers vary depending on utility work done each year by utility companies like Everage, Ideatak, City Water & Sewer, etc..



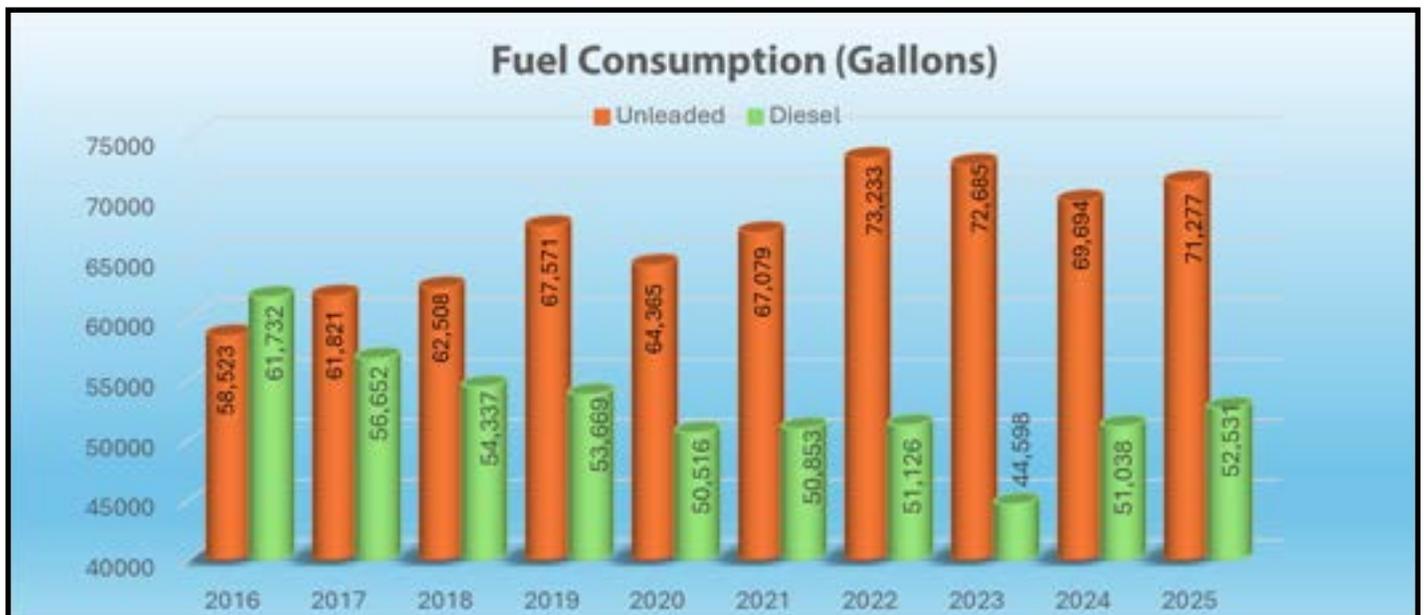
Street maintenance crews provide final repairs to assure roadways are constructed to city standards to withstand public traffic.

Shop



The Shop Section of the Street Division performs maintenance and repair to the entire City Fleet from Fire Engines to the trash pump with three full-time employees.

Repair orders for 2025 saw an increase of 132 from the previous year. Total repairs for 2025 were 1,351



Fuel consumption includes use by all city departments.

Sanitation Division



The Right-of Way Bulky Item Stickers Program

- Sanitation inspector wrote 1,211 violations for right-of-way obstructions, down by 56 from 2024.
- 592 were taken care of by the resident., nearly a 49% rate compared to nearly 50% in 2024.
- 343 residents called in for the \$10.00 bulky pick up collection fee, which is up by 6 from 2024.
- In 2025, 238 were collected for \$20.00 right-of-way collection fee., while 2024 had 249.
- 38 were non-qualifying bulky collection items & sent to the Environmental Control Officer, which is down by 14 from 2024.



The Sanitation Division dispensed 3,040 free landfill coupons in 2025 and of those, 1,816 were used. The total annual coupon cost for 2025 was \$24,219.65 with the average coupon valued at \$13.34.

This is an increase of 120 coupons dispensed, an increase of 71 used, increasing the cost by nearly \$2,400 in 2025.

