

# Switz City's Asset Management Plan: An Opportunity to Re-Examine Rates

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March 4, 2025

## Switz City – PROJECT HUB

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### Transforming Aging Rural Buried Asset Infrastructure

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### Switz City Leads the Way with \$650K Asset Management Plan Project

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This project hub serves as a central resource for updates, technical information, and insights into the AMP development process.

It showcases the collaborative spirit and dedication of the project team, highlighting their commitment to improving infrastructure and ensuring sustainable utility services for rural communities.



### Rural municipalities and districts are confronted with a significant challenge

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**Their buried asset infrastructure is essential for their viability, yet constrained resources often lead to the neglect and degradation of these**

critical assets, without a well-defined remediation strategy.

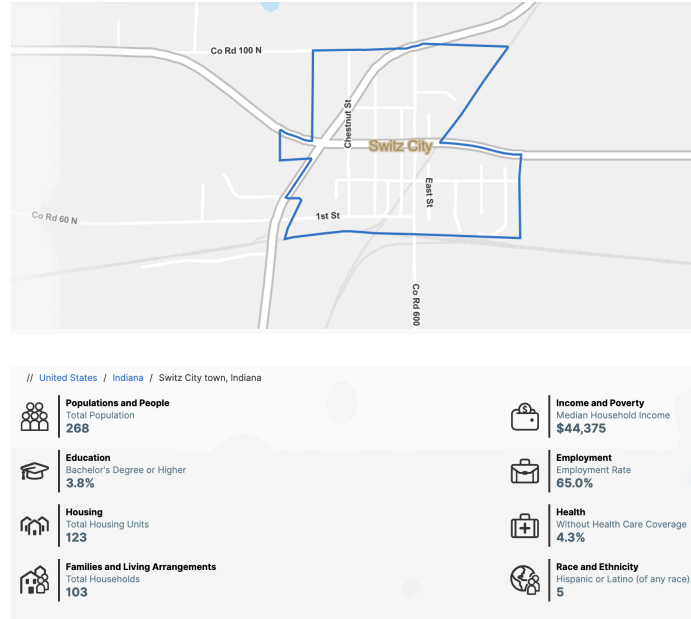
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This initiative aims to develop a structured and replicable framework to address this issue.

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## Switz City Stats

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**Population:** 268 (2020 Census)

**Size:** 0.2 square miles

**Population Density:** 1,340 people per square mile

**Number of Households:** ~100

**Average Household Size:** 2.84

**Median Household Income:** \$38,278

**Per Capita Income:** \$24,312

**Poverty Rate:** 33.1%

**Median Age:** 29.4 years

**Racial Composition:** 99.65% White

**Median Home Value:** \$84,117

**Median Gross Rent: \$708**

**Percentage with Bachelor's Degree or Higher: 3.8%**

## **Project Details**

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### **Key Highlights**

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**The development of a three-phase plan to create a replicable AMP model.**

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**The establishment of Switz City as a “Living Lab” for testing and implementing innovative solutions.**

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**The use of advanced technologies for pipeline condition assessment (PCA).**

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**The creation of a Manual of Practices (MOP) to guide AMP development across Indiana.**

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**The commitment to training and education for utility professionals.**

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### **Project Summary**

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This project hub documents the transformative effort to develop a comprehensive Asset Management Plan (AMP) for Switz City, Indiana, a pilot project designed to serve as a replicable model for rural utilities across the state. Funded by a \$650,000 grant from the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA), this initiative addresses the critical need for proactive infrastructure management, mandated by Indiana's Senate Bill 272 (2022).

Spearheaded by the Buried Asset Management Institute – International (BAMI-I) in partnership with the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water (AIRW), and with significant technical support from Purdue University's Underground Infrastructure Team (UIT), the project leverages a collaborative approach to tackle the unique challenges faced by small water utilities. Purdue UIT provides vital technical and administrative support, engaging graduate students in practical learning experiences and contributing to the development of the AMP. AIRW, representing over 1,000 rural water and wastewater systems, brings invaluable field expertise and facilitates crucial data collection and operational insights. The IFA's substantial funding underscores the state's commitment to supporting sustainable infrastructure improvements and ensuring regulatory compliance.

The project employs cutting-edge technologies, including acoustic testing, closed-circuit televising (CCTV), and satellite imaging, to conduct thorough assessments of Switz City’s water and wastewater infrastructure. The goal is to create a robust, risk-based AMP that not only addresses the immediate needs of Switz City but also establishes best practices for utilities statewide. This initiative aims to establish Switz City as a “Living Lab” for innovation, develop a Manual of Practices (MOP) to guide future AMP development, and provide essential training and education to utility professionals. Through the combined efforts of Purdue University, AIRW, and the IFA, this project is setting a new standard for rural infrastructure management, emphasizing collaboration, innovation, and long-term sustainability.

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