



**TRUST
IN
WATER**

Lake Station, IN

How partnership with a private water provider revitalized a failing system

The City of Lake Station and its more than 3,200 residents benefit from having a private water provider own, operate and maintain the community's water system. Prior to 2019, Lake Station faced aging infrastructure challenges, persistent water quality issues, and mounting municipal debt. The city's water treatment plant had not seen major upgrades in nearly two decades, and frequent main breaks and discolored water were common. Financial strain made it impossible to fund improvements or hire qualified staff to maintain compliance with stringent environmental regulations.

City officials sought to partner with a professional water and wastewater utility that could manage operations while infusing capital into the water system and the community. The sale of Lake Station's water system to Indiana American Water provided immediate financial relief and long-term stability. The \$20.68 million purchase allowed the city to eliminate \$11 million in debt and reinvest \$9 million into roads and other critical community projects.

Since acquiring Lake Station's water system in 2019, Indiana American Water has invested more than \$5 million to modernize infrastructure and strengthen service reliability.

Key improvements to the water system in Lake Station

- Upgraded the treatment facility with advanced equipment and monitoring technology to improve water quality, meet safety standards and ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Replaced aging water mains and installed new hydrants, valves, and meters to reduce leaks, improve water pressure and provide better flow for firefighting and everyday use.
- Added backup power systems and real-time monitoring tools to keep water flowing during outages or severe weather, ensuring uninterrupted service for residents.
- Improved system performance to reduce service disruptions, increase energy efficiency and extend the life of critical infrastructure.



Benefit of Asset Purchase for Lake Station

- Generated revenue from sale proceeds.
- Eliminated municipal debt.
- Addressed compliance issues with environmental regulations.
- Provided professional 24/7 customer service.
- Protected water rates through regulated single-tariff pricing.