In 2024 there were 175 roll off dumpster rentals compared

to 224 rentals with \$31,925 in revenue. This was an increase of 49 dumpsters and \$6.075 over 2024.

Wastewater Collections & Treatment Division

The Collections and Treatment staff are responsible for the entire wastewater system serving the City of Newton.

This system begins with collecting wastewater from homes and businesses through a series of underground piping that leads to the treatment facility.



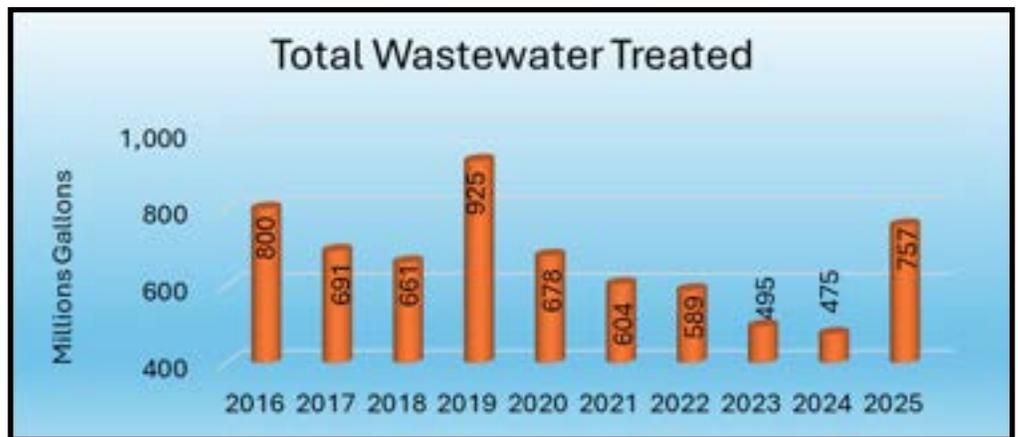
*757 million gallons of
sewage were treated at
the Newton
Wastewater Treat-
ment Plant in 2025*

~~~

*Highest Day Flow
8.85 million gallons*

In 2025, several projects were completed at the WWTF, including the installation of new drain valves, the rebuilding of all three compactors, and the conversion to LED lighting. In June 2025, plant staff experienced the first major rain event in recent years, during which several pieces of equipment were required to operate simultaneously.

Sewer crews are responsible for cleaning and maintaining all sewer lines and lift stations. They utilize three primary pieces of cleaning equipment, along with a specialized camera system to inspect and verify sewer conditions. High-pressure water nozzles are also used to remove debris from inside the lines. Sewer crews remain committed to providing quick, efficient service to all citizens of Newton and are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Installing new wear bars compactor



