HISTORY

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Galesburg Sanitary District was established November 14, 1924. The main treatment plant building was erected in 1930-1931 consisting of pump room, primary clarifiers, anaerobic sludge digesters fixed nozzle bed, final clarifier, and five sludge drying beds. The fixed nozzle bed (which discharges water intermittently on rock media) was one of the first treatment processes of its type in the United States. It attracted visitors from throughout the Midwest and is still in operation today.

Plant improvements in 1945-1946 included two rotary trickling filters, another final clarifier (both are now intermediate clarifiers), and a secondary anaerobic sludge digester (with floating dome methane gas containment). Capacity of the plant is now approximately 6 MGD (million gallons per day). The above wastewater processes are referred to as Plant 1.

Treatment plant capacity was increased to 22 MGD in 1970 by adding Plant 2, consisting of four primary clarifiers, two additional rotary trickling filters, two final clarifiers, contact tank, roundhouse pump station, and an additional anaerobic digester (nearly doubling primary digester capacity). In the late 1980's plant personnel installed a 12 inch line from Plant 1 to the contact tank and increased plant capacity to 28 MGD.

Additional plant improvements completed in 1992-1994 were new screen house, 3 MG storm water lagoon, additional final clarifier, and twenty additional sludge drying beds. Plant wastewater recirculation was installed by District personnel in 2002.

In 2007, a filter building containing 8 drum filters was added to screen more solids from the wastewater, before it is discharged to Cedar Creek. The drum filters are capable of filtering 18 MGD.

An additional 6 MG storm water lagoon, with chlorination of the discharge, was brought online in July 2012. Total excess storm water capacity was increased to approximately 9 MG.