

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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## “New Blowers at Water Pollution Control Plant”

It takes a lot of power to keep the purifying processes going on at the City of Norfolk Water Pollution Control Plant (WPC). That’s because bugs eat the contaminants in the water, and bugs need air- air that has to be circulated through the water.

Three new blowers have been recently installed at the plant at a cost of \$1.2 million to introduce more air into the water.



“We don’t use any chemicals to clean the water so we depend on the microorganisms to do the work for us. These new blowers provide us with more flexibility as we can speed up or slow down the vanes and motors and control the oxygen level in the water,” said Todd Boling, Wastewater Plant Superintendent.

The old blowers put out 4200 cubic feet of air per minute. The new ones put out 5145 cubic feet per minute. The new blowers are expected to last for 20 years.

“We only run two blowers at a time rotating them for even wear between the three blowers. It also gives us a backup blower if one of them would break down,” Boling said.

The new blowers can be remotely controlled through a computer system based in the WPC Plant office. The blowers were paid from revenue generated through sewer fees and from \$75,000 of incentives from Nebraska Public Power District. Boling that it’s expected the blowers will recoup a good portion of their cost from energy and maintenance savings.