



**FOUNTAIN HILLS  
SANITARY DISTRICT**  
*Recycles Every Drop*

# Well Vault Replacement and Public Restrooms Project

**The Fountain Hills Sanitary District** is moving the controls of two of its Aquifer Storage and Recovery Wells from deteriorating underground vaults to new above-ground buildings.

The vaults are located underneath the grass on the north (near the amphitheater) and east (near the parking lot) sides of Fountain Park.

The new dual-purpose buildings will be located above ground, close to where the current vaults are buried (*see back of this flyer*). They will house the well controls on one side and much-needed public bathrooms on the other.



**Increase Safety**

**Save District Customers Money**

**Provide Needed Public Restrooms**

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Construction on the east building will begin in May 2019 and the north building in June 2019.

## Safety of Employees and the Public

Water seeping into the ground from the Fountain Park's sprinkler system and rain has corroded the inside and outside of the vaults. Constructed almost 20 years ago, they need to be replaced.

Daily, District employees must climb down a sometimes wet eight-foot ladder into the wet, humid containers surrounded by electrical panels and pipes. Before entering they must first test for toxic gases and be on the lookout for snakes, spiders, scorpions and other animals that may have found their way in the underground area. The task requires two employees: one to do the work, and the other to monitor for safety.

Also, when workers are in the vault, and despite warning signs, curiosity gets the best of some park visitors. Many come over and look into the open hole, endangering themselves and District employees.



# Well Vault Replacement and Public Bathroom Project

## More Public Restrooms

**The Well Vault Replacement and Public Bathroom project demonstrates how the public benefits when two government entities work together.**

For many years, visitors to the 64-acre park have asked for more than one bathroom. Currently, the only bathroom is located on the south side near the splashpad (red dot). When completed, additional public restrooms will sit on the north and east sides of the park (green dots).

The District is paying for the construction and the Town of Fountain Hills is paying for the cleaning and maintenance of the restrooms.



## Save District Customers Money

**Along with providing additional restrooms and making it safer for District employees and park visitors, the project will save District customers money.** First, the current vaults lasted less than 20 years. The new above-ground building's life expectancy is far greater. Second, if the deteriorating vaults were replaced with a new underground vault, because of new safety and electrical code requirements, the new vault would need to be the size of a home basement instead of the current half-bath. Lastly with the controls above ground, only one employee, instead of the current two, will be needed to do daily maintenance and control checks.

## Aquifer Storage and Recovery Wells

**The District's five Aquifer Storage and Recovery Wells are part of a larger water reclamation and recycling system.** Fountain Hill's homes, schools, and businesses create more than 670 million gallons of wastewater annually. The Fountain Hills Sanitary District — an independent government agency — captures the used water and sends it through two treatment facilities to rid the water of solid materials, bacteria, and other micro-organisms. The cleaned water is then used to irrigate three local golf courses and several town-owned parks, including Fountain Park. The recycled water is also used to keep the iconic Fountain Lake filled.

In 1999, the wells were built to capture and store the recycled water when supply exceeds demand. From fall to early spring an influx of seasonal visitors creates more recycled water than can be used by the lake, parks and golf courses. The excess water is held underground until demand is greater than supply, in the summer when grass requires more water because of hotter temperatures.

The District's five wells can store more than seven times the volume of Fountain Lake.