Preparing to transport fresh bio-solids



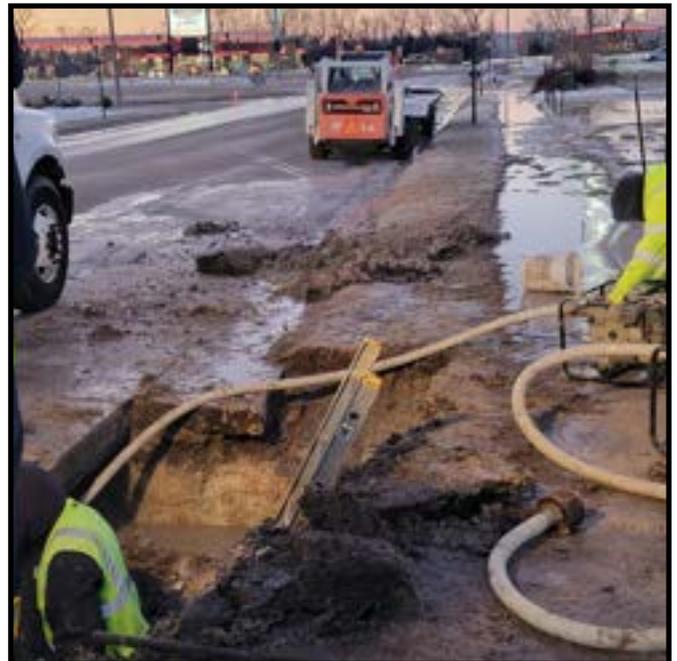
The sewer crews are tasked with cleaning and maintaining sewer lines and lift stations. Sewer crews continue to be committed to providing quick and efficient service to all the citizens of Newton.

In 2025 there were 11 public sewer and 53 private sewer backups, compared to 17 public and 40 private sewer backups in 2024.

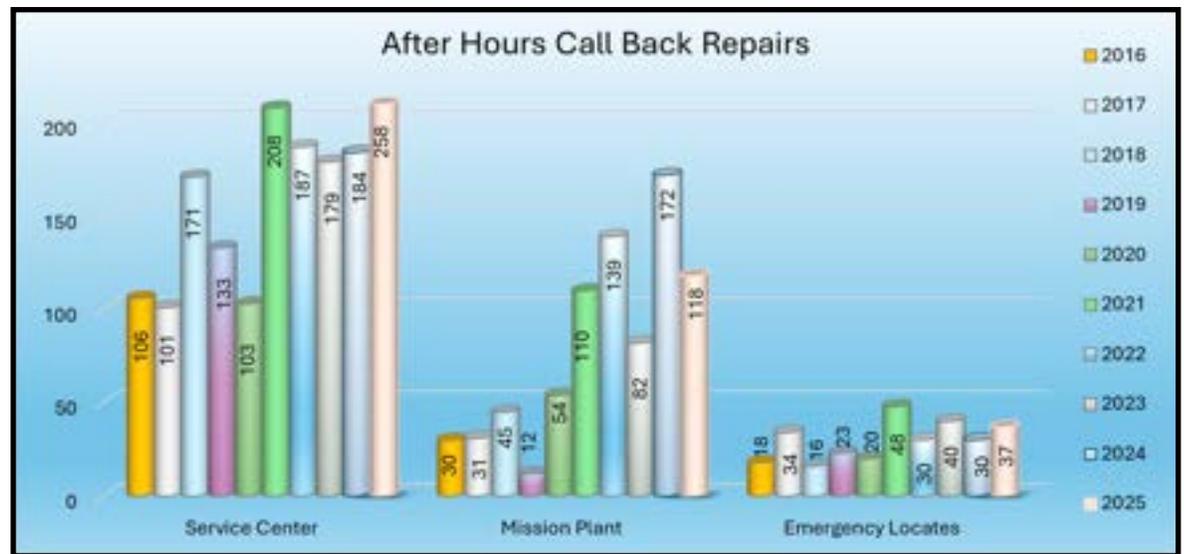
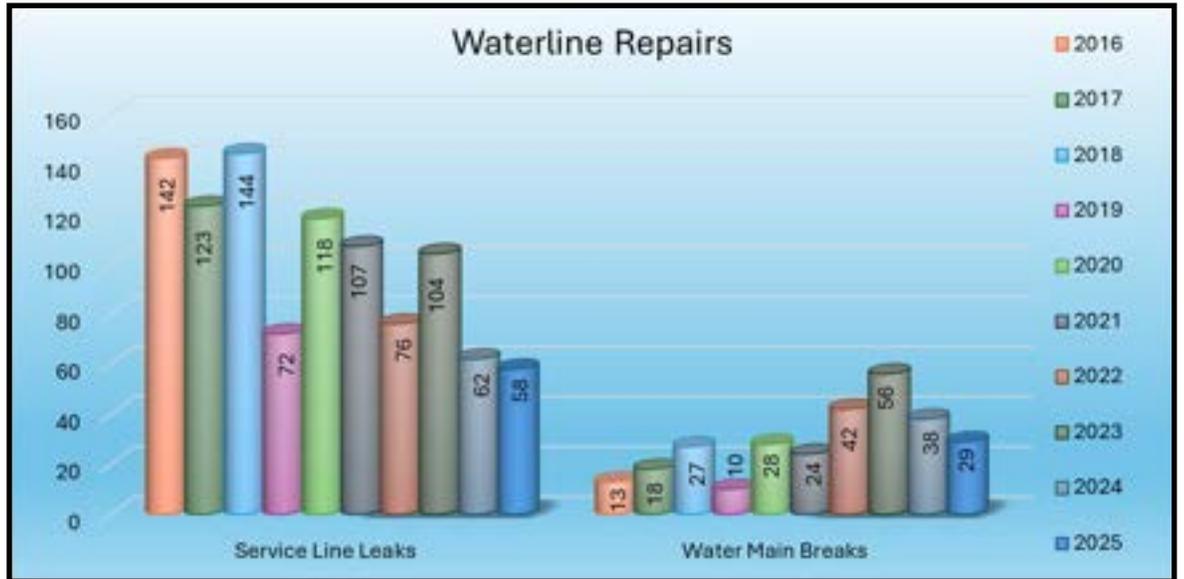


Water Production, Treatment & Distribution

The Water Production and Distribution Section maintains piping, pumping and treatment systems in a manner to provide high-quality drinking water to all they serve. This process is done using pumping and treatment activities which are regulated by the State of Kansas.



Distribution crews remained busy in 2025, completing more than 8,000 work orders, replacing 1,121 meters, installing 123 new water services, and repairing 30 water main breaks. Staff also completed 3,167 utility locates. All of this work was accomplished while the division was understaffed by three positions. Staffing levels continue to challenge the division, with the availability of qualified candidates at an all-time low. We continue to rely on seasoned employees to fill in the open spots as we try to avoid burnouts.



Water line damaged by contractor

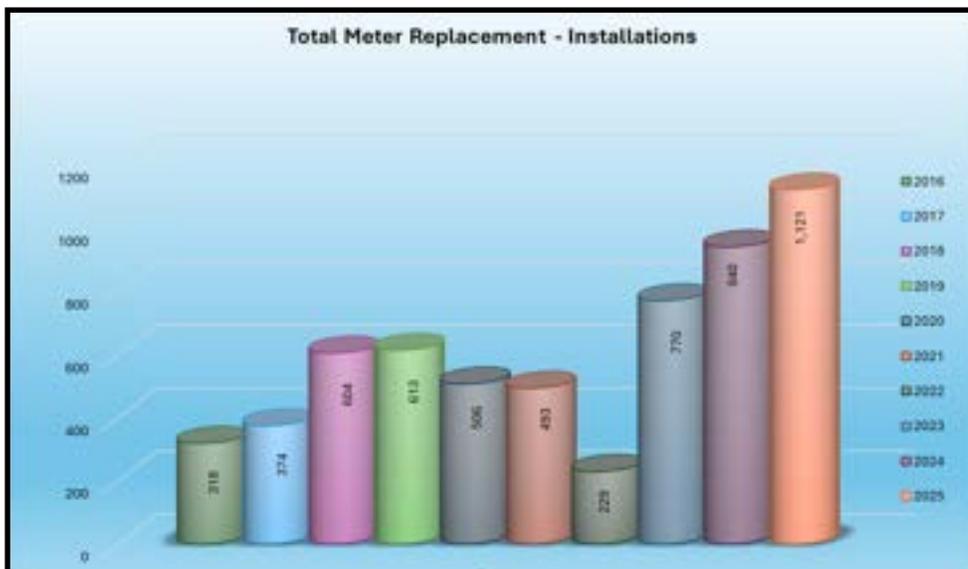


Main break at 4th and Main Streets

Meters are regularly scheduled for replacement but can be replaced sooner due to meter failures or due to the federal “Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act” that was put into effect in January 2014. This requires the removal of any pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, meters, and fixtures containing more than a weighted average of 0.25% lead content. New meters are installed on new homes/buildings or service splits for multi-family units. Meter service orders include readings when service is being started or stopped, monthly usage readings, shut off’s, and for customer requests or for checks due to leaks.



Water meter and setter





*The daily average of water pumped through the Mission Treatment Plant in 2025 was 1.7 million gallons.
The highest daily use was recorded at 2.9 million gallons.*

Mission staff completed several major projects in 2025. The second ground storage tank on W. 1st Street was placed into service. Each year, funds are allocated to inspect and rehabilitate one well. In 2025, Well #16 was inspected and rebuilt. Another highlight of the year was the installation of new radios for SCADA control at all City of Newton wells, along with new coaxial cable and an antenna on the Spencer water tower. These upgrades significantly improved communications reliability, ensuring uninterrupted communications.



First Street tank work in progress



Chemical feed pump water line repair

