

Hall, Renee

From: jackl@huxcomm.net
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 2:28 PM
To: City Council and Mayor
Subject: RV Dump Station

[External Email]

This rather long but thought it would be of interest to all Ames RV owners. After finding out that the DOT closed the dump stations on I-35 I sent a note to Ames Pollution Control suggesting they update the dump station there along with redoing the plant, this is their response and my note back to them:

Hello Jack, Calvin Forte from our Water Treatment Plant forwarded your email about the RV dump station to me. This has been something that we have talked through since we've heard about those closures at the DOT rest areas. The plans have already been finalized and bid for the facility upgrade and we did not elect to add new dumping facilities. We tracked our usage for a year and even with RAGBRAI coming through our usage has been minimal. Paving to the facility and a bridge upgrade would have to come through the county and would have considerable expense. In addition, our facility location is rather out of the way and isolated which is great for a wastewater plant but not convenient for RV dumping. As a matter of security we also try to limit exposure of the inside of the facility to outside folks when we are minimally staffed so that adds limits to the hours we can offer the service here. Internally we are looking at a couple small things we can do at our current dump station that could make it more convenient to use and hopeful that those may help people that choose to use it.

Please let me know if I can help address any additional thoughts or concerns with the facility.

Thank you,

Tyler Ver Meer

WPC Superintendent

Water Pollution Control Dept.

56797 280th Street | Ames, IA 50010

My return note: Thank you for answering! I just wonder if your tracking shows a valid number as most of us used the DOT facilities, I didn't even know that there was the option of using your dump. I do not think paving is necessary to get to your facility but some concrete around the dump would be good, a water flush would also be a bonus but is not a showstopper. Publicizing availability might surprise you as to the number of us who would use it! I am encouraged that you are considering small changes to enhance ease of usage, please let me know when they happen. Also once an RV owner knows where the dump is located it seems to me that we could use it without calling on any personnel except a phone call to let you know. Again thank you for your response!

Perhaps if a lot of RV owners will respond to the city we can get some improvements done!